



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

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

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 10:30 am
Hawai‘i State Capitol, Conference Room 211

By

Eric A. Tanigawa
Human Resources Director

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 1917, H.D. 1, SD 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, HD 1, SD 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.

In addition, the Judiciary respectfully requests the effective date be changed to take effect on July 1, 2024, as set forth in the original version of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1917, HD1, SD1.



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 10:30 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB1917, HD1, SD1 – RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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, SD1, which appropriates moneys for collective bargaining cost items for judiciary employees and their excluded counterparts.

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-

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Toll Free - *Molokai/Lanai only*

deserved THP they earned for the essential work they performed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

From: Tayja Abanto, Undergraduate Student,
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

RE: Testimony on HB1917, HD1
- Relating to Collective Bargaining

HEARING: Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 10:30 AM

POSITION: I, Tayja Abanto, supports HB1917, HD1

As a first-time college student who needed to stay home for the first two years of my college experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic back in 2020, giving back the funding to members who overworked for the temporary hazard pay (THP), I fully support this bill.

The United Public Workers (UPW) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees in the state of Hawai'i and various countries. During the COVID-19 pandemic, UPW members continued to service their community while accepting the risk of the virus, which reflected many serious outcomes for individuals. The work they provided could not easily be done virtually, which many companies had the opportunity to do.

These members have risked their lives to continue working for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been waiting for two years to get the funding they have worked for. Passing this bill will help the dedicated workers to get their earned THP.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tayja".

Tayja Abanto

UH Manoa Undergraduate Student