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**TESTIMONY OF ROBIN K. MATSUNAGA, OMBUDSMAN,
ON H.B. NO. 1439, A BILL FOR AN ACT
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of H.B. No. 1439. The purpose of this bill is to provide appropriations for public employment cost items and cost adjustments for employees of the legislative branch.

Your support and passage of this bill will allow it to serve as a vehicle during this session in the event appropriations are provided for public employment cost items and cost adjustments for employees of the executive and judicial branches.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and for your support.

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WRITTEN COMMENTS IN SUPPORT

HB1439

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

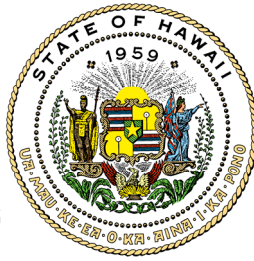
Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon, Chair Yamashita and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for this opportunity to provide written comments in **support** of H.B. No. 1439, Making Appropriations For Public Employment Cost Items.

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate moneys for public employment cost items and cost adjustments for employees of the Senate, House of Representatives, and various legislative agencies who are excluded from collective bargaining for the 2025-2027 Fiscal Biennium.

The Bureau supports this measure and appreciates the Legislature's efforts to ensure that Bureau and other Legislative staff are compensated equitably with their civil service counterparts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments in support of H.B. No. 1439.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

H.B. NO. 1439, RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

The Office of the Auditor **supports** H.B. No. 1439, which is intended to appropriate funds to certain legislative agencies, including the Office of the Auditor, to fund Hawai'i employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments authorized by Chapter 89C, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for employees of the Legislative Branch excluded from collective bargaining.

We support providing our staff, none of whom are members of collective bargaining units, the same benefits, including salary adjustments, as those employees included in collective bargaining.

We have submitted detailed budget information in our testimony in support of H.B. No. 1440, H.D. 1, the appropriations bill for the legislative branch. Testimony previously submitted to the Committee on Finance on H.B. No. 1440 is available here:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/Testimony/HB1440_TESTIMONY_FIN_02-04-25_.PDF (beginning on page 42).

Thank you for considering our testimony related to H.B. No. 1439.

HB-1439

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:19:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

how about your pay raises are determined by the health and prosperity of your state.

Balanced budget, thriving constituents, no housing and homeless crisis, transportation leader and not in worst traffic, low crime rates, no infrastructure issues, and let's make sure our students are high performers.

Then let's talk raise.

In the private sector, it's normal for a high performers to get a 3% raise. I have never heard of anyone getting a 10+ percent raise.

There seems to be no real ROI (return on investment) with our politicians and local government. If they were supposed to be elected on a merit based system, majority of them wouldn't make the cut. The people of Hawaii are not getting fair representation from them considering how much we're taxed.

And they feel they deserve these raises? It's a no from me.