



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second State Legislature
2024 Regular Session**

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 308

By

Eric A. Tanigawa
Human Resources Director

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1917, H.D. 1, Relating to Collective Bargaining.

Purpose: Appropriates moneys for collective bargaining cost items for judiciary employees and their excluded counterparts. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary strongly supports House Bill No. 1917, H.D. 1.

In January 2020, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency. On March 4, 2020, Governor David Ige issued the first of several emergency proclamations pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic for the State of Hawaii, with the last of those proclamations expiring on March 25, 2022.

Unions representing public employees in Hawaii have been pursuing claims for temporary hazard pay for work performed by government employees during the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to the hazard pay provisions of the respective collective bargaining agreements.

This bill provides appropriations for collective bargaining cost items for temporary hazard pay for employees in bargaining units 1 and 10 and their excluded counterparts. This bill serves as a vehicle for the Judiciary's funding requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1917, H.D. 1.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB1917, HD1 – RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW **strongly supports** HB1917, HD1, which appropriates moneys for collective bargaining cost items for judiciary employees and their excluded counterparts. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UPW members continued to serve their respective communities by reporting to work despite the likely exposure to the virus, which in many cases resulted in serious incapacitation and long periods of time lost. Their work helped ensure that the Judiciary continued providing essential services that could not be performed remotely.

Last year, UPW reached a settlement agreement with the Judiciary for eligible members who earned temporary hazard pay (“THP”) during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Bargaining Unit 1 and Bargaining Unit 10 contracts provide for 15% base pay for “severe” and 25% for “most severe” working conditions, our members instead ratified an agreement that would provide them with 20% for a period of 18 months.

This bill is the vehicle that allows the Judiciary to secure the funding necessary to fulfill its obligation to our members. These members have been waiting two years for the THP they earned. Passing this bill will allow these dedicated public servants to receive the much-

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
Phone 808.847.2631

HAWAII

362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
Phone 808.961.3424

KAUAI

2970 Kele Street, Suite 213
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1803
Phone 808.245.2412

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only

deserved THP they earned for the essential work they performed during the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kalani Werner
State Director

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
Phone 808.847.2631

HAWAII

362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
Phone 808.961.3424

KAUAI

2970 Kele Street, Suite 213
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1803
Phone 808.245.2412

MAUI

841 Kolu Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - *Molokai/Lanai only*