

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

APRIL 30, 2001

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 143

Honorable Members  
Twenty-First Legislature  
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 143, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Legislature."

The purpose of this bill is to increase the travel per diem allowance for legislators by requiring the allowance amount to be based on the federal General Services Administration rates for federal government travel. The federal government travel per diem rate varies by location.

The travel per diem allowances are intended to reimburse public officers and employees who travel on official government business for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses. When the cost of lodging at a travel destination is higher than the amount allocated in the travel per diem allowance, a state public officer or employee may submit a claim for an excess lodging allowance. Consequently, the per diem allowance for lodging, meal, and incidental expenses incurred by state officers and employees for state government travel appears to be adequate as currently established and there does not appear to be a need to revise the travel per diem allowance amount.

Even if there were a need to revise the travel per diem allowance amount, the revision should be made fairly for all public officers and employees. The increase of the travel per diem allowance only for one group of state officers does not appear to be justified.

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For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill  
No. 143 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Benjamin J. Cayetano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
Governor of Hawaii