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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND ARTS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 554

February 5, 2025
10:30 a.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO STATE HOLIDAYS

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

House Bill No. 554 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 and thus cause the State to lose an additional day of State labor and productivity valued at approximately \$9,060,274 in payroll expenses. Furthermore, B&F would like to highlight that the Department of Human Resources Development and 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
KE KIA'ĀINA



WILBERT S. HOLCK
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

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
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & ARTS
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB 554, Relating to State Holidays

Chair Kapela, Vice-Chair Kong and the members of the committees:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of HB 554, 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:

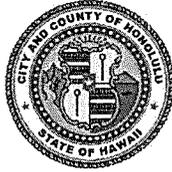
1. While the Legislature is the governing body to both establish and remove official state holidays, the potential impact on public employees is a negotiable matter, subject to collective bargaining pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), §89-9.
2. Also, the establishment of Lunar New Year, as an official state holiday, would have no effect on public workers unless it is negotiated and mutually agreed to.
3. 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 LIMAHAHA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEJA



NOLA N. MIYASAKI
DIRECTOR
PO'O

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

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Chair
The Honorable Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Culture and Arts
The House of Representatives, Room 309
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 554 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. Since the matter will require negotiations with the various public unions through the collective bargaining process, our concern is the added cost to the Public Employer should this become an established State paid holiday.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nola N. Miyasaki".

Nola N. Miyasaki
Director Designate

HB-554

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:56:11 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/5/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Lim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Victor Lim and has been a resident of Hawaii since 1969. I have been involved and served as president of the United Chinese Society, Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii as well as many community and civic organizations here.

I strongly support HB 554 that establish the Lunar New Year as our State Holiday. The many diverse Asian heritage communities here that make up Hawaii celebrate the Lunar New Year as their New Year, a joyous time to spend with family and friends.

Mahalo.

Victor Lim

HB-554

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:27:54 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/5/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendrick Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice-Chair Kong, and Committee Members:

I write in my personal capacity to express strong support for HB 554, which will add the Lunar New Year as a State holiday. Our diverse Asian communities across the State of Hawaii (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietmanese, etc.) widely observe the Lunar New Year in a manner akin to the start of the calendar year on January 1st. By designating the Lunar New Year as a State holiday, the State can recognize our vibrant cultural heritage and welcome a properous start the new year.

Based on the foregoing, I hope the Committee will advance this measure in recognition of our diverse Asian communities and cultural traditions. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Kendrick S. Chang

HB-554

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:16:22 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/5/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tai-ni Hsia	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members:

I write in strong support of HB554. The Asian community in Hawai‘i has made significant contributions to the State’s social, civic, and economic success, as well as its diverse and vibrant culture, which includes the celebration of the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is joyously observed by numerous residents in 11 the State and is celebrated by more than 2/3rds of Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese Americans across the United States. This bill will recognize that.

Sincerely,

Tai-ni Hsia

HB-554

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:17:50 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/5/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Please make Lunar New Year a holiday.

HB-554

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:20:44 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/5/2025 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davina	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair Kapela, Honorable Vice Chair Kong, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Culture and Arts,

I write in strong support of HB554. This bill would recognize the cultural heritage of many of Hawaii's residents. I'd like to also thank the main sponsor of this bill, the Honorable Representative Cory Chun for putting this important issue forward.

Respectfully,

Davina