

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 8:54 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: hcravalho@honolulu.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harmon Cravalho
Organization: Kapaa Maintance Facility
Address: Kapaa Quarry Road Kailua, Hi. 96734
Phone: (808) 266-7601
E-mail: hcravalho@honolulu.gov
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

We the following employees of Kapa'a Maint. Facility C&C of Honolulu oppose this bill, for the following reason:
Medical is expensive as is. With the steady rise in the cost of living this will definitely affect our pocket books.

Harmon Cravalho, Walter Takahashi, Glenn Fujikawa, Clifton Won, Brandon Ogawa, Dayne Terlep, Don Raquel, Gordon Schilling, and Angel Santiago

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 8:27 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: hulagirl0602@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: House Bill 1718.doc

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ellena Young
Organization: Individual
Address: 5044 C Dragon Place Kapolei, HI 96707
Phone: 808-852-0334
E-mail: hulagirl0602@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

I am opposed to House Bill 1718, for those of us nearing our retirement, part of what we have invested in has been Medicare, to halt these reimbursement is a knee jerk reaction to the state of the economy and puts us at a loss. I do not believe that each of the committee members, realizes by supporting this measure, you are shifting this burden on the backs of all state government employees.

Many of us belong to the “gap group” we make too much money for any type of assistance, and not enough to get by. Our quality of life has already been impacted by the state’s economy. How much more are we suppose to sacrifice?

As a voting constituent, I am looking to my district representative to oppose House Bill 1718. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: waterlogged@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 6:08 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Fwd: HB 1718 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

> Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2009 15:38:04 +0000
> From: <waterlogged@hawaii.rr.com>
> To: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov
> Subject: HB 1718 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
>
> House Committee on Labor & Public Employment Friday, Feb. 13, 2009
> Conference Room 309 8:30 a.m.
>
> My name is Julie M. Jensen and I am a teacher at Hilo High School and I strongly oppose HB 1718 which suspends the reimbursement of retired employees for medicare part B premiums if the retire after 12/31/09.
>
> If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire early, in the middle of the year. This disrupts the school year for students who lose their teachers. They are force to adjust to a new teacher prematurely.
>
> It may seem like this is a small amount, but every amount counts when retirees are on a fixed income, especially in these uncertain financial times.
>
> Don't make life and finances even more shaky for teachers and other workers who have devoted 30 plus years to serving the state, county, and students.
>
> Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 6:08 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: Tari_Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tari Miyasato
Organization: Ahuimanu Elementary
Address: 47-470 Hui Aeko Place Kaneohe, HI
Phone: (808)239-3125
E-mail: Tari_Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

Regarding HB1718 (reimbursement for retired employees for medicare part B premiums through the EUTF will be cut for anyone retiring after 12/31/2009), I am opposed to this bill because it takes away from the employees in the system now and those to come into the system. Hawaii is an expensive place to live and I am proud to be born and raised here. I never had a thought of living anywhere else but Hawaii, but recently I have been thinking that maybe my family and I would be better off on the mainland where the cost of living is not as high. When you retire, you are already on a fixed income, why would you want to make it harder for people who have put in so many years into this State? People look forward to retiring, but are finding it harder to stay retired because of financial means. How is the State helping those who want to retire? Cutting the reimbursement for medicare is not the answer. You will have more people homeless and people on welfare because they cannot afford to live within the means of what retirement will give. So by the time I retire or am able to, I will have nothing to show for all the years of HARD WORK AND SERVICE to this State!

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 4:55 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: jan_shimoda@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
 Testifier position: oppose
 Testifier will be present: No
 Submitted by: Janice Shimoda
 Organization: Ahuimanu Elementary
 Address: 47-470 Hui Aeko Place Kaneohe, HI
 Phone: 239-3125
 E-mail: jan_shimoda@notes.k12.hi.us
 Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

To:
 COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
 Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
 Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino Rep. Mark M. Nakashima
 Rep. Karen Leinani Awana Rep. Scott K. Saiki
 Rep. Faye P. Hanohano Rep. Joseph M. Souki
 Rep. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran Rep. Roy M. Takumi
 Rep. Marilyn B. Lee Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine

Re: HB1718 RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS.

Specifies that the requirement that the State and the counties reimburse retired employees for medicare part B premiums through the employer-union trust fund applies only to the employees who retire prior to 12/31/09.

I am opposed to this bill because of its unfairness to all employees involved and it will not help the economic status of the state at all.

What this bill will encourage is to increase the number of people who do qualify to retire to do so before your deadline of July 1, 2009 in order to qualify for the CURRENT benefits you are paying so that this bill will not AFFECT their economic status. This means that people who have already been working in the "SYSTEM" for the state way past what is consider to be retirement age because it was possible to accumulate a decent retirement package will ENSURE their coverage but not be extended to others.

What is the purpose of this bill? Is this to ensure that you will always have people in the work force? Is it to bring in additional money to the state coffers? What is the fallout of this proposal? Did you take a survey on the number of people who will "retire" before your July 1st deadline to take advantage of this bill? Who does this bill protect? Surely, it is not the employees who fall between the ages of 18-pre-medicare age. Have you looked at the demographics of the state of Hawaii lately? Where is the largest population according to age?

This bill will not help the state out of its current economic standing and will continue to cost the state more money in the future as this bill will encourage more and more people to

leave and Hawaii will be left with just a retirement community who already qualifies for health coverage already provided through this bill. We will be able to change our name from "The Aloha State" to "The High COLA State".

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 12:18 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: kodamam001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Kodama
Organization: Individual
Address: 310 S. Alu Rd. Wailuku Hawaii
Phone: 8082839752
E-mail: kodamam001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 12:14 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: kodamaj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Judy Kodama
Organization: Individual
Address: 310 S. Alu Rd. Wailuku Hawaii
Phone: 8082836671
E-mail: kodamaj001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:46 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: lyn_worley@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Earlyn Worley
Organization: Individual
Address: kahala avenue honolulu, HI
Phone: 8082266594
E-mail: lyn_worley@msn.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

I am a public servant, employed with the State of Hawaii, (DOE) and am a single mother of 5.

I work hard at my job and things are even harder now since vacancies have been frozen demands for services have increased, and budgets have been sliced. Personally, I make every effort to spend office budgeted funds, as if they were my own. Prioritizing needs and shopping for the best deal possible, in accordance to guidelines and procedures.

I've made a career in public service knowing that my pay may not be as good as in the private sector but I could rely on retirement and health benefits for myself, just as my grandparents, and father had.

I think it's wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me. I don't believe it's fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. It seems like an extreme penalty.

Please seek other ways to balance the budget. Everyone should share the burden during these tough times.

Yours truly,
Lyn Worley

LATE

TO: Committee on Labor and Public Employment

February 13, 2009, 8:30 AM

Testimony Against HB 1718

The current legislation being discussed on Friday, February 13 regarding retiree health benefits may save the state some money, but at the cost of a two tiered health benefit system for public employees. I am a younger member of UHPA and part of the reason working for the state was so attractive was the retiree health benefits. Take that incentive away and you take away a large financial reason for being a public employee. Many senior faculty at our school may retire as a result of this legislation (if it passes) and this could lead to chronic shortages among our faculty just when enrollment is increasing.

If the state really wants to save some money, adopt this plan for state employees who have already retired, not employees who have not retired.

Thank you,

Paul Briggs
Economics Instructor
Windward Community College
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Kaneohe, HI 96744
pbriggs@hawaii.edu
(808) 236-9218