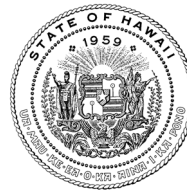


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE
ARTS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2037

February 15, 2024
3:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2037 amends Section 8-1, HRS, to establish Lunar New Year, the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice, as a State holiday.

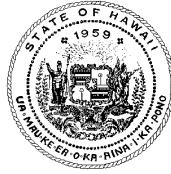
B&F notes that this bill would add an additional State holiday to the 13 (14 in even-numbered election years) State holidays currently recognized in the HRS. This additional holiday would cause the State to lose a day of State labor and productivity valued at approximately \$16,900,000 in payroll expenses, including social security, Medicare, and pension accumulation.

Furthermore, B&F would like to highlight that the Department of Human Resources Development and the Hawai'i Government Employees Association have testified on similar bills in the past, noting State holidays are a matter that needs to be negotiated and included in the collective bargaining master contract.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



WILBERT S. HOLCK
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of
WILBERT S. HOLCK
Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Thursday, February 15, 2024
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SB 2037, Relating to State Holidays

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye and the members of the committee:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of SB 2037, which designates the second new moon after the winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year and establishes the Lunar New Year as a state holiday. However, OCB offers the following comments on this measure:

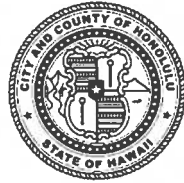
1. While the Legislature is the governing body to both establish and remove official state holidays, the potential impact on public employees is a negotiable matter, subject to collective bargaining pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), §89-9.
2. This was evident when, as early as the mid-1970s, the exclusive representatives and the employers mutually agreed to remove references to HRS, §8-1 from the holiday provisions of the respective collective bargaining agreements. This action reflected the parties' agreement that holidays are a negotiable matter and cannot be solely legislated.
3. Also, the establishment of Lunar New Year, as an official state holiday would have no effect on public workers unless it is negotiated and mutually agreed to.
4. Should this measure pass prompting the exclusive representatives to initiate negotiations for inclusion of Lunar New Year as another observed holiday for public employees, the employer would have serious concerns regarding the operational and financial impact to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments on this measure.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA LIMAHANA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 10TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-8500 • FAX: (808) 768-5563 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov/hr

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



NOLA N. MIYASAKI
DIRECTOR
PO'O

FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
KOKUA PO'O

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
The Senate, Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: S.B. 2037, Relating to State Holidays

The Department of Human Resources, City and County of Honolulu, understands and appreciates the cultural significance and importance of recognizing the Lunar New Year. We note that extending this new State paid holiday to our City employees would first require negotiations with the various public unions through the collective bargaining process. We estimate that the cost to the City alone would be close to \$2 million annually.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit our comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nola N. Miyasaki".

Nola N. Miyasaki
Director



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 15, 2024

S.B. 2037 — RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B.2037, which designates the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice of every year as the Lunar New Year and establishes the Lunar New Year as a state holiday.

We appreciate the legislatures intent of establishing a new state holiday – by establishing a new state holiday it can help with the recruitment and retention of state and county employees by providing an additional day off. **Please note: We respectfully request this committee to not repeal/replace any existing state holiday in lieu of Lunar New Year.** The legislature is empowered to designate state holidays and we reserve our right to bargain the recognition of all holidays.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 2037.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SB-2037

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:20:10 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/15/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean-Joseph T.K. Choo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable TCA members,

I did not grow up with any connection to Lunar New Year anything (I grew up quite Xtian). I only went to a bon dance for the first time just over a year ago. As I became more connected and curious about my cultural roots, and learned more about different dance forms and histories, I fell in love with not just honoring my ancestors, but also honoring our rhythms and values and ways of seeing the world. Small things like making the Lunar New Year a state holiday goes a long way. I actually got emotional reading this.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Peace,

Sean