

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

June 18, 2001

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1586

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. 1586, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Unemployment."

The purpose of this bill is to extend unemployment insurance benefits for an additional six months to displaced employees of Amfac Sugar Kauai who are enrolled in and attending an approved vocational training or education program.

If all of the displaced Amfac Sugar Kauai employees utilize this program, it is estimated that the cost to the Unemployment Trust Fund may be \$5,000,000. The reduction in the Unemployment Trust Fund may result in a higher unemployment tax to all employers.

In addition, extending unemployment benefits for only former Amfac Sugar Kauai employees creates a special group of unemployed workers. The Employment Security Law should be implemented fairly for all unemployed workers. Moreover, the intent of the unemployment program is to provide economic assistance to all eligible unemployed workers on a short-term, temporary basis, and is distinguished from the traditional welfare program that is based on need.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 1586 without my approval.

Respectfully,



BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO  
Governor of Hawaii