

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:25 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** momimakame@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** testimony.doc

**LATE**

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Cara Scanlan  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [momimakame@yahoo.com](mailto:momimakame@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Cara Scanlan. As a public employee for 3 ½ years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB1106, HB1719, and HB1725.

HB 1106 is supposed to ‘protect the rights of public employees’ in the event of a furlough. Speaker Say has said that a furlough would cause the “least amount of disruption to public service.”

I pose this question to the Speaker: What about the disruption to us as residents of this state? A reduction in our salaries is hugely disruptive at a time when we find ourselves more and more the sole breadwinners for our entire families. How can we afford a reduction to our salaries when we are some of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy?

We also strongly disagree with Section 4 of HB 1106. The Governor does not have the authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

HB 1719 is also of concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say’s bill, which disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don’t mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream.

This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to force people into early retirement. Plans I may have made to ensure that my children graduated from college before I retire are suddenly up in the air. I now have to make the choice - get out now so that I can afford to stay healthy during my retirement or stay even longer to provide for my family during these tough economic times and risk losing my current level of care during my retirement.

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it’s not irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai’i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai’i’s children, elderly and public will lose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote “no” on HB 1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawai’i.

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we

are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to long and healthy lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

Please vote “no” on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:06 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** angelapikula@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: angela  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 45-516 pahia rd kaneohe, HI 96744  
Phone: 808-946-2952  
E-mail: [angelapikula@hotmail.com](mailto:angelapikula@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Casey\_Kaaukai/KAHULUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Put the House Bill (HB1719 )

My name is Casey Kaaukai and I am a teacher at Kahului Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Then resumes coverage after the medicare retirement age, but allows the employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, I would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

It is unfair to change this law as one of the benefits to getting a job with the state was the long time benefit of medical coverage. To change this would make it unfair to the people already in the system who got into the position with this medical care in mind. If this bill would go through, it should affect people not yet in the system. Medical coverage is needed as one gets older and should not be cut. It is not the way to save money for the state or to keep employees content and enjoy their job. Many people would look for jobs in other fields and the county and state would lose good employees. This would also lead into a shortage in many areas-especially education. I strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Casey Kaaukai

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Bobette Aoyagi [baoyagi@hpsc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bill Opposition

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank You for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Bobette W. Aoyagi. As a public employee for 30 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB1719; HB1725; HB1723 and HB1727.

HB1719 is a concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. And less pay but for compensated with certain benefits also. On balance, I believed that I was able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which clearly disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream. What was my 30 years of devotion to this public exactly for? To be tossed aside with no respect like an old rag. For me, especially I only need one more year of service to make the current criteria for retirement. I have been anticipating this time in the recent years, only to be just within reach and then have it yanked away from me. This is not fair play at all. Am I being forced into taking a penalty to retire before this comes into law. Do play roulette and ride it out hoping it doesn't pass and be able to collect my full benefits. I would gladly retire now if not for the penalty in benefits. This is exposing me to a big dilemma, stress is what I get for 30 years of faithful service?

The loss of institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience by forcing early retirement, is putting our families in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii's children, elderly and public will lose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "No" on HB1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii.

HB1725 states that from July 01, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Do you know how much chemotherapy drugs cost? The reality is now hitting home for me. If it wasn't for my drug coverage I would be one of the homeless now. I would be just another burden on the State rather than a contributor to the public. If I don't have this benefits which I feel I am entitled after 30 years of putting in my time to this institution that I had faith would take care of me, yes I would be one of the homeless statistic and yes this bill is deciding my family members life or death. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

HB1723 and HB 1727 both will reduce health benefits to us the public employees. HB1723 wants to reduce the employer, State of Hawaii, contribution to 55% from the current 60% of the monthly premiums, this is not too bad but if we give in now will this set the precedents for future cuts? As for HB1727, what about our vision and dental health? What is the employer offering to its servants for loyal service to them. Is it only a one-sided relationship? Working as a public servant has no rewards?

Please see this entire picture from all points of views. It sounds good for Speaker Say to propose cuts in these economic times. But don't forget this is affecting personal lives. Please considering the human factor. WE are humans with lives and families that will be greatly affected. You must also consider in turn the domino affect that will reverberate down to the public if these bills pass.

Please vote "NO" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Confidentiality Notice: This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure,

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Alexis Sheldon [slp79akamai@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:53 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony

My name is Alexis Sheldon and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist with the Department of Education at Keone'ula Elementary and James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach. I am writing to you because I live in Kaneohe and you represent the district in which I reside.

I want you know and understand that I strongly oppose HB 1719, HB 1721, HB 1722, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, and HB 1727. There is no justification for what is being proposed here by Mr. Say other than to injure and impair the years of hard work we have put into our jobs. As it stands, we cannot even compete in the general market to lure competent people to our profession because our elected officials feel that teacher's and specialists are not a valued commodity. Now we find that the state legislature is convinced that the recovery of the budget deficit should be the "kuleana" of the hard working and struggling families of Hawaii. As of today, I've learned that a legislator is proposing the "offering" of \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 to keep mainland teacher recruits here by supplementing their incomes so that they can afford housing. How sweet....yet again another slap in the faces to those of us who have been raised here and struggle to stay afloat financially as well.

Please reconsider your vote on these bills and look for better options to meet the current deficit needs.

I look forward to a response from your committee if at all possible. I am very interested in just how forthright and responsible you take your vote and actions when so many of Hawaii's families are being impacted by your decision.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** berg1-Liz on behalf of EDNtestimony  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:49 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: retirement benefits

Liz Labby  
Committee Clerk  
Representative Lyla Berg, 18<sup>th</sup> District  
Phone: (808) 586-6510  
Fax: (808) 586-6511  
Email: [repberg@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repberg@capitol.hawaii.gov)

---

**From:** Aimee\_Tanaka@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Aimee\_Tanaka@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:46 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** retirement benefits

My name is Aimee Tanaka and I am a teacher at Kihei Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

If this bill is past it is going to cause a horrible chain reaction of consequences. Great teachers will be forced to retire on June 30th, 2009. The rest of us will be forced to teach longer than we would like causing a lot less job opportunities for future teachers and it will also discourage future teachers to even want to be teachers. It just feels like we are sooo disrespected as professionals. I want you to put yourselves in our shoes before casting your vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

aimee tanaka

LATE

## Example e-mail letter

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: Laverne Shinjo  
BCC: mmorita@hsta.org  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Laverne Shinjo and I am a teacher at Helemano School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

*[This paragraph should tell why you feel it's unfair for them to change your health benefits; why you would retire on June 30th; and other reasons why this is a bad bill.]*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Holland\_Henderson/MILILANH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:09 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** SUBJECT: HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

This bill is frightening. Please consider those of us putting in years of service so that we can enjoy retirement before the age of 65. In light of current economic problems and the instability of health care, this gives me reason to leave this job for one that will provide me security. Considering the chronic teacher shortage, I would think you should offer incentives, not take away benefits.

Holland Henderson

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Laila\_Popata/KEKAULIKE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:43 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Subject:** I oppose HB 1719

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Laila Popata and I am a teacher at King Kekaulike School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009. I am hoping to retire at 55, after 26 years of service with the DOE. This would leave me 10 years with no benifits!!!!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Laila Popata

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Kathy\_Bowers/ALIAMANUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:44 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

I am opposed to this legislation! Retiring in Hawaii is hard enough for those of us who have put in so many years of service at low-paying government jobs. We do not need or deserve the further burden of paying our own medical premiums unless we stay in our jobs until age 65. Please defeat this bill.

Kathy Bowers  
Vice Principal, Aliamanu Middle School

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Andy\_Cole/WAIALUAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:13 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1719 and HB1723

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to HB1719 and HB1723.

HB1719 states:

"Suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee-beneficiaries who retire after 7/1/09, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age."

HB1723 states:

"Makes employer contributions to the employer-union health benefits trust fund non-negotiable under collective bargaining. Establishes employer contributions for active public employees at 55% of monthly cost of the health benefits plan."

Thank You,  
Andrew Cole  
67-395 Farrington Highway  
Waialua, Hi. 96791

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 10:11 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** carriereddd@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carol Ann Rojo  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 15-2784 Hee Street Pahoia, Hawaii 96778  
Phone: 808-937-1646  
E-mail: [carriereddd@yahoo.com](mailto:carriereddd@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

Dear Sirs or Madams:

As a member of the HGEA Union and a State Employee, I am writing to encourage you to vote against House Bill 1719 which will abolish retirement health benefits for employees concerned.

This is not only wrong but a slap in the face to the many State workers who worked so hard for many years and settled for notoriously low wages because of the benefits they would receive upon retirement. To have the ease of mind that you will be taken care of in your retirement years when health issues are so much more likely has not been a gift, but rather EARNED.

For Governor Lingle and the Legislature to attempt to recoup ill-directed State Funds on the backs of the thousands of loyal and hard working employees, flies in the face of good faith and mocks the alliance between the State of Hawaii and it's workers who are the backbone of this State.

We encourage the State to consider raising the excise tax and/or consider the vast capital that can be acquired from Internet sales tax. We feel this is a more appropriate avenue to explore as it spreads the responsibility evenly throughout the system.

DO NOT allow this perversion of a Bill to be passed, causing hardship and affliction to many of Hawaii's loyal workers.

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:58 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** rgandy@honolulu.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Royden Gandy  
Organization: Kapa'a maintenance facility  
Address: Kapa'a Quarry Rd. Kailua, Hawaii  
Phone: (808)266-7601  
E-mail: [rgandy@honolulu.gov](mailto:rgandy@honolulu.gov)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

We, the following employees of Kapa'a maintenance facility with the city & county of Honolulu oppose to the bill stated above.

As a civil servant, we chose to work for less pay to contribute to our community. We believe we should be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say disregards our years of dedicated years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Speaker Say is telling us that the public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream.

Royden Gandy, Melita Pedrina, Alvin Yoshimura.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Marilynn\_Yano/AIEAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:38 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, February 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Marilynn Yano and I am a teacher at Aiea High School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. It allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

As an employee of the State of Hawaii, I understood the conditions of employment that one must meet to obtain retirement benefits. Changing the conditions once employed is unfair. like most people, I am working toward that time when I can retire. Realizing the security of my health benefits when I retire brings peace of mind. I have signed a contract and work every day to satisfy that contract. I expect the state to keep their end of the contract.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marilynn Yano

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:36 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** steuer@lava.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carolyn Steuer  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 122 Plum St. Wahiawa, HI 96786  
Phone: 808-622-1062  
E-mail: [steuer@lava.net](mailto:steuer@lava.net)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

As a DOE teacher with the promise of medical coverage, beyond Medicare, by the State, this bill now takes it away from me, unless I retire by 6/30/09. I am eligible to retire and could do so by that date, but feel I am making a difference to my school and want to continue to work, but not if it means I need to give up my retirement benefits promised to me when I was hired.

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Michael\_Sado/LAHAINALUNA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:35 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony

**TO:** [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
**FROM:** [Your Name]  
**BCC:** [mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org)  
**SUBJECT:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Michael N. Sado and I am a teacher at Lahainaluna High School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. It allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

I feel that these bills will be counter productive to hiring new teachers. It will force many teachers to look elsewhere for employment (i.e. mainland)

I also feel that it is not fair for those teachers who have been in education teaching for 30years of service and young teachers like myself who will be forced to work to age 65. It will be a hardship to my family if you consider the cost of living in Hawaii. I feel that you elected officials should wake up and represent the working people who elected you into office. YOU need to represent US!

Sincerely  
Mike Sado

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Bobette Aoyagi [baoyagi@hhsc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:32 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House bills opposition

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank You for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Bobette W. Aoyagi. As a public employee for 30 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB1719; HB1725; HB1723 and HB1727.

HB1719 is a concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community, less pay but compensation with certain benefits. On balance, I believed that I was able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which clearly disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream. Was my 30 years of devotion to the public not compensated? I fell like I'm being tossed aside with no respect like an old rag. I only need one more year of service to make the current criteria for retirement. I have been looking forward to my retirement, only to be just within reach and then have it yanked away from me. This is not fair play at all. Am I being forced into taking a penalty of benefits to retire before this comes into law. Do I play roulette and ride it out hoping it doesn't pass and be able to collect my full benefits. I would gladly retire now if not for the penalty. This is exposing me to a big dilemma. Stress is what I get for 30 years of faithful service?

The loss of institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience by forcing early retirement, is putting our families in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii's children, elderly and public will loose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "No" on HB1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii.

HB1725 states that from July 01, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employs will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Do you know how much chemotherapy drugs cost? The reality is now hitting home for me. If it wasn't for my drug coverage it would be highly probable that we would be one of the homeless statistics to. We would be just another burden on the State rather than a contributor to the public. I had faith that this system would take care of me after I put in my time as a public servant. Can your conscious pass this bill knowing you would be indirectly responsible for my family members life or death. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

HB1723 and HB1727 both will reduce health benefits to us the public employees. H1723 wants to reduce the employer, State of Hawaii, contribution to 55% from the current 60% of the monthly premiums, this is not too bad but if we give in now will this set the precedent for future cuts?

As for HB1727, what about our vision and dental health? What is the employer offering to it's servants for loyal service to them. Is it only a one-sided relationship? Working as a public servant has no rewards?

Please see this entire picture from all points of views. It sounds good for Speaker Say to propose cuts in these economic times. But don't forget this is affecting personal lives. Medical Insurance coverage is already a failing issue. There must be different ways to remedy this problem instead of curtailing the public servants rights. Don't penalize us because we're the easiest targets as we work for the government and gives the impression to the rest of the state that the government is doing something for the rest of the peoples benefits. Please considering the human factor. WE are humans with lives and families too, that will be greatly affected. These measures that cut our benefits will eventually trickle down and effect the rest of the public.

Please vote "NO" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Miriam Koki [miriamkoki@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:19 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\*

February 13, 2009

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. My name is Miriam Koki and I am an education assistant. I have been employed with the state at S. W. King Intermediate School for almost 24 years in which two of them were emergency hire years.

I am extremely troubled with the bills Speaker Calvin Say introduced:

- **HB 1719** – This bill disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age but allows me to retain health coverage by paying the respective state share of premiums until medicare retirement age. This bill disgusts me as it shows that you do not care or respect the state and county workers whom many have put in so many years of service.
- **HB 1725** – This is another bill that is extremely disturbing. How can you prohibit health benefits of the employer-union from providing drug coverage to employees and allow trustees to make prescription drug benefits available through drug coverage plans that are paid in its entirety by employees-beneficiaries?
- **HB 1727** – Prohibits the health benefits of the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing dental and vision coverage for approximately 6 years. To allow the board of trustees to make these benefits available but at no cost to the employer? Putting in so many years of service and this is how you treat the state workers?

I am opposed to all the bills introduced and these are just a few of them I listed. I say if you're going to make cuts, start from the top and don't just pick on the state and county workers! Thank you for your time.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Desiree\_Abreu/SPED/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:21 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

My name is Desiree Abreu and I am a Student Services Coordinator at Makawao School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

TO: [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

FROM: George Stone

BCC: [mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org)

SUBJECT: HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is George Stone and I am a counselor at August Ahrens Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It then resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Although it allows employees to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

***This is unfair to employees. You are changing the conditions of employment without input from the employees. Health care is hard to get especially for pre-existing conditions. Pensions are low and adding this expense could well cause many more to go without health care. The will encourage our already shrinking pool of highly qualified teachers and principals to end their careers early to the detriment of our Keiki. It will also put a burden of the emergency rooms that must treat the uninsured.***

Taking a furlough for two days a month is even preferable to taking away our retirement medical care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

yamashita3-Chelsea

**From:** berg1-Liz on behalf of EDNtestimony  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 9:14 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW:

Liz Labby  
Committee Clerk  
Representative Lyla Berg, 18<sup>th</sup> District  
Phone: (808) 586-6510  
Fax: (808) 586-6511  
Email: [repberg@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repberg@capitol.hawaii.gov)

---

**From:** Greta\_Pung/KEAAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Greta\_Pung/KEAAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:59 AM  
**To:** Rep. Calvin Say; EDNtestimony  
**Subject:**

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Greta Pung and I am a teacher at Keaau High School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 (or any other bill attempting to take away benefits from public workers) which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

*You have **received** your raise and will keep your benefits as elected officials. In these hard economic times when many people are living pay check to pay check and the federal government is trying to encourage stimulating the economy, I don't understand why elected officials in the State of Hawaii are so quick to remove more money from the "pockets" of people in almost any way you can. I want you to think about the next generation of teachers who won't have jobs, because all of us not ready to retire by June 30, 2009 will have to work until we are 65 years old in order to maintain medical benefits, leaving less job openings for future teachers. It is unfair for you to change our health benefits; this is a bad bill coming at a bad time in our economic history. Why don't elected officials look at what can be cut from their benefits first and look to other more wasteful spending and make cuts there first. The burden of government always affects the middle class who bears the burdens of all! We, the people elected you to represent us, not rip us off - again!*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Greta Pung  
Kea'au High School

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:56 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** hcravalho@honolulu.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

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](mailto: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:

This is the time when we are going to need this the most in our older ages.

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

yamashita3-Chelsea

**From:** Ranalee\_Perreira/WAIMEAM/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:35 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**TO:** [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
**FROM:** Ranalee A. Perreira  
**BCC:** [mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org)  
**SUBJECT:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Ranalee A. Perreira and I am a teacher at Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Please allow employees to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

I got into teaching later in life and will not enjoy the benefits of retiring after an extensive career as a DOE teacher. However, I did count on being able to depend on having reliable medical coverage in my retirement years. I have neither the years of service nor the age to retire on June 30, 2009. However, I do have colleagues who are considering just that. Many of them are first-rate teachers. Is this an attempt to "weed out" those teachers who are higher on the pay scale so that they can be replaced by new teachers with a much lower starting salary? It is so ironic to realize that the State of Hawaii gives us pay raises and benefits at bargaining time and then extends our school year as well as taking benefits that we work hard to earn. How will you attract new teachers to this state when our current teachers retire? We already have a reputation as a state that is not business-friendly.

I dare any Hawaii legislator to trade places with me for one week. I teach 7th and 8th grade Social Studies and Language Arts Special Education classes in a rural community on the Big Island. I spend countless hours and a substantial amount of my own money to help my students to achieve success...and to pass the NCLB requirements. I am required to take tests and be evaluated by my principal to keep my job. What tests are you given? Who evaluates your performance?

Show some respect for the people who give so much to our state to help to develop responsible and caring future citizens of these wonderful Islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Wendy\_Conlan/MAKAWAO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:42 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB1719-relating to public employees

TO: [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
FROM: Wendy Conlan

SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Wendy Conlan and I am a teacher at Makawao Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It apparently resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. I was told that it allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, I feel it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009. This would create a large flood of teachers retiring in June. We are already experiencing a shortage of qualified teachers here in Hawaii. Why would the state want to loose highly qualified teachers who are currently working by threatening their retirement benefits in this way?

I feel this is a terrible proposal and I urge you not to pass this proposed bill. Personally this would have a very negative impact on my life and I feel it is a big slap in the face to all state and county employees who have been working hard for the state and are anticipating the retirement benefits that are currently in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Wendy Conlan

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Lianne\_Jumawan/CASTLE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:52 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB1719 - Relating to Public Employees

To: [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
From: Lianne Jumawan

Re: HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 am

My name is Lianne Jumawan and I am a SSC Clerk at Castle High School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and country contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age.

It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or country share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, I believe the state will lose a lot of good knowledgeable employees. I recently changed from a private employment of 11 years to work for the State of Hawaii due to the benefits especially the medical benefit. I took a great cut in pay but was willing to do it due to the long term benefit of retirement medical which is being treated. I feel it is unfair to take away a benefit that was part of an employment package which helped me in making the decision in change employment. If it was taken away I would not see the cut in pay worth staying with the government agency.

I hope you do not pass this bill and or any bill that threatens our retirement health benefit.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lianne Jumawan

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Perky\_Ginter/LIHIKAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:50 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** mauidiv@HGEA.org

**TO:** [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**FROM:** Priscilla "Perky" Ginter

**BCC:** [mauidiv@HGEA.org](mailto:mauidiv@HGEA.org)

**SUBJECT:** HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Priscilla Ginter and I am a Speech Language Pathologist at Lihikai Elementary School, Maui District and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009. I myself am age 55 and have 28 years of service and will retire on June 30, 2009 should this bill pass. I will retire not because I want to but because I have been forced to by the passing of this bill. I have chosen to work as a State employee all of these years because I felt public service was an appropriate way to share my skills and expertise. I could have easily have made more money working in the private sector with my education and degrees. I wanted to help as many children as I could and therefore became a public employee. My reward for my years of service I believed would be the retirement package I was promised when I started working. The consideration of this bill is a slap in the face and example of how little the service and dedication of public servarnts are appreciated. I do not believe that the submitting of this bill was giving enough consideration, because the potential loss of qualified teachers and professionals such of myself in the next few months will drastically impact the education system. I doubt that the submitters of this bill gave much thought to how they would replace the needed personnel or deal with these ramifications.

I strongly oppose the continuation of this bill for discussion or passing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Priscilla Ginter, M. S. SLP

yamashita3-Chelsea

**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:54 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: failure notice

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone with SprintSpeed

---

**From:** Leeann\_Shigezawa/KAHULUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Date:** Fri, 13 Feb 2009 07:45:53 -1000  
**To:** <LABtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: failure notice

My name is Lee Ann Shigezawa and I am a teacher at Kahului Elementary School on Maui. I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees - beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. We have approximately 10 teachers at our school who are now thinking of retiring if the bill passes. That number will be in the hundreds statewide if the bill passes. We will have difficulty filling these positions with highly qualified teachers. Statewide, it will be a disaster and have a tremendous negative effect on the students of Hawai'i.

Thank-you,  
 Lee Ann Shigezawa  
 Grade 4 Kahului Elementary School  
 ---\_alternative 0061761B0A25755C\_  
 Content-Type: text/html; charset="US-ASCII"

<br><font size=2 face="sans-serif">My name is Lee Ann Shigezawa and I am  
 a teacher at Kahului Elementary School on Maui. &nbsp;</font><font size=3 face="sans-  
 serif"><b>I  
 strongly oppose HB 1719</b></font><font size=2 face="sans-serif"> which  
 suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county  
 employees - beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of  
 date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's  
 medicare retirement age. &nbsp;< We have approximately 10 teachers at our  
 school who are now thinking of retiring if the bill passes. &nbsp;<That  
 number will be in the hundreds statewide if the bill passes. &nbsp;<We will  
 have difficulty filling these positions with highly qualified teachers.  
 &nbsp;<Statewide, it will be a disaster and have a tremendous negative effect  
 on the students of Hawai'i. </font>  
 <br>  
 <br><font size=2 face="sans-serif">Thank-you,</font>  
 <br><font size=2 face="sans-serif">Lee Ann Shigezawa</font>  
 <br><font size=2 face="sans-serif">Grade 4 &nbsp;<Kahului Elementary School</font>  
 ---\_alternative 0061761B0A25755C\_---

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:47 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** hulagirl0602@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** House Bill 1719.doc

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ellena Young  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 5944 C Dragon Place Kapolei, HI 96707  
Phone: 808-852-0334  
E-mail: [hulagirl0602@hotmail.com](mailto:hulagirl0602@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

I am opposed to House Bill 17189, for those of us nearing our retirement, part of what we have invested in has been our health care, to halt our employers to cease their contribution to our health care benefits is contrary to our President's efforts to insure at all Americans our provided with health care. This is a bail out for out employers and a savings that may help the economy a reprieve but when we retire, we will all be a costly expense for the State. This 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 1719. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:49 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** hulagirl0602@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** House Bill 1719.doc

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ellena Young  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 5944 C Dragon Place Kapolei, HI 96707  
Phone: 808-852-0334  
E-mail: [hulagirl0602@hotmail.com](mailto:hulagirl0602@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

I am opposed to House Bill 17189, for those of us nearing our retirement, part of what we have invested in has been our health care, to halt our employers to cease their contribution to our health care benefits is contrary to our President's efforts to insure that all Americans are provided with health care. This is a bail out for our employers and a savings that may help the economy a reprieve but when we retire, we will all be a costly expense for the State. This 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, realizing 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 supposed to sacrifice?

As a voting constituent, I am looking to my district representative to oppose House Bill 1719. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:36 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** jolene\_ifuku-yi@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jolene Ifuku-Yi  
Organization: Teacher MMS  
Address: 1289mahiole honolulu, HI  
Phone: 8317850  
E-mail: [jolene\\_ifuku-yi@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:jolene_ifuku-yi@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

From: Todd\_Yoshizawa/MILILANH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 8:34 AM  
To: LABtestimony

TO: [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

FROM: Todd Yoshizawa

BCC: [mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org)

SUBJECT: HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is Todd Yoshizawa and I am a teacher at Mililani High School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

**Many people went into teaching fully knowing our retirement benefits and have planned for years on savings and investments to go with this. It would be unfair to change this all of a sudden and put people's future in jepordy. We need to do what's fair and NOT change it.**

**With the shortage of teachers, we need to attract people to teaching. This is a DISCRIMINATION to those that start working at a younger age, and violates our human rights.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. \_\_\_\_\_ Todd  
Yoshizawa \_\_\_\_\_

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Joy\_Hohnstine/KAUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:23 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** I Oppose Bills HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose bills HB1723 and HB1719; also HB1725 and HB1727. I am a current DOE employee. As part of my education prior to entering the education field I obtained two master's degrees, which have proved immensely helpful in my current work serving the students of Hawai'i. However, those degrees came at a cost, despite paid internship positions at my university I needed to take out student loans to pay for my education. Though I value the expertise given me through these educational experiences, I now find that I am just making ends meet and am living paycheck to paycheck to pay these and other bills. Having to provide for my own health care would cause an extreme financial hardship for me at this time.

I urge and ask you to oppose the passing of these bills.

Thank you for your time and support,  
Joy Hohnstine

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Corinne Shinn [jasmeco@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:12 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

SUBJECT: HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Corinne Shinn and I am a teacher at Pearl Ridge Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

I have invested in a retirement fund and hope to soon retire with peace of mind. If this bill passes, it will be hard-stretched to enjoy a comfortable retirement on a limited income. The State and local retirement benefits there were part of the package that drew me in to the teaching line. After devoting years of teaching I would hope to be rewarded and shown appreciation for my hard work in developing our country's young minds by having not to worry about being able to afford my medical bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Corinne Shinn

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Lawrence\_Domingo/WAIANAEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Melvin\_Nakagawa/WAIANAEI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**TO:** [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**FROM:** Lawrence Domingo

**BCC:** [mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org)

**SUBJECT:** HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is Lawrence Domingo and I am a teacher at Waianae Intermediate. **My father retired from the DOE after 30+ years of service at Kaelepulu Elementary School in Kailua. How unfortunate that now his son, that is currently in the DOE after 9 years of service, may possibly not receive the same type of benefits.** I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009,

regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

**These paragraph should tell why you feel its unfair for them to change your health benefits; why you would retire on June 30<sup>th</sup>; and other reasons why this is a bad bill.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: [Solomon Lott Farmer]  
BCC: mmorita@hsta.org  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Solomon Lott Farmer and I am a teacher at Waiakea Intermediate School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

Given the small monetary income I can expect in retirement, paying for my own medical coverage would be cost prohibitive. How can the state feel justified in doing this to its loyal employees, who have served their state for so many years. Please do not pass this bill. It is cruel, and disheartening.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
-Solomon Lott Farmer

LATE

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Cody\_Shumway/WAIALUAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:01 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Opposing HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

TO: [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
FROM: Cody Shumway  
BCC: [mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org)  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Cody Shumway and I am a teacher at Waialua HIS and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

Again, I strongly oppose this bill, and think it is completely unfair to our State employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Cody Shumway

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Allard, Lori A. [Lori.Allard@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:03 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** bill 1737 and 1719

Most respectfully Speaker,

I am a nurse at Hawaii state hospital and oppose these bills and bills that take away our benefits. Specifically the bills that take away our health and retirement benefits. I am not unrealistic in these times and understand the costs and savings are needed; obtaining revenues can be accomplished through streamlining and cutting overhead and wasteful spending in the state. Short term and time limited cuts to carry thru tough times are more agreeable than long term permanent cuts that negatively impact us. I started work knowing the benefits and chose the state over federal work to enable me to work with clients that I am more able to help. You must reconsider long term negatively impacting bills.

Sincerely,

Lori Allard  
1061 mowai st.  
Kailua, HI, 96734

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 8:00 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** kathy@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kathleen Nagaji  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 99-1139 Napuanani Aiea, HI 96701  
Phone: 808.487.6403  
E-mail: [kathy@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kathy@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment Friday, Feb. 13, 2009 Conference Room 309 8:30 a.m.

My name is Kathleen Nagaji and I am a teacher at Moanalua Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Please allow employees to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

This will create a hardship for those of us who have been working for the state, and I for one have 26 years working for the DOE. I am not in the position to be able to retire this June. As a National Board Certified Teacher, I would like to continue teaching for at least another 10 years to put into practice all that I have learned by going through board certification. In addition, there is already a shortage of highly qualified teachers in the system and an exodus by those of us who are highly qualified but who are forced to retire to retain medical benefits will further cripple all of our efforts to insure student success. We are already reeling from the recent economic downturn; please do not cut funds which will hurt the state employees where we really need it.

Please oppose HB 1719.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kathleen Nagaji  
Grade 8 Language Arts  
Moanalua Middle School

LATE

ATT00001 (2)

TO: labtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
FROM: Nancy C. Harrison  
BCC: mmorita@hsta.org  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Nancy Harrison and I am a teacher at Waialua High School and I would like to respectfully but strongly oppose HB 1719.

I have been proud to be a teacher, and although I haven't made a lot of money in teaching as others have in the private sector, I have always looked to my benefits and especially my retirement health benefits as an important part of my compensation. During these trying times I have been thankful knowing I have these benefits, and knowing all my years of public service will be rewarded.

Is it really true that you would attempt to suspend state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age, and then resume coverage after Medicare retirement age.

I had planned on teaching for several more years during these tough economic times, but if this bill were to pass it would be in my self-interest (not my students or Hawaii's educational interest) to retire on June 30, 2009.

This bill is not in the best interest of Hawaii's educational system to lose experience teachers. I hope there are legislative friends of education who vote against HB 1719 and who support teachers as teachers have supported them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nancy Harrison

LATE

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is Claire Dumlao and I am a teacher at Holomua Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Jill\_Kitsuki/MAKAWAO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:27 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

Please DO NOT consider HB1719. I am a teacher that was dismayed to hear that there is a bill being considered to stop medical coverage for all retirees before age 65.

I have worked for the DOE for 26 years and like most teachers work extra hours and pay for things out of pocket. If you take away medical coverage, that would adversely affect a dedicated work force that is perpetually undercompensated. I would never treat my students with the disregard that you treat teachers. By the way, I am sure that you will enjoy your 36% pay raise.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** tammy kuwahara [takemimk@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:41 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony@capitol.gov; EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

--- On **Thu, 2/12/09**, **tammy kuwahara** <[takemimk@yahoo.com](mailto:takemimk@yahoo.com)> wrote:

**From:** tammy kuwahara <[takemimk@yahoo.com](mailto:takemimk@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
**To:** EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
**Cc:** ShanTsutsui@hawaii.state.gov  
**Date:** Thursday, February 12, 2009, 9:34 PM

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Tammy Kuwahara and I am a teacher at Waihe'e Elementary School and I strongly OPPOSE to HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of the date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30th of THIS YEAR.

I honestly don't believe it's fair you folks are looking at ways to balance the STATE budget on the backs of public employees. I work hard at my job and things are even harder now since budget cuts came into play. Our classroom sizes will be getting bigger and we still have No Child Left Behind. 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 my FAMILY and myself.

Please look for other ways to balance the budget. Raising the excise tax would be a FAIRER way to address the state's revenue problem. EVERYONE paying a little more will mean sharing the burden during these tough times.

Thank you!  
Tammy Kuwahara  
4th grade teacher

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Randy Bart [coachrandy@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:39 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mmorita@hsta.org

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Randy Bart and I am a teacher at Dole Middle School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

This would further lead to a teacher shortage that is problematic to our public school system. As it is, teaching is not a career choice because of the low pay, long hours, and tough working conditions. This bill would further deteriorate a system that is already ravaged by problems.

One of the trade-offs between choosing a private sector job and one serving the public is the benefits. A lower salary can be tolerated if one can receive benefits that provide a peace of mind. Take away benefits and keep salaries low is a recipe for disaster for our states' workers and any of those considering making a choice to work for the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concern.

Aloha,

Randy Bart  
19-year teacher

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Raedeen\_Ishihara/WAIMALU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:43 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Raedeen Ishihara and I am a teacher at Waimalu Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

**I can't believe why the state would want to hurt their teachers. The legislatures are always saying they are for the teachers and support them - well this action doesn't show it at all. We, the teachers, are already underpaid and you want to decrease that even more!**

**If you want to lessen the cost of things, then maybe the legislatures should take a decrease in pay and their benefits. These are tough times, and you want to depress the situation even more. I don't understand your rationale.**

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Raedeen Ishihara

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Algae Rancher [algaerancher@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:44 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**TO:** [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
**FROM:** Kimo Marion  
**SUBJECT:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Kimo Marion and I am a Civil Engineer with the city and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage many state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

The EUTF system is adequately funded to meet current and future commitments to State and City workers. Many many city workers work for the city for the benefits. To implement this bill signals that this fund is either mismanaged or underfunded, either case should be cause for investigation not legislation. To gut the retirement program would cause many skilled workers to leave the city and would make it much harder to find talented workers to replace them. There is a serious need by the city and state to cut costs, however this bill would do more harm than good because as skilled workers are driven away more and more work must be done by costly private contractors who have no loyalty to the city, no pride in their work and no motivation to do a good job.

For the purposes of cost cutting please think of city and state employees as part of the solution, not part of the problem, we can get the work done well and cost effectively, when this does not happen it is almost always because of barriers and limitations within state and city agencies which limit the ability of workers to work together, pool talent and solve problems effectively. We need good management not punitive legislation, work for that and save money by cutting back on expensive efforts to outsource studies, projects and engineering design work to private agencies.

Please do not pass HB 1719, it would cost the city and the state much more than it would save.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Bobette Aoyagi**

---

To: LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov.  
 Subject: House bills opposition

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank You for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Bobette W. Aoyagi. As a public employee for 30 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB1719; HB1725; HB1723 and HB1727.

HB1719 is a concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community, less pay but compensation with certain benefits. On balance, I believed that I was able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which clearly disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream. Was my 30 years of devotion to the public not compensated? I fell like I'm being tossed aside with no respect like an old rag. I only need one more year of service to make the current criteria for retirement. I have been looking forward to my retirement, only to be just within reach and then have it yanked away from me. This is not fair play at all. Am I being forced into taking a penalty of benefits to retire before this comes into law. Do I play roulette and ride it out hoping it doesn't pass and be able to collect my full benefits. I would gladly retire now if not for the penalty. This is exposing me to a big dilemma. Stress is what I get for 30 years of faithful service? The loss of institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience by forcing early retirement, is putting our families in Hawaii at risk. State programs that protect Hawaii's children, elderly and public will lose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "No" on HB1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawaii.

HB1725 states that from July 01, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Do you know how much chemotherapy drugs cost? The reality is now hitting home for me. If it wasn't for my drug coverage it would be highly probable that we would be one of the homeless statistics to We would be just another burden on the State rather than a contributor to the public. I had faith that this system would take care of me after I put in my time as a public servant. Can your conscious pass this bill knowing you would be indirectly responsible for my family members life or death. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

HB1723 and HB1727 both will reduce health benefits to us the public employees. HB1723 wants to reduce the employer, State of Hawaii, contribution to 55% from the current 60% of the monthly premiums, this is not too bad but if we give in now will this set the precedent for future cuts? As for HB1727, what about our vision and dental health? What is the employer offering to it's servants for loyal service to them. Is it only a one-sided relationship? Working as a public servant has no rewards?

Please see this entire picture from all points of views. It sounds good for Speaker Say to propose cuts in these economic times. But don't forget this is affecting personal lives. Medical insurance coverage is already a failing issue. There must be different ways to remedy this problem instead of curtailing the public servants rights. Don't penalize us because we're the easiest targets as we work for the government and gives the impression to the rest of the state that the government is doing something for the rest of the peoples benefits. Please considering the human factor. WE are humans with lives and families too, that will be greatly affected. These measures that cut our benefits will eventually trickle down and effect the rest of the public.

Please vote "NO" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

**From:** Carilyn Kaneshiro [carilyntk@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:42 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony

```
.ExternalClass .EC_hmessage P  
{padding:0px;}  
.ExternalClass body.EC_hmessage  
{font-size:10pt;font-family:Verdana;}
```

My name is Carilyn Kaneshiro and I am a teacher at Kaahumanu Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

---

Windows Live™: E-mail. Chat. Share. Get more ways to connect. [See how it works.](#)

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Crockett, Judy G. [Judy.Crockett@doh.hawaii.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:39 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills on Health and Retirement Benefits

Labor and Public Employment Committee,

Since I received the notice on hearings of health and retirement benefits this morning, I was not able to time off from work to attend the hearings. However, I am taking time in my morning break to indicate my opposition to HBs (in order of priority), 1719 1727, 1725, 1723. Although I have had 25 plus years of service, my retirement plans were based on affordability and were targeted for December 30, 2010. Elimination of employer contributions for health plans, drug, dental and medical benefits would force me to retire prior to July 1, 2009.

Please consider employee furloughing or salary decreases up to 5% rather than elimination of health benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of employee needs.

Judith Crockett

Judith Crockett, M.A.  
Planner, Adult Mental Health Division  
State of Hawaii, Department of Health  
2385 Waimano Home Road  
Building Four, # 3  
Pearl City, HI 96782

Telephone: (808) 453-6945  
Fascimile: (808) 453-6995  
e-mail: [judy.crockett@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:judy.crockett@doh.hawaii.gov)

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Wendy\_Pasalo/WAIAKEAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 7:26 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employees  
Friday, February 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30a.m.

My name is Wendy Pasalo and I am a teacher at Waiakea Intermediate School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009 regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying respective state or county share of premiums under Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

This is very unfair for the many state and county employees whom have sacrificed years of services without the proper pay scale to work for the state or county just to receive benefits such as a proper medical plan when retired. It sadden my heart to know that "a person or group" can suggest a bill like this and not understand the welfare of these hard working employees struggling day after day to make ends meet and now...this medical plan to be taken away. I feel if this "bad bill" passes I will never have the opportunity to retire at all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:22 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Tari\_Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

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](mailto:Tari_Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

Regarding HB1719 (Suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee-beneficiaries who retire after 7/1/09, regardless of date of hire and year of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age.), 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? Now I have the years of service, but not the age. What if I NEEDED to retire due to some kind of medical need, then I would not be able to get any help because I don't have the age. I would need to file for disability, but I would not have any medical help because I don't have the age. I would essentially need to file bankruptcy to hopefully make ends meet, but would not be very optimistic in being able to survive here as I am now. I would probably be homeless and destitute. I will become a statistic of the State when you look at how many people are homeless and on welfare. Please do not support this bill because our State will have more problems than you foresee.

**From:** waterlogged@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:09 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

> Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2009 15:25:08 +0000  
> From: <waterlogged@hawaii.rr.com>  
> To: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
> Subject: HB 1719 - 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 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

>  
> If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

>  
> This would lead to a shortage of good teachers. Yes, in general new teachers get paid less, but they are hard to find. Perhaps the state would have to go to the mainland again to recruit and end up paying these teachers way more money to entice them to teach in Hawaii.

>  
> It is not often referred to, but seasoned teachers maintain the best schools in the state. Their time and years of commitment would be lost if they are forced to retire early in order to receive health care benefits undeterred throughout their life.

>  
> Don't change the rules in the middle of the game!

>  
> Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 6:06 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Tari\_Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

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](mailto:Tari_Miyasato@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

**Comments:**

Regarding HB1719 (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!

**From:** Elinor\_Yamauchi/SPED/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Sen. Russell Kokubun  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, February 13 2009  
Conference Room 309  
830 a.m.

My name is Elinor Yamauchi and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist with the East Hawaii Regional Special Education Section. I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees - beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employees medicare retirement age. This bill also states that the coverage will resume after medicare retirement age. It allows employees to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age. If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

Currently there is a shortage of speech-language pathologists servicing the schools. Many of us are close to retirement age. If those of us choose to retire earlier, it would cause an increased shortage of personnel servicing students in the schools.

Additionally, when one retires, one's income is already reduced. To have to incur an additional medical premium cost would cause additional financial strain. Medical coverage is an important consideration for a person who is of retirement age.

Please do not allow this bill to pass. It would certainly impact retirees' ability to maintain quality of life after so many years of service to the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elinor Yamauchi, MA, CCC, SLP

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** Maxine\_Nagamine/SPED/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 1:45 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Say bills

**SUBJECT: HB 1719, 1725, 1726, 1727 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Maxine Nagamine and I am an Educational Officer in the Department of Education and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age.

Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age. I also oppose HBs 1725, 1726 and 1727 which prohibits the health benefits plan from providing drug, life insurance, dental and vision benefits to those who retire after July 1, 2009. To make us shoulder the financial burden with 4 months notice is unacceptable.

Many of us would be willing to accept mandatory furloughs to save money for the state; however, this cessation of benefits is extremely punitive for those of us who have been working all these years for the government. It also would deter many young folks from entering government service.

Maxine Nagamine, PhD  
State Educational Specialist  
Special Education Services Branch  
641 18th Avenue, Building V, Room 102  
Telephone: (808) 733-4832  
FAX: (808) 735-6228  
email: [maxine\\_nagamine@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:maxine_nagamine@notes.k12.hi.us)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 4:53 AM  
To: LABtestimony  
Cc: jan\_shimoda@notes.k12.hi.us  
Subject: Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

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](mailto: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: HB1719 RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

Suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee-beneficiaries who retire after 7/1/09, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age. Resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

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".

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
And members  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

**SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1719, Related to Public Employees.**

The purpose of this bill is to suspend state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age and resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. This bill will allow employees to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paring the respective state and county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

This bill in its attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crisis facing the State of Hawaii and its respective Counties will hurt the very people who will be instrumental in turning this crisis around. Public employees have always been the most dedicated people in Hawaii; most have given up larger salaries because they truly believed in civil service. The State and Counties made a promise to these employees on the date of their hire, insuring a good retirement system, which included health coverage. This promise kept many intelligent leaders of which the State and Counties have benefited from over these vast years, from seeking higher compensating jobs with the private sector.

Many in our department will need to work much past their maximum years of service for retirement date in order to retain medical coverage and with no benefit to their retirement, as their pension compensation percentage would be locked with their years of service.

Police officers don't contribute to Social Security; therefore, officers who retire with 32 years of service often work part time to secure some social security benefits. This legislation, if passed will cause numerous retirements before July, 2009 and will create an immediate impact on all State and County services. Department Heads, Police and Fire Chiefs, upper management from all sectors of State and County who have the time to retire will retire to preserve their benefits.

In passing legislation such as this, you will lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve our communities. You will renege on a promise made to all State and County employees at their time of hire, which is not how it's done in Hawaii.

Therefore, I do not support House Bill No. 1719, related to Public Employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Glen Goya  
Maui Police Department  
Lahaina District

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Liane [lidaflea@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:24 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309

My name is Liane Tanigawa and I'm a teacher at Pearl Ridge Elementary School. I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries.

I love teaching and working my the students. As teachers, we dedicate so much of ourselves to help educate Hawaii's future. As far as pay goes, we don't make a whole lot, compared to other professionals. I took a pay cut when I gave up my job as a clinical microbiologist at Straub Clinic and Hospital because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of Hawaii's children. It is an insult to present a bill like this that will punish teachers and other state workers. I had an opportunity to work at a private school in Hawaii and turned it down because I believed in the public education system and put my trust in the state of Hawaii's benefit package.

I'm wondering how the State will fill positions for Certified and Highly Qualified teachers if there is a mass exodus towards retirement? In a time where affordable health care is a primary concern for President Obama, it is unthinkable that Hawaii will not support retirees 55-65 yr olds with medical coverage. It is shameful that you would consider pulling this benefit from under our feet in our sunset years, after we worked with commitment in our careers for our community.

Please reconsider and explore other options that do not target those that have invested their lives as public servants to the State.

Thank you,

Liane Tanigawa

**yamashita3-Chelsea**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:17 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** kodamam001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

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](mailto:kodamam001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** kodamaj001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

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](mailto:kodamaj001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2009

Comments:

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Ward [rivergal@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 13, 2009 12:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** OPPOSE HB 1719 RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

Dear Chairperson Rhoads, my name is Deborah Ward and I live in your district and I placed my trust when I voted for you. I work for the Department of Land and Natural Resources and I am a member of HGEA.

I strongly oppose HB 1719, which witholds state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee-beneficiaries who retire after 7/1/09, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age.

Is it the intent of the Committee to cause a panic and prompt hard-working, public servants to abruptly retire and leave government offices short-staffed and lacking their most experienced employees? That is what this bill is doing.

As you must know, the workforce in Hawaii is aging. Many have worked for years to earn and receive full retirement benefits. If this bill passes the reward to older employees for their service is a kick down the stairs!

And it gets worse. Do you REALLY expect that retirees will be able to afford to keep their health coverage through the EUTF and pay ALL the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age?

We have kept our part of the bargain. You should keep your part.

Sincerely,  
Deborah L. Ward

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** paulkckwan@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:01 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - Relating To Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment Friday, Feb. 13, 2009 Conference Room 309 8:30 a.m.

My name is Paul Kwan and I am a Nurse at Detention Home and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Elaine Aotaki [aotaki@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:08 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: HB 1719

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment Friday, Feb. 13, 2009 Conference Room 309 8:30am

Aloha.

My name is Elaine Aotaki. I strongly oppose HB 1719 which this bill transfer to the EUTF to pay for the medicare, part b, premiums reimbursements. Currently, the Employer reimburses medicare, part b, members the cost of the premium.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Elaine Aotaki  
Clerk-Typist II, Attendance Office  
Lahainaluna High School

LATE

TO: labtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
FROM: Karen Emerson  
BCC: [mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org), [ryamanaka@hsta.org](mailto:ryamanaka@hsta.org),  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Karen Emerson and I am a teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

**My family would not be able to afford to pay for our health coverage until I reach age 65. I think this is a bad bill.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Patricia Kauhane [patkauhane@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726

I am opposed to HB 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726. Patricia Kauhane

---

Windows Live™: E-mail. Chat. Share. Get more ways to connect. [Check it out.](#)

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Jeannette Abara. As a public employee for the past 10 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say, Specifically in regards to HB 1719 and HB 1725.

When I first started work with state government in 1995, I was told that people get into the state system not for the pay but for the benefits that they offered, such as paid vacation, sick leave, holidays, and more importantly free health insurance. When you retire. I had many other opportunities to seek work out in the private sector but chose to work for the state mainly because of the security that it offered..

Yes, we are facing tough economic times, but trying to balance the budget by doing takeaways from those of us that have been dedicated to public service is not the way to go. I am also a tax payer. I spend money at local businesses to buy food, clothing and other needs. With the introduction of HB 1719, by the time I get to retirement age, I will not be able to afford to purchase health insurance at full premium. As a result, I will be placed into the same category of others choosing food or housing over health coverage,

I don't believe that it is fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. I work hard at my job and know that with cutbacks in funding, it will only mean doing more of the work with less resources. I have chosen to make a career in public service.

I think that it is wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me. Please look at other ways to balance the budget perhaps raising the excise tax. This would be a fairer approach to address the states revenue problem. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden amongst all during these tough times instead of a select few from government service.

As for HB 17525, it says that from July 1, 2009 to June 20, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With the rising chronic disease that require medications, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums, this will have a definite impact on the quality of life. It will deter some employees and retirees from assessing medicine that is essential for longer and healthier lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health coverage.

I am asking you to vote "NO" on both of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Jeannette Abara

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Winnie Yuen and I have been a public employee for 2 years. I am deeply saddened by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719, 1725 and 1727.

I believe that HB 1719 is unfair to public workers. I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. Like other public workers, I believed that I would have a satisfactory benefits package when I retire. Speaker Say apparently does not think much of public employees since he believes that promises to us can be broken mid-stream. It is irresponsible for Say to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being public employees. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will lose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on HB 1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawai'i.

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to long and healthy lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. My name is Gwenald Yuen. I have been a public employee for 26 years. I am deeply offended by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1719, 1725 and 1727.

HB 1719 is of much concern to me because as a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. I also came in believing that I would have a satisfactory benefits package upon my retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees are worthless and promises to us can be broken mid-stream. This bill appears to be an attempt to force people like me into early retirement. With a son ready to attend college this fall, my plans to help him pay for his education is uncertain. I now have to make the choice - get out now so that I can afford to stay healthy during my retirement, or stay even longer to provide for my family during these tough economic times and risk losing my current level of care during my retirement. Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will lose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on HB 1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the State of Hawai'i.

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to long and healthy lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** bettyaloha2@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:15 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bills -- ISSUES RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads and honorable members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

My name is Betty Arai and I am currently employed as librarian/curriculum coordinator at Mililani High School. Please be so kind as to grant me a minute of your time so that I may express my concerns and opposition to various House Bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

It is my understanding that HB 1719 proposes a suspension of state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, until the employee reaches age 65. If so, I feel this proposal is morally wrong and a betrayal to all state employees since it reneges on a sacred agreement that was created between employer and employee at the time of hire.

Over twenty years ago, I left a job in the private sector to accept my first teaching position with the Hawaii State Department of Education. Although the teacher salary was not stellar, I was well aware of the benefits that accompanied the job. Needless to say, the medical benefits were a significant factor in my decision to accept the position.

In my twenty years of service as a teacher in the state of Hawaii, I have witnessed many politically and economically driven changes. I weathered the rough times, appreciated the good times, and even endured an unfortunate strike. Through thick or thin, throughout these twenty years as a state employee, I have never felt "betrayed" by the state legislature... **until now.**

If your committee passes HB 1719 and related bills that will eliminate or drastically reduce medical, dental and vision care for retirees, I firmly believe that I will not be alone in feeling betrayed. Above all else, health care should be the benefit that our state should be protecting and fostering for its loyal employees, not threatening.

With President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton leading the way, the rest of the nation is now looking to Hawaii as an example of a state committed to health care excellence. Shall we show them that we are truly the aloha state that values health care for all its employees, present and past? Or do we show them a state full of angry, betrayed, and uninsured retirees?

I beseech you, please vote "no" on any bill that will negatively impact health care of state employees or retirees. The quality of our lives rests in your vote.

Thank you very much for your attention and for your service to the state.

Sincerely yours,  
Betty Arai  
Librarian / Curriculum Coordinator  
Mililani High School

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Hans Dubach [Hans.Dubach@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:15 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** new bills proposed.

Aloha. Please did not pass these new bills suggested recently. Hb 1737,, 1590,,1617, 1619 ,, 1620-1622. There are other ways to save money in government or cut projects etc. I know of quite a few. email me back if you would like to know some ways. Some things are not pono, and if we are to do what it wrong , what does that say. sincerly Hans Dubach

-----

County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments

larger than 12 MB, and will block or quarantine

high-risk file types in attachments.

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** Dex N. [dexsi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:39 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1723, HB1719, HB1725, and HB1727

I am writing to express my opposition for these bills: HB1723, HB1719, HB1725, and HB1727.

Thank you,  
Dexsilyn Navarro

yamashita3-Chelsea

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** lyn\_worley@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1719

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](mailto: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

Friday, 13 February 2009

Re: HB 1719

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

My name is Lee Ann Villafuerte, I am an employee at Koko Head Elementary School, and I **strongly oppose HB 1719**, which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Ann Villafuerte

LATE

**Example e-mail letter**

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM:  
BCC: mmorita@hsta.org  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Charlotte Ichiyama and I am a teacher at Koko Head School and I strongly oppose HB ~~1719~~ which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

[This paragraph should tell why you feel it's unfair for them to change your health benefits; why you would retire on June 30th; and other reasons why this is a bad bill.]

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I oppose this bill #1719. As a Certified Special Ed teacher close to retirement age, I will personally consider retirement this year from the DOE. I cannot envision my paycheck being cut to pay for my health benefits. I love my job but may be forced to retire prematurely - how sad!

Charlotte Ichiyama

LATE

Example e-mail letter

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM:  
BCC: mmorita@hsta.org  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Pamela Fogg and I am a teacher at Koko Head School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

[This paragraph should tell why you feel it's unfair for them to change your health benefits; why you would retire on June 30th; and other reasons why this is a bad bill.]

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Today, Feb 13, 2009, I was informed of the intent to pass HB 1719. I am voicing my concern and desire that this bill not be passed. Continually taking away what little benefits and pay state employees receive will degrade any desire and need to draw talented and educated people into public service - i.e. teaching, police, firemen, etc. State employees are our first line of resource and should be treated as such. We need to encourage people to join state forces - not force them into private sector - we will be left with - well - the left overs!

Do not pass HB 1719.

Sincerely,  
Committee

LATE

Example e-mail letter

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov
FROM:
BCC: mmorita@hsta.org
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009
Conference Room 309
8:30 a.m.

1719
My name is Jacqueline Asato and I am a teacher at Koko Head School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

[This paragraph should tell why you feel it's unfair for them to change your health benefits; why you would retire on June 30th; and other reasons why this is a bad bill.]

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

We are opposed to the bill (1719) because we feel that it is grossly unfair to teachers who have faithfully given years of service to the DOE. Instead of installing punitive measures, it would be wise to help up teachers who are valuable public servants and make a difference in the lives of future generations. Passage of this bill may result in the loss of many talented and veteran teachers.

- Handwritten signatures: Jacqueline Asato, Jacquelyn Jaeger, Mary Jane Taniguchi, Jay F. Yoshimura, JoAnne Kumamoto, John K. Munihava, etc.

Cearlia K. Lum  
Cearlia K. Lum  
Arae Lukzen

Keala Kilcoyne  
Kara Kilcoyne

Rayne Hense  
Rayne Hense

Jennifer Kozuma  
Jennifer Kozuma

Liane T. Talara  
Liane T. Talara

LATE

Example e-mail letter

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM:  
BCC: mmorita@hsta.org  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Leimomi Chun and I am a teacher at Koko Head School and I strongly oppose HB 1725 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

[This paragraph should tell why you feel it's unfair for them to change your health benefits; why you would retire on June 30th; and other reasons why this is a bad bill.]

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I strongly oppose HB 1725 !!!

I have a master's degree in education & 10 yrs experience. My net is \$2000<sup>00</sup>/month, mortgage is \$1100<sup>00</sup>/month. Single adult, no additional support. I can't make ends meet & you want me to pay for my own health coverage?!

YOUR action will FORCE ME TO QUIT AS A CERTIFIED Special Ed teacher & find other work because I can't live on what you - State Legislature will have whittled away my pay to be.

certified teachers is part of National No child left behind law.

Go ahead - you might as well add me to QUEST so state can pay 100% of my med. Oh, go ahead - Pay for mainland teachers

DO NOT PASS HB 1725!

end up paying MORE!  
You, state legislature will