



LATE

House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

February 13, 2009

8:30 a.m.

**H.B. 1719 Relating to Public Employees**

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly opposes H.B. 1719 as a breach in the long standing social contract to provide retiree health benefits. It is a draconian measure that offloads significant costs to the retired by denying them reimbursement for health care until they reach the eligible age for Medicare. This will apply to anyone who does not retire by July 1, 2009. The impact of this proposal is to force retirements of public employees immediately so they can maintain health care benefits without suffering irreparable harm at a later date.

Establishing a tiered system of retirement benefits will discourage current employees from staying in public employment and will discourage people from applying for employment. This is of particular concern for the University of Hawaii which must compete to attract and retain faculty from an international pool of perspective employees.

UHPA requests the bill be filed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman  
Associate Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1017 Palm Drive · Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928  
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 · Facsimile: (808) 593-2160  
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>





# HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO  
2305 S. BERETANIA ST., RM. 202, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826-1493  
TEL: (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003  
[www.hawaiifirefighters.org](http://www.hawaiifirefighters.org)

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Committees on Labor and Public Employment  
February 13, 2009

**LATE**

Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

## **H.B. No. 1719      Relating to the Public Employees**

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO and also an active-duty fire captain with the Honolulu Fire Department. On behalf of the 1,800 active and 1000 retired professional fire fighters throughout the State, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association strongly opposes H.B. No. 1719. This proposal is inherently unfair and reneges on a retirement benefit that current public employees were told would be provided to them when they retired.

While the negative impact to statewide government services will be devastating to the citizens and businesses of the State not to mention the retirement system, the effect on public safety would be unprecedented.

Currently, there are approximately 160 HFFA members who are eligible to retire on June 30, 2009. Within the Honolulu Fire Department alone, approximately 100 rank and file HFFA members (not including chief officers) assigned to stations throughout the island are eligible to retire. Even if a small portion of these highly trained and experienced group of fire fighters elect to retire, the safety of the community and fire fighters in operations will be compromised. As you can imagine we have received numerous calls from those eligible members and the general consensus is that they will retire if this measure is enacted.

As you know, fire fighters on the front line cannot be replaced immediately. Once a fire fighter position becomes vacant due to a retirement or resignation, the entire process to fill that permanent position takes approximately one to two years. Just the extensive training curriculum that recruits must go through generally runs from 5 to 6 months and is limited in size.

In addition, the National Fire Protection Association's standard for staffing and deployment (NFPA 1710) established the minimum acceptable manning level at 4 fire fighters per fire apparatus. Retirements will result in staffing shortages which will put the community at greater risk and increase the hazards for our fire fighters on the job.

Furthermore, as echoed in testimony from the personnel directors just last year, the anticipated retirements will create "unprecedented challenges" for all Employers. In addition, employee retirements of this magnitude within such a short time frame will clearly be counterproductive to the Legislature's goal of addressing the budget shortfall.

We urge the members to hold this bill in Committee for the safety of the residents of the State.



# SHOPO

STATE OF HAWAII ORGANIZATION OF POLICE OFFICERS

"A Police Organization for Police Officers Only"

# LATE

February 11, 2009

House of Representative  
State of Hawaii  
Committee on Labor  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Date: Friday, February 13, 2009  
Time: 8:30 am  
Place: Room 309 State Capitol

Re: Testimony on House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employee

My name is Tenari Ma'afala and I am the President of The State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO"). We represent over 2700 police officers in the State of Hawaii. SHOPO opposes House Bill 1719 regarding the EUTF: Retirement Prior to Medicare Age; Suspend Coverage. This measure suspends 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. This measure will resume coverage after reaching Medicare retirement age and will allow employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medicare retirement age.

We understand that the State is undergoing a significant and possible protracted economic downturn in tandem with the national and global economic financial crises. Numerous jobs have been lost, a number of large and small companies have declared bankruptcy or left the State, and many families have suffered foreclosure on their homes.

This is a social environment where property crime, domestic violence, and the overall crime rate tends to increase dramatically. In extreme economic hardship, crime can prolong the economic recovery process. Police officers are an essential part of public service and are the front line against many of these added stresses on our communities, families, and businesses. In times like these, we need to sustain and maintain our department's ability to work with our communities to cope with these extreme economic realities.

Since HB 1719 will require anyone who retires after July 1, 2009 to pay their entire health premium until they reach medicare age of sixty-five, this measure will force over 300 police officers to retire immediately. Therefore, any officer who is eligible fore retirement will do so in order to avoid paying their entire health premium by staying in the department after July 2009. If this measure should pass, we will face a serious shortage in our Police Departments across the State. This will pose a significant danger to our communities and our safety will be compromised.

Simply put, in this economic environment, we cannot afford to lose officers. This measure opens the exit door for our officers.

SHOPO strongly opposes HB 1719.

yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:06 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

LATE

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**From:** Florence\_Matsuda/KAEWAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Florence\_Matsuda/KAEWAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:39 PM  
**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 Florence Matsuda and I am the SSC at Ka'ewai 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.

I believe HB 1719 is unfair to all employees who have worked so hard, putting many years of service to the State of Hawaii and its children. I have worked for the DOE for more than 30 years and I feel you are taking away benefits that were promised to me upon my retirement from the State. My father recently passed away and my mother is very fragile. I would not be able to retire and take care of her if the bill passes. I do not believe cutting public employee and retiree benefits will solve the state's budget crisis. I urge you not to support this bill and other bills targeting public employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:07 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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**From:** Kathy\_Nagaji/MOANAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Kathy\_Nagaji/MOANAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:31 PM  
**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 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**

To: [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
From: Faith Tomoyasu  
BCC: [mmorita@hsta.org](mailto:mmorita@hsta.org)  
Subject: HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

LATE

My name is Faith Tomoyasu and I am a teacher at Lehua 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 ETUF 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 don't think anyone should be forced to retire before they are ready just because of this medical coverage suspension. Many of us are looking forward to retirement at a reasonable age and are counting on the medical coverage to be there when it is needed. Now, many of us are being forced to work until 66 so we won't lose our medical coverage. I believe this is a cruel and unfair practice and punitive for those of us dedicated public employees who have dedicated our lives to public service for such a long time. This is a very bad bill and hope that it will not be considered any further.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:07 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Put The House Bill (HB 1719)

**LATE**

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**From:** Theresa\_Cabral/KEKAULIKE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Theresa\_Cabral/KEKAULIKE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:29 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
**Subject:** Put The House Bill (HB 1719)

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

My name is Theresa Cabral and I am a the CSAP Counselor at King Kekaulike High School and I strongly oppose HB 1719 which requires public Employee Retirees to pay 100% of their health benefits until age 65 if they retire before age 65. I have been an employee with the DOE for 18 years and this bill would mean that I would have to work for 31 years before I could retire with full health benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Theresa Cabral

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:09 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Medical coverage

LATE

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**From:** Richard\_Yagi/NANAKULIHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Richard\_Yagi/NANAKULIHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:02 PM  
**To:** rephar@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Cc:** EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
**Subject:** Medical coverage

TO: Rep. Sharon Har & [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
FROM: [Richard Yagi]  
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 \_\_Richard Yagi and I am a state employee 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 is a terrible bill since it allows the state to change the "breach of promise" which was in-force when I got hired in 1975. I am not thinking of retiring but a "handshake" is an honor and to do away with it on the whim because of our budget crisis is dishonorable and morally wrong. I believe that Rep. Say has out live his effectiveness and usefulness in our legislature. I truly believe a change is needed to restore our faith in our government and not let every Tom, Dick and Harry change things because that's a way of saving money, regardless of the consequences.]

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:11 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** JuanitaLauti@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Juanita Lauti  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1440 Ward Avenue Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone: 808-531-4364  
E-mail: [JuanitaLauti@aol.com](mailto:JuanitaLauti@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

Should consider implementing this bill with modified language for only employees with less than 10 years of service and new employees.

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:14 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** gtatsuyama@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

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: Grady Tatsuyama  
Organization: Honolulu Police Department  
Address: 801 South Beretania St. Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 529-3159  
E-mail: [gtatsuyama@yahoo.com](mailto:gtatsuyama@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

### Comments:

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 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 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 Hawaii.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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**From:** Selene\_Maballo/LEHUA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Selene\_Maballo/LEHUA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:15 PM  
**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 Selene Maballo and I am a teacher at Lehua 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.

I have been a teacher for 6 years and every year it seems that everyone is punishing teachers. Every year the students become more difficult to teach. Every year the parents become more irate and disrespectful of teachers. Every year the DOE mandates more and more tasks not related to teaching without any help in the classroom. Now the state wants to take away one of the few material benefits of teaching. Taking away this retirement benefit gives me less of an incentive to stay in the teaching profession and to live in the beautiful state of Hawaii where I was born and raised. Do you really want to send your best and brightest away and jeopardize the fragile state of the education system? Please reconsider this bill. The teachers don't deserve to have their benefits taken away after having poured their lives, work, time, sweat and love into making the children of Hawaii become as successful. Give the teachers their benefits and show them how much you appreciate all they do and all they go through every day.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Selene Maballo

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:16 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** gtatsuyama@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Grady Tatsuyama  
Organization: Honolulu Police Department  
Address: 801 South Beretania St. Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 529-3159  
E-mail: [gtatsuyama@yahoo.com](mailto:gtatsuyama@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

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 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 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 Hawaii.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Valerie\_Butts/WAIKIKIE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony

**LATE**

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

**FROM:** Valerie Butts

**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 Valerie Butts and I am a teacher at Waikiki 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Cinthy\_Kagawa/WAIMEAC/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

**Importance:** High

Aloha.

I am a registrar at Waimea Canyon School. I have been also been a technology coordinator and a classroom teacher for a total of 24 years. I chose the education field because the rewards were many and usually not of the pecuniary sort. However, HB 1719 is a rug pulled out from under those of us who have dedicated so much of our lives to public service. I strongly oppose this bill, many of those like myself who are near retirement are appalled that the proposed changes for retirement and health benefits are so drastic. We've always been optimistic that a state with a high cost of living like ours would compensate those in the field of education adequately. We've stayed in the field even though that 'adequate compensation' hasn't quite materialized. It's true that over the years teacher pay has crept upwards (though still far from par with many other states) but proposals like this cancel out all other progress we've made to put money where say some say (but apparently don't believe) it should go...towards the education of our future citizens. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Mahalo.

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Priscilla\_Shimamoto/MOAHS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:39 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** hb 1719

**LATE**

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

My name is Priscilla Shimamoto and I am a teacher at Moanalua High 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. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age and 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 unexpected change to our benefits, which we assumed would be there after over 30 years of service, is surely unfair and undeserved. It gives us no time to "plan ahead." For those of us who have made plans to retire this year or even within the next few years, making a change like this at this late date, puts us in a very difficult financial situation. We did not ever anticipate this drastic change where we would have to find "extra" funds to make payments for our medical premiums (which for some us would probably be close to \$1000 a month). Our retirement pay will surely not cover this extra amount we would have to pay in addition to our other living expenses. If the intention of this bill is to "force" us to work until 65... please consider the following: Do you think every person who will be forced to work until 65 is capable of doing their "best" work? In our profession, work does not only include the hours in the classroom, but also many hours outside the classroom and as much as I hate to admit it, age does take its toll! Our students deserve better-- it is definitely a disservice to them if they are being taught by teachers who really would prefer not to be there.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** chefdevo@gmail.com on behalf of Devan Rosen [rosend@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:56 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 1719

**LATE**

From:  
Dr. Devan Rosen  
Assistant Professor  
University of Hawaii

To: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2009

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 309, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Measure number: House Bill 1719

3 Copies Requested

Testimony:

I do NOT support the passing of HB 1719. If an employee retires after July 1, 2009 and is not eligible for Medicare the state and county employee will not receive employer provided health care. Retirees will be allowed to retain coverage by paying the premiums to EUTF. Coverage through the employer resumes after Medicare age is reached. This undermines the employees who have made career decisions based on access to health care upon retirement. It is an attempt to force employees into immediate retirement while creating a two tiered system of benefits for future retirees.

I oppose this bill that may take away or reduce the benefits (including vision, dental, drug, and medical coverage) of the average state employee and/or the average state retiree. Taking away our medical coverage will cause many employees and their family members to live without medical insurance. Aging retirees can also not afford to pay for benefits. Please balance the budget with greater compassion.

**LATE**

Valerie Ota  
HB 1719

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** linda\_rivera@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Linda-Marie Rivera  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 84-490 Makaha Valley Road Waianae, HI  
Phone: 808-497-2847  
E-mail: [linda\\_rivera@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:linda_rivera@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

Hi, my name is Linda Rivera and I live on the Island of Oahu. I work for Leihoku Elementary School as a clerk-typist/registrar and am a member of HGEA.

I'm also a taxpayer. I spend money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other needs.

I object to this legislation on the basis that it is an issue of "Broken Trust" between the State of Hawaii and their employees. As an employee who entered service 20 years ago, I understood that as a result of negotiations between the State of Hawaii and its public employee unions, that I would receive certain retirement benefits, which medical coverage was a part of. 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. I work hard at my job and things are even harder now since vacancies have been frozen and demands for services have increased. 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 and my family. Now suddenly, rules of the game change. Are agreements no longer honored? Or are we still a society and nation of integrity and trust, where we honor and uphold commitments made?

I think it's wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me. I oppose HB 1719, 1106, 1718, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727. I appeal to your sense of fairness, trust, respect, responsibility, and honor. Please do not support any of the House Bills as mention above, or any other legislation that undermines commitments and responsibilities made decades ago to public employees.

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 for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Linda Rivera  
84-490 Makaha Vly. Rd.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Leisha\_Bento/AIEAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:46 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Leisha Bento and I am a teacher at Aiea High 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. It allows the employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

I have been a state employee for nearly 20 years and have been a faithful and dedicated teacher. To switch the retirement benefits for those of us who are already in the system is unfair and unreasonable. In addition, this action would force many outstanding teachers to retire earlier than anticipated leaving schools without strong, veteran teachers who play a very important role in the lives of our students.

I urge you to stop this bill from going further and ask that you consider other alternatives rather than penalize the public employees, especially the public school teachers who have worked so hard to educate the future citizens of our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Leisha M. Bento

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Paul Brown [kanelibrarian@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:37 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

LATE

**TO:** Karl Rhodes, Chair  
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

**FROM:** Trisha Grimley

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

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

The Honorable Karl Rhodes,

My name is Trisha Grimley and I am a teacher at King Kekaulike High 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.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009. I will be one who will have to seriously consider this.

I feel the legislature changing my health benefits leaves me with few options as I will no longer be able to afford to retire in Hawaii and pay for full health benefits while I wait to turn 65. A better plan would be to begin this law with state and county workers who are newly hired after July 1, 2009. That way they will be hired with full understanding of what their financial responsibilities will be and can prepare for their retirement at the start of their employment.

I believe this law, if enacted, would become permanent. Even if it is revisited in 2015, I do not believe we will go back to the way it is now. Coupled with the pay lag of 1996, state employees, like myself and my husband, who have given so many years of service to the State of Hawaii are being treated poorly and deserve more from the state, even in these hard economic times.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Trisha Grimley

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Susan Hirate [hirate@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:37 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony; kris@uhpa.org  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

- Testifier's name with position/title and organization; Susan H. Hirate/Instructor/UH-Manoa
- The Committee the comments are directed to; Labor and Public Employment
- The date and time of the hearing; Friday, Feb. 13, 2009 8:30 a.m.
- Measure number; and HB 1719

This is very disappointing news, to say the least. I have always told myself and my family that even though my salary does not fairly reflect my 25+ years of service to the university, at least I can rest assured that my family's health benefits will continue after my retirement in just a few years. That was the one thing that has kept me going. I feel betrayed. This means that I will be victimized not once, but twice: first, by having settled for a meager salary all these years because of the promise of future benefits; and second, by having those future benefits wiped out completely without prior notice or consideration by the employer.

Why do public employees who are at the bottom of the totem pole have to shoulder the burden of the entire state? Sooner or later, this will only lead to more people lining up for welfare and handouts because they can't afford basic necessities like health insurance. This is very short-sighted thinking. A measure like this will do more harm than good to the economy in the long run.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Lani\_Lau/KAMILOIKI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:32 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony

**LATE**

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

**FROM:** Lani Kikuta

**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 Lani Kikuta and I am a teacher at Kamiloiki 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.

This paragraph should tell why you feel its 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.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Joyce\_Evens/WAIMEAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:54 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

**LATE**

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

My name is Joyce Evens and I am a teacher at Waimea 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.

I moved here in 1985 and missed the contributory plan (which affects my retirement seriously) and began to work in a system that I grew to believe was a worthwhile system in which to plant seeds. On numerous occasions, I considered moving back to the mainland but did not because of the students I was working with and the "promise" of health care after retirement. In 2006, my mother became ill and I should have moved back to take care of her. Instead, I tried to be the dutiful daughter from afar, because I kept saying "this system will allow me to retire after 30 years with my health benefits, I can't leave now." My mother died in 2007. There are many times knowing the thought my health benefits would be there in 6 years when I could retire comforted me. But now with the passing of this bill, my actions become neglectful of my mother's needs.

I have personally sacrificed for this career and I do not believe I should have to continue to sacrifice because of government decisions. The teaching career is not supplemented with a great salary, so the health benefits become the "true" monetary attraction to the profession. Those of us who have dedicated our lives to the future of the Hawaii children should not, at this point, in our careers be penalized. And, yes I do believe the passing of this bill can be considered punishment for us. We are constantly bombarded with other adults commenting on "teacher schedules being too short", and "it should be done for the children." However, there comes a time, when the "human being teacher" has earned his/her right to a sustainable retirement. And when the time approaches, the government should not be able to manipulate it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## yamashita2 - Kristen

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**From:** Ali Nakamitsu [asnakamitsu@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:03 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

LATE

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 Alicia Nakamitsu 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.

I understand the need to find ways to balance the budget in these tough economic times; however, I don't think that requiring all state employees to wait until age 65 to receive medical benefits from the state is the way to go. As far as the teaching profession goes, there are many young professionals (myself included) who work for the state because we genuinely believe in the importance of public education. The truth is, there are many teachers who may be affected by this decision. At the top end of the scale, there will be many teachers who will remain in the classrooms until their full benefits kick in...even if they are past the time at which they should retire (for professional reasons). Good teachers burn out...after 30 years of working with the students, teachers get "tired" of many behaviors that are just typical behaviors for students. After many years, even good teachers begin to get entrenched in practices that they feel work, instead of reaching for new practices to enhance student learning. On my own faculty, as in every faculty, I know there are people who love the children and the aim of public education, but they have a hard time seeing for themselves that it may be time to retire...these individuals are in their late 50s and early 60s (some even older). But, if we are not going to receive medical benefits at age 55, I can see many teachers staying in the profession longer than they should because they cannot afford to retire. For many, that is already the case, but a lack of medical coverage will surely increase those numbers.

On the lower, or newer, end of the scale are the new teachers who are looking to enter the profession, or like myself trying to measure the viability of staying in the profession until retirement. New teachers, are not going to be able to get jobs because the very positions they would have been able to apply for will be tied up for an additional 10 years by the current teachers. Many days, I find myself asking if I can truly last for the next 25 years as a teacher (until I am 55). I give everything I can to the students I have, and I am usually at school before 7AM and leave after 4PM, not to mention the hours I spend in the evenings and weekends grading and coming up with lesson plans and assessments. Now, if I have to change my end goal to 35 years from now, I really don't see myself staying in education for the long run.

Without being dramatic, I would have to say that I would have to reconsider my decision to continue as a teacher for the state if these bills under consideration are accepted. I may need to give up on my lifelong dream to make a difference for the children of Hawaii as a public educator and look possibly into teaching at a private school. It's not that I don't like private schools, it's just that I am a proud product of the public education system. My grandfather, mother, aunts, and uncles have all been public school teachers. I attended Mililani Uka, Wheeler Intermediate, and Mililani High School. I attended the University of Hawaii as a Regent Scholar. I know the power of a terrific public education and I would like to give back to the system and community that has given me so much. But, I'm not sure if it will be in my best interests to continue to do so should this bill pass.

It is difficult to make ends meet. I am married to another teacher, so our resources are stretched each pay period. But, we love what we do. We love that we have medical coverage, and a job that allows us to stay in Hawaii where we were both born and raised. But the question is: can we continue to afford to stay? Can we realistically continue our work with the students in a meaningful manner until we are 65 years old? Or, do we need to look elsewhere?

[Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Lisa\_Yamane/WAIKIKIE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:00 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Opposition of HB

**LATE**

I oppose HB 1719. The thought of not having medical coverage until medicare retirement age leaves me with an uneasy feeling of "what if". The cost of medical til medicare age is so very detrimental to simply living. Thank you for your consideration.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Shelly\_Sypowicz/WAIKIKIE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:02 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Shelly\_Sypowicz/WAIKIKIE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us

**LATE**

My name is Rochelle Sypowicz and I work at Waikiki Elementary School and oppose HB1719 because I would not be able to afford my medical or medicines.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:59 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone with SprintSpeed

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**From:** Adrean\_Bachman/HILOUN/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Date:** Thu, 12 Feb 2009 15:50:28 -1000  
**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 Adrean Bachman and I am a teacher at Hilo Union 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. I may not retire on June 30 but I would transfer to a charter school were benefits are not discriminated based upon age.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Adrean Bachman  
[adreanb@gmail.com](mailto:adreanb@gmail.com)

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Patricia\_Ioane/WAIAKEAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:34 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony

**LATE**

**TO:** [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
**FROM:** Pattie Ioane  
**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 Pattie Ioane and I am an educational assistant 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Pattie Ioane  
173 Hooehua Street  
Hilo, Hi 96720

**From:** Valerie Sasaki [valksasaki@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:29 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Valerie Sasaki and I am a teacher at Queen Kaahumanu 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. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age. It allows employees to retain health coverage through 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. Some of them are excellent experienced teachers who are needed to continue to teach our youth to become contributing members of our society. They have much to offer these students and it would be a shame to see them retire early. I am a special education teacher who may retire if this bill should be passed. I know that there is a real shortage of experienced special education teachers in Hawaii, as well as, across the nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** verna chinen [vchinen@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:03 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** SUBJECT: HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
**Attachments:** stat1435.jpg

**LATE**

TO: House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is Verna Chinen and I am a speech-language pathologist with the Department of Education. I am writing to 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. Approximately 50% of speech-language pathologists working for the DOE are nearing retirement age. If these individuals choose to retire, the department will face significant shortages of speech-language pathologists who service students with communication disabilities. This will add to the current shortage of these professionals the state already faces. My question, who will service these students? Is the committee willing to put the department of education at risk for a class action lawsuit for lack of speech and language services? Please think of the long term implications of passage of this bill. Passage of this bill would severely hamper all efforts of retaining current speech-language pathologists and recruiting speech-language pathologists to work for the Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Verna Chinen M. S. CCC-SLP

State SLP Coordinator

Dept. of Education OCISS-SES

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Daniel\_Ninomiya/HAHAIONE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:11 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Daniel Ninomiya and I am a teacher at Hahaione 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Jeannie Lum, Associate Professor  
University of Hawaii  
citizen  
808- 227-6752

**LATE**

Feb 13, 2009, 8:30am

I object to HB 1719 Relating to Public Employees

My name is Jeannie Lum. I am an Associate Professor at the University of Hawaii., College of Education. The State has no right to propose a bill that is under the authorization of UHPA labor union negotiations.

I strongly do NOT support Bill HB 1719!!!

**From:** Wendy\_Miyahara/WAIPAHUH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:21 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

My name is Wendy Miyahara and I am a teacher at Waipahu 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.

If I knew that these benefits were going to be taken away, I would rethink my decision to work for the state. I have devoted 18 years to the State DOE and still have many more years to go. I truly enjoy teaching the children of our state regardless of the challenges we continually face. While our pay lags behind many other states and our responsibilities increase annually, having the retirement benefits is one of the things I look forward to having after teaching for 30 years. I have known many teachers who have quit teaching or left for better working conditions in private schools. Should this bill pass, there would be less incentives for me to continue in the public school system. I also know many highly qualified, dedicated teachers who are able to retire but continue to teach because they enjoy what they do. If this bill should pass, I would imagine they would retire in June causing so many openings at our school. Yes, these vacancies would be filled, but filled by whom? Teachers recruited from the mainland that stay for a few years then leave? Teachers who aren't even qualified to teach the subject matter?

Emergency hires that have no experience and or haven't gone through education courses?  
Is this the price the legislature is willing to pay?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** v\_leworthy@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Victoria Leworthy  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1444 W. Kuiaha Rd Haiku, HI  
Phone: 808-264-5655  
E-mail: [v\\_leworthy@yahoo.com](mailto:v_leworthy@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Aimee\_Uyeda/KALUKA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:25 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Aimee Uyeda and I am a teacher at Kalihi Uka 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.

***This 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.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:19 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** cstark@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Chris Stark  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1255 Nuuanu Ave #3204 Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 808-545-1526  
E-mail: [cstark@hawaii.edu](mailto:cstark@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

This bill is extremely irresponsible as it fails to provide employees on the verge of retirement any ability to plan for their health care needs in the interim period between their retirement and age 65. At the very least, there should be a transition period that allows our senior most employees to adequately prepare for the lack of coverage. This is a disgraceful way to treat the employees who have given the government the most years of service.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** fyhara@aim.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:26 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719-Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

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

My name is Fay Hara and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist currently providing services to Kahalu'u Elementary School in the Windward District. 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 would allow employees to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state of 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.  
Fay Y. Hara M.S., CCC-SLP

---

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**From:** Christine Lawson [tropicalcl7497@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:29 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719-RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Christine Lawson, and I am a teacher at Hahai'one 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.

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

I am a Special Education teacher, with many years of experience. This bill would make me consider early retirement, which would be unfortunate for both me and for the school I serve. Special Education is a hard position to fill, and having the amount of experience I have in the field makes me a very valuable resource, and one that is very difficult to replace. Additionally, I have put in my time in the system, and have done my part. I was assured that my health insurance would be covered upon my retirement after 30 years. This bill violates that agreement. How can you change the rules in the middle of the game?

Retiring early would be a financial burden on me, but the alternative, of having to pay 100% of my medical costs until age 65 is even worse.

By forcing highly qualified teachers with years of experience to leave the field early, you are doing a disservice to the special needs children of Hawaii, and to the teachers who have dedicated their lives to helping them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO: @hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: [Patricia Dong]  
BCC:  
SUBJECT: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

LATE

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

Oppose of HB 1719, Retirement Prior to Medicare Age; Suspended Coverage

My name is Patricia Dong and I am a State of Hawaii employee 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.

If this bill should pass, it would 1) encourage eligible state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009, which would burden the state retirement funds further; 2) increase the number of uninsured adults in the State, as the number of individuals who cannot afford health care without the state/county contribution would increase and place stressors on the public health system (i.e. increase in patient capacity, higher rates in vaccine-preventable diseases) and increase the morbidity and premature mortality of the citizens of Hawaii.

While it is understandable that the State of Hawaii needs to consider cost saving measures in this time of financial crisis, alternate means of cost savings needs to be considered as reducing health benefits does not promote a community of healthy citizens or families. I urge the committee not to pass H.B. 1719.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Fay\_Sumida/PRIDGE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:42 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

I wanted to express my concerns for HB 1719. I am against taking away medical benefits for state and city and county workers who are retired and who will be retiring. I have worked for the state for 30 years and am planning to retire in 2010. I have been counting on the medical benefits promised to state workers. I feel it is not fair to take that benefit away. Please do not pass HB 1719.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Kathy\_Maemori/HONDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:44 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for the Labor Committee

**LATE**

**TO:** [LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**FROM:** Kathy Maemori  
**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 Kathy Maemori and I am a Speech Pathologist with the Honolulu District. 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. At this time there is already a shortage of licensed Speech Pathologist in this state. An additional decrease of qualified, licensed Speech Pathologist would have a tremendous impact on the direct services of many IDEA and 504 qualified students in the DOE.

We were hired with the understanding that our premiums would be funded once we reached the retirement age of 55 and 30 years of service. Changing the policy now would unfairly impact the retirement plans of many dedicated employees. The committee needs to consider the financial impact of extending the retirement age to 65. Although the state may be saving money on premiums, they will in turn be adding to the cost of retirement benefits for those that must work an additional 10 years.

Policies were meant to be updated; however, it's only fair that these updates go into affect for newly hired employees and should not be retroactive. It's unfair and wrong to change the policy for vested employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:49 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** ctoguchi@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Charlotte Toguchi  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 4303 Diamond Head Rd HI  
Phone: 808 734-9179  
E-mail: [ctoguchi@hawaii.edu](mailto:ctoguchi@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

**Comments:**

This bill is punitive to public employees. As a life long resident, responsible taxpayer, and public employee for more than 28 years in higher education, this bill follows the rob Peter to pay Paul principle. I believe that State Legislators need to be more fiscally responsible in spending our taxes so a bill such as this one would never be proposed.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Raynice\_Messier/MOAHS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:07 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony

**LATE**

**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 Raynice Messier and I am a teacher at Moanalua High School 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.

I have dedicated my life, over 37 years, in the classroom. Unfortunately I am also a former non-contributory plan member so I cannot afford paying for my medical coverage to age 65. This dooms me to work forever even with failing health. I am not ready to retire but this is outrageous and with no warning. Please consider older retirees' situation and how we will then not be able to stimulate our economy by spending.

Sincerely yours,

Raynice Messier

February 13, 2009

LATE

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,

Stacey Yamashita  
Maui Police Department  
Traffic Section

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:57 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB 1719 = RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone with SprintSpeed

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**From:** Rena Arakawa  
**Date:** Thu, 12 Feb 2009 16:40:00 -1000  
**To:** <LABtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 1719 = RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
**TO:** [LABtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:LABtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)

**FROM:** Rena Arakawa

**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 Rena Arakawa and I am a teacher at Kaahumanu Elementary 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. 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 20 years of service with the Department of Education, and like many others, have invested these years of service with the understanding that we would receive health benefits at retirement. I feel it is unfair to change these policies without any consideration to date of hire and years of service. Also, many teachers at our school would feel no other choice but to retire if continuing to teach would mean losing their health benefits. This would cripple our school tremendously, as these teachers have many years of experience and are the backbone of our school. At a time when test scores and student achievement are a priority in our state, it is important for schools to keep their highly qualified and experienced teachers in place, especially during this time when District and State Resource personnel positions are being cut. Schools will have to look within for resource support, which experienced teachers can provide, if they are not forced to retire because of HB 1719.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:58 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB1719 - Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone with SprintSpeed

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**From:** Lianne\_Jumawan/CASTLE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Date:** Thu, 12 Feb 2009 16:34:01 -1000  
**To:** <EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov>  
**Subject:** 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 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, 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

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:58 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB1719 relating to public employees

**LATE**

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone with SprintSpeed

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**From:** Damian\_Look/PCHIGH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Date:** Thu, 12 Feb 2009 16:06:59 -1000  
**To:** <EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov>  
**Subject:** HB1719 relating to public employees

Dear Sir, My name is Damian Look and I am a teacher at Pearl City High School and I strongly oppose HB1719 which suspends state and county contribution 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. It resumes coverage after medicare retirement age. Allows employees to retain health coverage through 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 force me to work until age 65, putting in a total of 40 years of service. There is no way that I would be able to afford the medical premiums if I were to retire prior to that. I went into teaching because of the benefits. I tolerate the substandard wage because I feel it is balanced by the medical benefits received. I surely would have entered a different career if not for the retirement benefits. I was counting on the medical premium being paid for upon my retirement. It is the single greatest benefit that the state had offered me when I decided to be a teacher for the State of Hawaii. Please do not support HB1719.

Damian Look  
Teacher  
Pearl City High School

February 13, 2009

LATE

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,

Stacey Yamashita  
Maui Police Department  
Traffic Section

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.***

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

TO: LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
FROM: Edith Kido  
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 Edith Kido and I'm a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Queen Ka'ahumanu Elementary 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.

To Calvin Say and supporters of the above proposal, this is a direct mockery to us state employees! I've been a teacher since 1970, with 38+ years of service, and feel betrayed, dumbfounded, and enraged that such a bill could even be considered! We educators are in the teaching profession foremost because we love our children and have faith in their leadership, believe in a promising future for our state and country, and realize successful attainment is only derived via education. To this quest, we educators stick it out in the trenches through thick and thin, fight many uphill battles, and struggle relentlessly. To this end, we sacrifice selflessly our most cherished commodity – our valued time and energy. To reiterate this point, my typical school day is between 12-13 hours at my work site. I'm in school by 7:00 am and leave 7:00-8:00 pm. After the students' dismissal, I attend numerous meetings and workshops, do afterschool tutoring and conferencing, with endless preparations, interventions, assessments, evaluations, and an inordinate amount of paperwork. Teachers teach for love of the profession! It's the only profession where it's required that you leave lesson plans and schoolwork for the substitute teacher (even when you're too ill to go to work). It's the only career that I've heard Parents telling their own kids not to follow them in because of the high stress level and never-ending workday. And, sadly, the populace is not always supportive. But, what has been gratifying and compensatory to the profession, has been the knowledge and security of our health benefits! To even think that we may forfeit this, has been a heavy burden and a detrimental emotional setback. If you believe in some of our dreams and aspirations, there's only one recourse to take. We teachers ask that you support our earnest and sincere efforts, and challenges, by terminating this unsound bill. Otherwise, teachers as myself will be contemplating retirement in June 2009. Mahalo for giving us this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Edith Kido

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Joseph\_Ciccarelli/AIEAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Joseph Ciccarelli and I am a teacher at Aiea HighSchool 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.

This is my third year teaching for the state and one of the main reasons that we have people working for the state is because of the benefits that it offers to its workers. I think that there are people that have worked for 30 years and are ready to retire and now they wont be able to if this law passes. It is unfair and should not be an option as a way to save money. It has really got me thinking about working for the state and if it is stil a good job or my services could be used better at a private shcool or working in another state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Joseph Ciccarelli

Testimony re: Take away Bills

LATE

HB 1719

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair Labor Committee  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, Labor Committee,  
Members of the Committee on Labor,

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE SIX YEAR RECESSION EXTENSION PACKAGE OF 2009

The proposed take away bills are counterproductive to the philosophy that the government should be doing everything in it's power to stimulate the economy, and not to drag it down.

The numerous attacks that these bills have on government employees pay and benefits are short-sighted and foolhardy.

Let's look at just a few ways that these legislative proposals in question stimulate Hawaii's economy:

- 1) Drastically reduce the take home pay of the 40,000+ government employees in the range through furloughs that equal a 5% reduction in pay per day for each furlough day
- 2) Reduce the workers take home pay by an additional \$250+ monthly to cover an increase to proposed family plan medical insurance premiums. This would also cause a severe reduction in spending by the largest employee group in the state. These draconian reductions are GAURANTEED to further drag down the state's economy as nearly ALL 40,000 employees who are presently scrapping by will restrict their spending.
- 3) Force the workers who retire after 6-30-09 to incur huge increases in the cost of medical insurance premiums due to non-payment by the state. This will result in no spending (economic stimulus) by anyone retiring in the near future due to lack of affordability. This is also a great way to thank workers who have given decades of service to the State of Hawaii who will now be on fixed incomes.
- 4) The state will need to pay out millions of dollars in cash to buy out the exodus of employees that will retire before 6-30-09. The state still owes them their vacation pay, up to 112 days of wages for each forced retirement.

The state and county governments do not produce widgets and gadgets that we sell to the residents and visitors to Hawaii to generate revenue for the government. We provide critical services to the people of Hawaii by taking care of the less fortunate, protecting our food and water supplies, and saving people's lives from criminals and disasters alike. In other words, governments' role is to allow the people of Hawaii to live in a manner to which they have become accustomed. The HGEA had no role in creating any of the governments programs or personnel in State or City government, this was the role of our lawmakers who decided that the people of Hawaii needed some type of service in order to make life in Hawaii better for all our visitors and residents.

Therefore the product we sell is shared by all the people in Hawaii, and we should ALL share in the costs of this economic downturn. This means that all residents and visitors must share equally in the "pain" that the lawmakers speak of.

Balancing the state's budget on the backs of government employees is not "sharing the pain". If the proposed cuts go through all that will be accomplished is to extend the recession in Hawaii until 2015.

Aloha,  
Peter Oshiro, HGEA Member  
95-1076 Pikoeka St.  
Mililani, HI 96789

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** berg1-Liz on behalf of EDNtestimony  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:55 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: bill 1719

LATE

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:** Susie\_Pond/KILAUEA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Susie\_Pond/KILAUEA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:50 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** bill 1719

TO: [EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.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 Suzanne Thompson Pond and I am a teacher at Kilauea 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.

Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you  
Suzanne Thompson Pond  
Kilauea School  
2440 Kolo Road  
Kilauea Hawaii 96754

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:54 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

---

**From:** Debbie\_Anderson/HONOKAHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
[mailto:Debbie\_Anderson/HONOKAHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:44 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
**Cc:** Gary\_Washburn/HONOKAHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**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 Debbie Anderson and I am a teacher at Honokaa High and Intermediate 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, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age, regardless of date of hire and years of service. Teachers who have spent a lifetime of service are vested into the system and would be deeply hurt by this measure. We have fabulous teachers with 30 years of experience or more, who want to continue serving while they are making a tremendous impact on our community. One teacher travels with students on annual round-the-island tours and to Oa'hu, where his students are routinely touted on morning news shows. If this bill should pass, it would encourage some of our best employees to retire on June 30, 2009. What a terrible loss to our community, and a great detriment to our students' future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:53 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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**From:** Steven\_Martin/WAIAKEAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Steven\_Martin/WAIAKEAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:54 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony@hawaii.capital.gov  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

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

I am Steven Martin. 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 the date of hire and years of service. Allow state and county employees 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.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:50 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW:

LATE

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**From:** Justin\_Delos\_Reyes/CAMPBELL/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
[mailto:Justin\_Delos\_Reyes/CAMPBELL/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:24 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
**Subject:**

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

My name is Justin Delos Reyes and I am a teacher at James Campbell 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 is an unfair bill. I do not see anywhere where law makers and the administration like Govenor Lingle are making the same sacrifices. I don't feel its fair to hold the hard working individuals of the State accoutable for the law makers and administration lack of fiscal responsiblity that got us into this budget mess! Remember that you are all elected officals and the people will speak next election. The people have already spoken once by electing a President that stands for change.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:47 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

---

**From:** Iris\_Anger/MAUIHS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Iris\_Anger/MAUIHS/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:42 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony@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 Iris Anger and I am a teacher at Maui 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.

yamashita2 - Kristen

---

**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:49 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony; FEAmeeeting@neaalaska.org  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

LATE

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

---

**From:** Joelle\_Neuman/KING/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Joelle\_Neuman/KING/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:47 AM  
**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 Joelle Neuman and I am a teacher at King 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. No. 1719.

As public employees my husband and I oppose this bill that has been introduced by Speaker Say.  
Specifically: HB No. 1719

As a civil servants, we chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. On balance, we believed that we would be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards our 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 even though we also pay state taxes, we are bearing the burden of poor government. It is ironic that Speaker Say is introducing this bill, as well as others, to reduce pay and benefits to public employees, while the legislature gives themselves a 36% increase in pay.

We urge you to oppose this bill.

Dawn and David Shimabukuro

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** berg1-Liz on behalf of EDNtestimony  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB1719-Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

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:** Lynn\_Fujimoto/MAKAWAO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Lynn\_Fujimoto/MAKAWAO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:14 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB1719-Relating to Public Employees

----- Forwarded by Lynn Fujimoto/MAKAWAO/HIDOE on 02/12/2009 11:13 AM -----

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To: [EDNtestimony@capital.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@capital.hawaii.gov)  
cc:

Date: 11:06:50 AM Today

Subject: HB1719-Relating to Public Employees

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

8:30am

My name is Lynn Fujimoto and I am a teacher at Makawao School and I strongly oppose HG 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.

It is unfair to change the health benefits that have been in place.  
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Betty\_Brask/PUKALANI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony; FINTestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

And you wonder why we cannot retain teachers? The first place you cut always seems to be in education. I have taught 31 years (here and on the mainland). I cannot retire in Hawaii because of the policies set by our legislature. Why would anyone want to work in Hawaii? Pay is low, conditions, facilities are below par - I could go on and on. I certainly will watch how this vote goes and work to correct that the next time we have an election.

BBrask

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Leslie\_Shimokawa/WHEELER/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:01 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

LATE

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

My name is Leslie Shimokawa and I am a teacher at Wheeler 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.

*It's unfair to change the health benefits,* because teachers have worked for decades to educate the children in the state of Hawaii. It is dishonorable at this point in their careers to take away the benefits that they have counted on for decades as part of their retirement years. The State of Hawaii's integrity is on the line with this issue. We will see how much our legislators value their citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** kishii@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:09 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

LATE

**TO:** [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
**FROM:** Kathy Ishii  
**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 Kathy Ishii and I am a Complex School Renewal Specialist in Kealakehe Complex\_ 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.

After 33 years of service,I had been thinking of retiring in August but recently decided to stay to carry on work with my complex schools that has seen positive results in changing and improving instruction by engaging students in applying their content knowledge in a hands on, big picture way. We are reaching many more students with 2st century skills that would otherwise be disenfranchised in a museum system. This bill would force me to retire, inspite of my love for what I do. I need to be realistic, knowing that as we age we have more medical needs with less to financially to deal with them. I will need the medical. General Shinseki says that you have to love the people you serve to be able to lead. Take it to heart. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

yamashita1- Kathy

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**From:** kishii@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:09 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

LATE

**TO:** [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
**FROM:** Kathy Ishii  
**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 Kathy Ishii and I am a Complex School Renewal Specialist in Kealakehe Complex 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.

After 33 years of service, I had been thinking of retiring in August but recently decided to stay to carry on work with my complex schools that has seen positive results in changing and improving instruction by engaging students in applying their content knowledge in a hands on, big picture way. We are reaching many more students with 21st century skills that would otherwise be disenfranchised in a museum system. This bill would force me to retire, in spite of my love for what I do. I need to be realistic, knowing that as we age we have more medical needs with less to financially deal with them. I will need the medical. General Shinseki says that you have to love the people you serve to be able to lead. Take it to heart. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:20 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Fw: HB1719 Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone with SprintSpeed

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**From:** "The Romerdahls"  
**Date:** Thu, 12 Feb 2009 18:14:00 -1000  
**To:** <EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov>  
**Subject:** HB1719 Relating to Public Employees  
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009  
Conference Room 309  
8:30 a.m.

My name is Renee Romerdahl 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 financially effect our teachers. As state and county employees, we depend on our benefits as well as salary. We have worked towards retirement and have expected the state and county contributions to the EUTF upon retirement. To suspend state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees--beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009 will greatly effect our retirement. We have carefully planned and budgeted for our retirement. To loose this contribution will cost our employee-beneficiaries more than planned for and will totally change our monthly income. As teachers, we already receive low wages and depend on benefits to help with the cost of living. To loose this benefit will be detrimental to many. This bill will cause many to retire early prior to July 1, 2009 and will cause many others to leave the Department of Education and move to states that support their teachers and provide for them after retirement. It is unfair to change our health benefits; if a change is necessary then it should be made for those hired after July 1, 2009. All current DOE employees should be allowed to retain their all their health benefits including the state and county contributions to the EUTF after retirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Renee Romerdahl  
First Grade Teacher  
Kihei Elementary

**LATE**

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: **Carol Tano**  
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 Carol Tano and I am a teacher at Moanalua 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 and 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, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009. Currently our school system is losing experienced and dedicated educators and support staff that provide services beyond their existing work hours. These mentors are the leadership foundation of our schools. However, many more will opt to retire before they plan to or would like to, based on the outcome of this bill which would directly impact the quality of education offered to our students.

It is unfortunate that this action is being proposed without considerations of its long-term consequences on our island keikis. This is a careless, quick-fix option to our fiscal woes that will have lasting repercussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Carol Tano**  
**ELL Teacher**  
**Moanalua Middle School**

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:23 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** roseluecke@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Loke  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [roseluecke@yahoo.com](mailto:roseluecke@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:24 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** roseluecke@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Loke  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [roseluecke@yahoo.com](mailto:roseluecke@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:24 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** roseluecke@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Loke  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [roseluecke@yahoo.com](mailto:roseluecke@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Faith.F.Keene@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:01 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

TO: [EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
FROM: Faith Keene  
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 \_\_\_Faith Keene\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a State employee for over 25 years 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.

I strongly feel that my dedicated service with State Government has been beneficial and this was one of the reasons why I've supported State Government, without this benefit it would greatly impact my family living as the cost of medical keeps rising.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Pauline\_Inoue/ALIAMANUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:57 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is Pauline Inoue and I am a SASA at Aliamanu 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 shpuld pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** Lisa Yoshimoto [lisayosh@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:44 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

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

My name is Lisa Yoshimoto and I am a teacher at Pearl Ridge Elementary School. I am strongly opposed 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 date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the his/her Medicare retirement age.

I enjoy teaching and working with my students. As teachers, we dedicate so much of ourselves to educating Hawaii's future . Although the school day ends at 2:10 p.m., this is hardly the end of our work day. Countless hours are spent after the students go home for the day planning lessons, correcting assignments, reviewing assessments, meeting with colleagues, and the list goes on and on. Even vacation time is not a sacred time as much of it is spent preparing for the next term, preparing report cards that are sent home soon after the students return to school, and attending professional development workshops and training. As far as pay goes, we don't make a great deal, compared to other professionals, and yet I have always felt that this is a worthwhile and fulfilling career choice. It is an insult to present a bill like this that will punish teachers and other state workers. I am 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 all including President Obama, it is unthinkable that Hawaii will not support retirees 55-65 years old with medical coverage. It is shameful that you would consider pulling this benefit from under our feet in our sunset years, after we have committed years and years of dedicated service to 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,

Lisa Yoshimoto

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** linneasherrard@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:42 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 am

My name is Linnea Sherrard and I am a teacher at Roosevelt 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 empolyee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until medical retirement age.

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

I have been working as a classroom teacher since 2009, am highly qualified and hold a master's degree in educational foundations from UH Manoa.

The legislature should continue to support hard working teachers by protecting our benefits package.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB1719.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Linnea Sherrard

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**A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!**

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Wayne Delos Santos [deloway@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:44 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

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

My name is Wayne Delos Santos. I've worked for the State of Hawaii and the County of Kauai for a total of 21 years. I'm also a member of the HGEA. I'm a taxpayer and spend money at local businesses every day to buy food and other necessities for me and my family.

HB 1719 is of great 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 graduate 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 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 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 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.

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

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo.

**From:** Jan Halpenny [jbhhawaii@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:08 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Do NOT vote for HB1719 relating to public employees

**LATE**

**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 Jan Halpenny. I am a teacher at Roosevelt 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. This is regardless of their date of hire and their years of service if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age, it resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age and 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.

There is already a shortage of qualified and experienced teachers in our Hawaii DOE. The passage of this bill will only encourage master teachers to retire immediately instead of staying on to provide our students with the kind of education they need.

Hawaii ranks at the very bottom of the country in many statistical surveys and norm referenced testing of students around the country. To pull the rug out from under the feet of dedicated teachers who are willing to stay on to teach and improve the caliber of students who will become voting constituents and contributing members of Hawaii's future is an unpardonable insult to the integrity of all teachers. This bill disregards the years of hard work teachers have provided at very little pay. The benefits that have been provided to teachers over the years have been a small ray of light in an otherwise dreary realm of compensation. This is not a good bill.

**PLEASE DO NOT VOTE FOR HB 1719**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Grace\_Arrocena-Soares/ALIAMANUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:40 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

**TO:** [EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**FROM:** Grace Arrocena Soares  
**BCC:**  
**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 Grace Arrocena Soares and I am a part time clerk typist at Aliamanu 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Grace\_Arrocena-Soares/ALIAMANUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:45 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

TO: EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
FROM: Gayle Simon  
BCC:  
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 Gayle Simon and I am a clerk typist at Aliamanu 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** leighton kabutan [kabutanl001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:31 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

LATE

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:  
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Cathy Kabutan. As a public employee for 27 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically :HB 1719. For 27 years I was led to believe that when I retired my spouse and I would receive free medical benefits for life. With only 3 years to go before retirement, I think it's extremely unfair to suddenly change the rules and say I will no longer get the health benefits promised. To take away health benefits from the aging public is shameless and heartless. I would hope members of your committee can find other ways to meet the State's financial needs.  
Cathy Kabutan  
School librarian

LATE

**Example e-mail letter**

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: [Peter Lucas]  
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 Peter Lucas and I am a teacher at Mililani 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 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.

**Peter Lucas**

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Susan Chew [susaaan@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:39 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Susan Chew and I am a teacher at Lanai High and 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.

Please consider the well-being of all of the state and county workers. This is unfair to change our health benefits. I love being a teacher at my public school, however, should this bill pass I may be forced to teach somewhere else. It is such a shame that we have to monitor what is happening with EUTF instead of focusing all of our energy on our children in our classroom. I would hope in the future that being a state employee is a positive thing and not a negative one. Again, please consider the well being of all state and county workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Eva Ponte [epontev@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:46 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony against measure HB1719

**LATE**

FROM: EVA PONTE, Assistant Professor, UH Manoa

TO: COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

RE: HEARING TO TAKE PLACE ON Friday, February 13, 2009 AT 8:30 A.M.

MEASURE NUMBER:

\* HB1719 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits

I am writing this email to express my opposition to measure HB 1719. This measure will significantly limit public employee's access to health benefits upon retirement, thus creating a two-tiered system and having a negative effect on the state employees and the overall financial health of the system.

LATE

## Example e-mail letter

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: [Kristy Lucas]  
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 Kristy Lucas and I am a teacher at Kipapa 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.

Kristy Lucas

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Grace\_Arrocena-Soares/ALIAMANUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:42 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

TO: [EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
FROM: Grace Bejer  
BCC:  
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 Grace Bejer and I am a clerk typist at Aliamanu 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: Jane Brush  
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 Jane Brush and I am a teacher at Keaau 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.

I personally do not feel we should have to work until 65. I personally have worked with a teacher until they were 62 and it all became too much for them. The technology continues to improve and the older teachers continue to fall behind. The responsibilities are increasing and again, the ability to complete them all is very tough for older teachers. To make people work until they are 65 so they can have health benefits is a horrible idea. Teachers are already under paid and usually over worked, lets not make teaching known as a bad profession to get into...we need all the help we can get with most of these kids.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jane Brush

LATE

## Example e-mail letter

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: Dolores Weidman  
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 Dolores Weidman and I am a teacher at Waianae Hih 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.

I am applaud that this bill should even considered. When I chose this work force option and place I chose based on certain benefit packages that make it worthwhile to work in such a tiring career as education. I am also a cancer survivor. HOPEFULLY, I live well into my eighties. I did not plan on retiring until 65 or so. I have been paying into the state system for at least 20 years first as a social worker and now as a school counselor. I believed that these benefits would be there for me as I age. I am 54 now and would hate to have to take some kind of early retirement because I love my work, and the students I work with. I think I have many more years to offer. Please help me have peace of mind regarding an important issue like health benefits which I expected to have if I face retirement before 65.

In addition, my husband a highly qualified teacher started work 25 years ago and is eligible to retire very soon. He is so dedicated that he has used less than 15 days sick leave in all this time. He does not want to retire, but this is the kind of bill that would force the issue. This is the kind of bill that is a slap in the face to hard working state, city and federal employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:07 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** makaneole@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: laurie makaneole  
Organization: Individual  
Address: p.O. BOX 438 Hanapepe HI  
Phone: 808-241-3387  
E-mail: [makaneole@yahoo.com](mailto:makaneole@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** berg1-Liz on behalf of EDNtestimony  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:42 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719 -Relating to Public Employees  
**Attachments:** HB\_1719.doc

**LATE**

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:** pmaherco@aol.com [mailto:pmaherco@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:38 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mmorita@hsta.org  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 1719 -Relating to Public Employees

See attached letter for written testimony.  
Patrick Maher

---

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LATE

**Example e-mail letter**

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: [Rickey Price]  
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 \_\_\_Rickey Price\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a teacher at \_\_\_McKinley\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**From:** Donelle\_Bancaco/POMAIKAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:23 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

LATE

To our legislators-

My name is Donelle Bancaco and I am a teacher at Pomaika'i 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.

What would my life be like after I retire barely making ends meet and then needing to pay for my medical, dental, and vision? What happens to the quality of life to one who retires under the age of 65? My father will be retiring soon from the county. When he retires and cannot afford medical and dental I will need to care for him. I am also dedicating my life to the children of Hawai'i- our future. The least the state can do for us is provide continued medical coverage.

If this bill passes the legislators are jipping thousands of people! Please consider this.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Angela\_Brandt/HONOKAHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:33 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Mark Nakashima  
**Attachments:** pic20544.gif; TESTIMONY FORM.doc

**LATE**

----- Forwarded by Angela Brandt/HONOKAHI/HIDOE on 02/12/2009 10:31 AM -----

**Angela  
Brandt/HONOKAHI/HIDOE**      [ToEDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:ToEDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
  
02/11/2009 04:43 PM                      cc  
  
Subject

*(See attached file: TESTIMONY FORM.doc)*

**TESTIMONY FOR HB 1719  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

TO: [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
FROM: Angella Brandt  
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 Angella Brandt and I am a teacher at Honoka'a 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.

Teachers have already made many financial sacrifices by entering the teaching profession. Many teachers entered the profession because of the retirement benefits and medical coverage instead of taking jobs in other industries which would have resulted in higher pay. It would put additional burden on potential retirees who will not be able to retire because they cannot afford the medical premiums. I would prefer to take a cut in pay than to have these benefits taken from us. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Linda\_Kenui/MILILANH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:05 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

I am Linda Kenui, a teacher at Mililani High School. HB 1719 is an outrageous attempt to suspend state contributions to the EUTF for my medical insurance if I retire before age 65 and after July 1, 2009. This is regardless of date of hire and years of service. Where are you going to get teachers to replace all the ones who will retire because of this bill? Do you think getting rid of seasoned teachers will improved public education? Or do you want to keep teachers working with students until they are 65? Do you really want to do that? Where, in Hawaiiil would anyone get a decent job after retiring from a public service job with enough pay to pay for medical insurance? If you want to make changes just to save money, you should propose gradual changes so people can make plans. I oppose this bill and will work against any legislator who votes for this bill regardless of constituency.

Linda Kenui  
Student Services Coordinator  
ext. 2320

**From:** Ann\_Imamura/MILUKA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:07 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719-Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

**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 Ann Imamura and I am a teacher at Mililani Uka 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. We have worked all these years and can finally see the light at the end of all our struggles. It is unfair for anyone to make changes that would affect our future. I think a better solution would be to make sure people coming into the system know and understand that changes in health benefit is going to be made.

Thank you for your time. Please be sure this Bill does not go to the next step.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Debbie\_Hisashima/PUKALANI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:22 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

Dear House Speaker Say,

My name is Debbie Hisashima. I grew up in Palolo and now teach at Pukalani School on Maui. Although teaching can be a highly stressful career, I do enjoy it a lot and plan to continue teaching for many more years. When I first heard about the proposed legislation to stop medical coverage for people who retire before the age of 65, I thought that surely there must be a mistake. Teaching is wonderful, but would I really have to work for 42 years before I can retire with medical benefits? I think that 30 years of loyal service to the state deserves medical coverage. Don't you? I give so much time and money to these children of Hawaii and I hope that when I am ready to retire, I'll have a great retirement package waiting for me.

I understand that we are in times that demand financial trimming, and I admire your courage to make hard decisions. I also know that you make good decisions, so I'm asking you to please think through this proposal carefully as it will greatly affect the lives of many people.

Thank you very much for your time.

Debbie Hisashima

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Phyllis\_Isa/ALIAMANUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:29 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

TO: EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
FROM: Phyllis Isa  
BCC:  
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 Phyllis Isa and I am a Health Aide at Aliamanu 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Carol Denis. I am a State of Hawaii worker with the Department of Human Services in Hilo, Hawaii. I strongly oppose HB 1719 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after June 30, 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 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 01, 2009, and this would be detrimental to all departments – especially the Department of Human Services which is already suffering from a lack of workers and whose main goal is to provide quality services to the needy in our State. Having a “mass exodus” of excellent, seasoned workers would not be a good thing. It would definitely affect the services we provide in our State.

When I began my career with the State of Hawaii, I was counting on retiring at age 62 with full pension and medical benefits. It is a guaranteed condition of my employment.

I find it interesting that you all recently got a 36% pay raise, even in these tough economic times because “it was on the books.” Well, our benefits – including medical when we retire – is “on the books” and how dare you consider taking that away from us! We as State workers are held up high and expected to live and perform our work with high morals. By altering our promised medical benefits, you would be making an immoral and would be setting a very bad example for others in our State or World to feel they can follow.

It's not right for workers to keep their promise and for you to break it. Many of us have planned our entire working lives on the terms of employment we signed up for. You have no right to shatter those plans and dreams.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

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**From:** Daryl A [buzzycivic@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:40 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

**LATE**

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

My name is Daryl Arai.

As a public employee for one and a half years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say.

HB 1719 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.

HB 1723 limits employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable. This is of particular stress due to the incredible rise in medical costs, which has historically outpaced inflation over the past years. Hawaii may no longer be able to lay claim as one of the healthiest states in the nation.

In addition, 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. Although temporary, we must bear six years of ever-rising prescription medication costs. 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.

HB 1727 prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage and also contributes to the possible decline of the general health of dedicated employees.

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

Aloha and Mahalo for your time.

**yamashita2 - Kristen**

---

**From:** Glenn Sako [sakog001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:43 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Wendy Sako, and I am a teacher at Kea'au Elementary School on the Big Island. 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. If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

I strongly feel that this is totally UNFAIR and WRONG to change our health benefits. If this bill should pass, I and my colleagues would be in favor of retiring on June 30th. As it is, teachers work soooooo hard because we want to make a difference in the lives of our children. Each and every day we are faced with challenges...

PLEASE do not allow this bill to pass. Your support would be greatly appreciated! Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify. :)

Aloha,

Wendy Sako

LATE

Sergeant Juergen L. Canda  
Hawaii Police Department  
349 Kapiolani Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

RE: HB719 Health Benefit Legislative Bill Relating To Public Employees

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to HB 1719 as it will severely impact future retiring police officers of this state.

The career span, stress, and physical demands of a police officer is like no other government employee. It is one of the most stressful and dangerous careers in the nation. It could be compared to a military soldier. In fact, the shifts that I now work are the exact time shifts that I worked in my 10 year military career.

We work rotating shifts, providing services 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Our work is fraught with danger, stress, and extremely demanding of us physically. The very fact that we work all hours of the day and night makes us more susceptible to illness and injury, and subtracts years from our life span because of the unnatural sleep patterns and rest deprivation. For this reason, like a soldier, we cannot remain in the field as long as others remain in their chosen occupations.

Police personnel work incredibly long hours, often with no notice, to ensure public safety and enforce our laws. We must order officers to remain on duty extra hours to fill the required positions on a daily basis. I personally have worked for periods over 30 hours with only a 1 hour nap in my car.

Police officers are exposed daily to a multitude of infectious diseases and have to physically handle persons with severe illnesses such as HIV, TB, Hepatitis, etc., with virtually no personal protection. Police officers have physical altercations with bloody individuals as they resist arrest and are often injured as a result.

I have personally been spat in the face while working and had an infected individual purposely try to infect me while arresting him, who said to me, "Die cop!" What other government worker is subjected to such working conditions?

Because of these demands, our careers are shorter. Police officers cannot safely remain on the job as long as other professions and must retire earlier. **Unlike other employees, police officers will retire 10 years or more from medicare age.**

**Should HB1719 be passed, this will place police officers in a position of providing health coverage at their own expense over a much greater span than other public employees, after they have sacrificed their health and personal safety for the welfare of the public they served.**

For example, I am due to retire in my mid 50's and will have to pay full premiums from my pension until medicare age. **This situation will force police officers to extend their careers as long as possible.** Has anyone done the math on the expense of a police departments limping along with a tired, burnt-out work force, pushing senior citizenship, and maxing out the pay scales?

I urge you to ask those proposing HB1719 to provide an analysis of the cost of this occurring. I can tell you personally, I will not/cannot retire at 25 years if HB1719 passes, and will be paid the new L5 paygrade for many years until I get closer to medicare age. **This will certainly cost much more.**

What about the welfare of these employees, forced to work beyond their capabilities and unable

to retire? HB1719 should not apply retiring police personnel given their unique careers. Health care for retiring police officers cannot be compromised in a search to save money, it would be a great injustice, and fiscally ineffective in the long run.

The average mainland officer retires at 20 years, in Hawaii 25 years, and now we're extending that to 30+. Is our State going to benefit and save money from this?

It has been said that "Everyone needs to share the pain" during this financial crisis and resulting budget reductions. But no one shares in the the physical, mental, and spiritual pain of police officers and the effect it has on thier welfare and health. It is unfair to apply across the board type bills to our unique organization.

Please take this into consideration when deciding HB 1719 and how it will impact those who have sacrificed so much, to protect and preserve our way of life.

Mahalo,

Juergen L. Canda  
P.O. Box 1988  
Keauu, Hawaii 96749  
(808) 982-9918

**From:** MSULADREAM@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:18 PM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** joan.takano@hgea.org  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

My name is Lynn Wong and I am a secretary with the Department of Education's School Food Services Branch. I am strongly opposed 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 date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's 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 will most definitely cause a mass exodus of state and county employees forced to retire on June 30, 2009. Many of these employees will be adversely affected by this premature retirement.

Have you considered how the high volume of vacancies will affect services, morale, and productivity? How will these positions be filled? Have you personally experienced the level of applicants lately?

A majority of state and county workers have endured years in public service positions accepting their salaries would be well below that of the private sector because they believed in the promise of benefits at retirement. Passing this bill means you wilfully break a promise and prove you have no thought about the welfare of your employees.

Do the honorable thing. Create a bill to say that state and county employees newly hired effective July 1, 2009 will follow a new set of rules. This will allow applicants to determine ahead of time whether they really want to be a civil servant.

Do not take away what we have rightfully earned. Isn't it called "fair" labor law for a reason?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Nothing says I love you like flowers! [Find a florist near you now.](#)

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:16 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** angela\_pahia@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Angela Pahia  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 45-303 Kulauli St. Kaneohe, HI 96744  
Phone: 808 239-3125  
E-mail: [angela\\_pahia@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:angela_pahia@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:15 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** michele.ikeda@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Michele Ikeda  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [michele.ikeda@gmail.com](mailto:michele.ikeda@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:10 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Nadine N. Gomes

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net) Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Grace\_Arrocena-Soares/ALIAMANUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:57 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

TO: [EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
FROM: Grace Arrocena Soares  
BCC:  
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 Grace Arrocena Soares and I am a part time clerk at Aliamanu 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Frances\_Otsuka/ALIAMANUI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:01 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

TO: [EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
FROM: Frances Otsuka  
BCC:  
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 Frances Otsuka and I am a clerk typist at Aliamanu 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Bill Grier [thirano@dlir.state.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:00 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** NO on HB1719

**LATE**

Aloha,

**I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1719.**

When I became an employee of the State of Hawaii it was with the understanding that I would be able to count on receiving benefits clearly specified and agreed upon at the time of hire.

Like many State of Hawaii employees, I could have made far more money in the private sector, but was attracted to civil service employment because of the superior benefits available. **I entered into employment with the State of Hawaii in good faith, and fully expect the State of Hawaii to honor our original agreement in the same good faith.**

I understand that the State of Hawaii anticipates a significant deficit in the coming year(s), but it is outrageous to attempt to balance the budget solely on the backs of loyal employees that have provided decades of service to the people of Hawaii. Many of us have worked 20, 30 years with the understanding that the State of Hawaii could be counted on to deliver on the promises made to us long ago. To now take away these promised benefits long after the fact is simply unacceptable.

If it is necessary to offer an adjusted benefit packet to new hires I can understand that. They will enter into employment with a full understanding of what benefits will, and will not, be available to them when it comes time for them to retire. But to take away benefits that loyal long time employees have built their entire retirement plans around must not be allowed to happen.

**I urge you, please vote *NO* on HB1719**

Mahalo,

Bill Grier  
Kauai Branch Manager  
Workforce Development Division  
Department of Labor & Industrial Relations  
phone: (808) 274-3056  
fax: (808) 274-3059  
[bgrier@dlir.state.hi.us](mailto:bgrier@dlir.state.hi.us)

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:00 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Nadine N. Gomes  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net) Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

LATE

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov  
FROM: Sandra Nakazato  
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 Sandra Nakazato and I am a teacher at Major Sheldon Wheeler 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.

**I have been a teacher in the Hawaii DOE for over twenty years, and I am appalled that such a bill has been introduced. Teachers and other public employees will be gravely affected by this selfish measure to cut costs. Surely there must be a better way. I know that the state will now lose many excellent teachers who have dedicated the better part of their life to the education of Hawaii's children. Those of us who are not able to retire before July 1, 2009 will face a dismal future at a time when we are most vulnerable. I have always been proud to say that I live and work in a state that takes care of its people, but Calvin Say's bill has caused me to question and re-think whether or not our lawmakers have the best interests of Hawaii's people at heart. I strongly oppose HB 1719.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:00 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Nadine N. Gomes  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net) Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:58 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1719 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

**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: Nadine N. Gomes  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 169 Ku Drive Wailuku, HI  
Phone: 808 385-9592  
E-mail: [eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:eric.nadinegomes@hawaiiantel.net) Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

**From:** Debbe Lee [manoadebbe@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:42 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719  
**Attachments:** stat545.jpg

**LATE**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Deborah Lee. As a public employee for 9 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say, specifically HB 1719

HB 1719 is 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 in mid-stream.

This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to force people into early retirement. 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 Hawaii at risk. SDtate 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 out already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on HB 1719 and to second a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawaii.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Betty\_Brask/PUKALANI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:21 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

I am shocked that in this economic disaster we are facing that Mr Say would consider dropping benefits for our retirees and soon to be retirees. Shame on you! I certainly will not vote for anyone who supports this bill. I am so disappointed in our state government.

BBrask

LATE

TO: EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
FROM: ADA MARTIN  
BCC:  
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 Ada Martin and I am a Clerk at Aliamanu 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

TO: EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
FROM: Shirley A. Raguindin  
BCC:  
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 Shirley A. Raguindin and I am a Clerk Typist II at Aliamanu 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Kay\_Aki/WAIMALU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:34 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719-RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Kay Aki and I am a Clerk/Typist at Waimalu Elementary 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. Also allows employee to retain health coverage through EUTF by paying the respective state/county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age.

If this bill should pass, it would definitely encourage state/county employees to retire on June 30, 2009 to ensure medical coverage. I would be thrust into the position to leave sooner to insure my state medical benefits which is a very important benefit to all affected.

Sincerely  
Kay Aki

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Jeannie\_Fujii/KALANI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:30 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - Relating to Public Employees

**LATE**

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

My name is Jeannie Fujii and I am a teacher at Kalani 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 is my 39th year of public service. It was with the knowledge that health care coverage will be provided upon retirement that I've endured this lengthy employ. There have been times during my career that I felt like leaving State service to pursue other more lucrative employment. It was always the health benefits upon retirement that changed my mind. I've endured much hardship during my tenure beginning in 1970 with a salary of \$414. Low wages was the price I paid, always with the end in mind, retirement with full medical benefits.

And now as I approach retirement, the benefits that I so long waited for may possibly be taken away. Is this the reward I get for working 39 years? Be fair legislators. If this measure is necessary, start with the incoming employees. Tell them this is what is available so that they may make a decision prior to employment, not after 39 years of service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:25 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB 1719

**LATE**

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**From:** Christina Tarumi [mailto:christarumi@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 11:14 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony; Rep. Calvin Say; Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Marcus Oshiro  
**Cc:** Rep. Maile Shimabukuro; repcabinilla@capitol.hawaii.gov; Rep. Kymberly Pine; mmorita@hsta.org  
**Subject:** HB 1719

TO: [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
FROM: Christina Tarumi  
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 Christina Tarumi, live in Ewa Beach, I commute to and from work 1 ½ hrs. daily, and I am a teacher at Waianae Intermediate 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.

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

I believe this bill is absolutely unfair and unwise. The State of Hawaii should be trying to attract teachers who are committed to teaching our students for the long haul. There is nothing more effective than an experienced teacher who chooses to sacrifice and stay in the profession when it is so easy to find more lucrative jobs in the private sector. I've been teaching for 11 years and am first to admit that if I knew when I first started that the climate for teaching in Hawaii and across the U.S. would turn so hostile toward teachers with NCLB, severe budget cuts, drug testing..I probably would not have become a teacher. There are very few professions that I can think of where someone is responsible for the futures of so many people, with or without the support of parents and then be blamed for low achievement. Unfortunately for my own finances, I found that I really enjoy teaching 12 and 13 year-olds. How many people can say that they REALLY want to or are even capable of spending 6 hours a day with 32 7<sup>th</sup> graders? I invite you to come to my classroom and do what I do everyday, and THEN tell me that if I retire before I am 65 I will not receive my full benefits. Why would anyone in their right mind become a teacher today?

We spend a lot of time supporting new teachers who have no intention of staying in the profession past 2 years. The DOE wastes a lot of money training these same teachers who never get better at what they do because they leave before they build experience and learn best practices. This revolving door is the reason why our state is bleeding money. If you want to save more money, stop wasting it on people who treat teaching as something fun to do for a little while until it gets too difficult. You need to hire and keep

teachers who will commit to teaching as a career, and you will not do it by taking away retirement benefits. Why are you trying to penalize teachers who have already given their lives to teaching Hawaii's children? Please think about us as you deliberate this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I encourage all of you to visit schools in your area frequently and see the good work that teachers and students do everyday. My classroom is always open for you to visit.

Sincerely,  
Christina Tarumi  
Waianae Intermediate

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Reni\_Bello/WAIALUAH/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:52 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

TO: [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
FROM: Reni Bello  
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 Reni Bello and I am a teacher at Waialua High and 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.

As a teacher my work load has increased through the years, facilities and budget cuts have affected me as a single parent trying to stay off welfare, I have been very patient and worked without a contract, have accepted minimal pay raises but have still taught with all my heart and soul. I have given up endless weekends, vacations, and personal time yet the state does not see fit to take care of me. We don't make the kind of money you need to pay full Medicare coverage until we are 65 years. We fought very hard for the VEBA trust and for the few things we have that don't even meet our needs. We're asked to work extra days with no monetary compensation aside from what we already do. Many of us still have children in college. We have literally given our blood sweat and tears for the children of Hawai'i and it is unfair that the state will not honor our years of service with the current agreement. It is unfair that teachers who have gone before us and were not under the gun as we are have medical from the time of retirement. The state has a shortage of teachers and a hard time keeping good teachers and this new law would cause another exodus of teachers from the work place. What is the state trying to do to us? I strongly urge the powers that be to reconsider and not support HB 1719. I would not hesitate to retire or even resign from my job should this occur. I have given all I have and the state needs to take care of us. Are our keiki of that little importance to the powers that be? We have one of the most stressful jobs around and yet they are wanting to lessen

our healthcare. Please consider very carefully what you are planning to do. Consider the repercussions Should we all retire or quit . Can the state pay unemployment and could they fill all the vacancies?

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts,

Sincerely,

Reni Bello  
teacher-Waialua HIS

**yamashita1- Kathy**

---

**From:** Maria Plott [mariaplott@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:57 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1719

**LATE**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to HB1719 because retirement health care benefits are especially important as you get older. Based on the pension the State will pay retirees, the health care benefits could help offset expenses.

Maria Plott  
Senior Probation Officer  
First Circuit  
Adult Client Services Branch

---

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**From:** rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:13 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: HB1719

**LATE**

---

**From:** Karen Hirose [mailto:karenhirose@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:29 PM  
**To:** Rep. Glenn Wakai  
**Cc:** Rep. Karl Rhoads  
**Subject:** HB1719

My name is Karen Hirose. I am one of Representative Wakai's constituents and live in Moanalua valley.

I have been a state social worker since 1977. As hopefully you are both already aware, HB1719 was introduced by Calvin Say and proposes that state/county workers who retire after 7/1/09 will pay for the state/county contributions to the EUTF medical plan until they reach Medicare retirement age. I have the years needed to retire but decided to postpone this due to the financial downturn and the effects on my investments. If this bill passes, I will have the option of: retiring on 6/30/09; waiting to retire until age 62 and use part of my Social Security income to pay those state contributions to my medical plan; or waiting until age 65 to retire. Will this "incentive" actually cause enough workers to retire on 6/30/09 that a significant financial benefit to the state budget is achieved? For me, the answer is "no". So, what happens when you have workers like me (at the top level of the pay scale) decide not to retire and remain an additional 2-10 years?? Please consider the unintended consequences of Mr. Say's bill.

I have already submitted on-line testimony for the hearing on HB1719 which is scheduled for this Friday. I believe you have already heard from many of my state colleagues about this bill and urge you to carefully consider whether HB1719 should proceed any further.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Tina\_Lopez/MAIL/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:00 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719

**LATE**

**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 Tina M. Lopez and I am a teacher at Maili 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.**

**If this bill should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009. My coworker was planning to retire next year. If she decides to retire now, it will not only affect her, but the teachers and students that will have to do without her. It is difficult to hire a new teacher. Thus, it makes it challenging for the rest of us.**

**HSTA prepared us that there is no money for steps for our next contract. In fact, now we are hearing in the media that we may be taking a decrease in pay. We can not afford to loose medical benefits for ten years. Teachers make a choice to work for the state instead of majoring in another field that will pay more. Please support us as we support the children of Hawaii.**

**As the legislator said in the newspaper recently, legislators deserve their raises. Yes, you do. We deserve the benefits that were promised us too. Please support teachers and all state employees.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify.**

**Mahalo,**

**Tina M. Lopez**

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Sandy Domion [sandydomion@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:53 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is Sandy Domion and I am a teacher at Waiialua High and 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.

This is a huge blow to state and county workers who in good faith believe that their government has their best interest at heart. This bill is unfair and is a slap in the face to all city and state workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**yamashita1- Kathy**

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**From:** Steven\_Zeiher/WAIAKEAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:47 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony

**LATE**

**O:** [EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov](mailto:EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov)  
**FROM:** Steven Zeiher  
**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 Steven Zeiher 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Steven Zeiher

LATE

TO: EDNtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov  
FROM: Jacqueline Yamaguchi  
BCC:  
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 Jacqueline Yamaguchi and I am a SASA at Aliamanu 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.

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

**From:** Debbie\_Anderson/HONOKAHI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 9:13 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

**LATE**

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

My name is Debbie Anderson and I am a teacher at Honoka'a High and Intermediate 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, if the employee retires before the employee's medicare retirement age, regardless of date of hire and years of service.

For employees who have vested a lifetime in public service, to have the rug pulled out from under them seems blatantly unfair.

We have employees with 30 years of service who want to continue being effective instructors. One teacher takes students annually on round-the-island tours and to O'ahu, where his students' accomplishments are touted on the morning newsshows.

If this bill should pass, it would encourage some of our best employees to retire on June 30, 2009. What a great loss to our community and detriment to our students' future!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** Robert\_Lamont/WAIAKEAI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:46 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** HB1719

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

My name is Robert John Lamont Jr., BA, M.Ed.. I am a Special Education= teacher at Waiakea Intermediate School in Hilo. I usually don't get too= involved in politics but for this issue I am going to make an exception= . I strongly oppose HB 1719 which would suspend state and county contribut= ions 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 resu= mes coverage after Medicare retirement age.

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

Hawai'i is already facing a shortage of qualified educators. If you no= w take away medical coverage, along with the low pay scale, you will neve= r be able to replace those who will retire if this House Bill passes. Just t= hink how much it will cost to recruit new teachers from the mainland: reloca= ting bonuses, initial set-up costs, training sessions for new teachers, the = cost for substitute teachers, the list goes on. So please use some common sense, vote NO on HB 1719; it will cost us more in the long run if it passes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.=

**From:** guemura808@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:47 AM  
**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 Gareth Uemura and I am a teacher at Hilo High School and I 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 or leave the state for employment elsewhere.

After matriculating at UH Manoa for my undergraduate I was offered many promising positions working for such institutions as the University of California - Davis and Cornell University in New York doing genetic research. Despite the higher pay and prestige, I decided to stay in Hawaii and go into teaching because of the wealth of knowledge that I am able to offer students as well as because of the state benefit plan (health and retirement). Should this legislation pass, I will be leaving the state to pursue higher paying jobs at a more prestigious institution on the mainland.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Garet Uemura  
State Employee - Department of Education

LATE

ATT00001.txt

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.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

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.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

Daniel A. Neyer  
229 Plum St  
Wahiawa, HI 96786

**LATE**

This is my testimony in opposition to H.B. 1719.

I oppose this bill and all related bills for the following reasons:.

From the first day of employment I have received lower salary because medical for retirement was included in the benefit package, and in all following negotiation for salary increase.. The results of H.B. 1719 is if I would retire July 1, 2009 with an average salary of \$48,000 and 15 years, 10 months of credited service and elect 100% survivor option my before tax payment would be \$633.00 out of which I would have to pay \$871.45 for medical therefore to retire I would have to pay a minimum of \$238.45 per month.

With this change the employees who are eligible to retire with 30 years service and age 55 will have to stay until Medicare age and I estimate 10% of the white collar workers and 30% of the blue collar workers will be leaving employment on medical or industrial. The body's ability to repair itself both physically and mentally is different at 65 than at 55

This collection of bills conveys to everyone the state is systematically eliminating the retirement system and will cause less people to concenter a career with the state ~~term~~ to concenter the state as a place to receive training and experience. *and*

Reduce expenditures by changing the state to a four day 10 hour week, for all non shift workers and 24/7 operations. Add 2 hours to the school day and close the schools on Mondays, this would eliminate the need for A-plus. Change the Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes to Wednesday, Friday classes and close all class at U.H on Mondays. Eliminate E-10 gasoline – every person I have communicated with who tracked their miles per gallon had at least a 10 % reduction in mpg when E-10 was introduced. Issue bus passes instead of no-fault insurance to welfare recipients –if they cannot support themselves why burden them with supporting a vehicle?

Increase revenue by offering the ERS an equivalent of a CD, and offering ING the same for the state county deferred comp plan.

It appears to me as if the Governor and the press have almost everyone in a total panic mood and no one is stopping to analyze or think. The FY 11 budget will be base upon the FY10 budget not the projected FY08 projection for FY10. If \$500 million is cut in FY10 it will result in a \$1.5 billion reduction in expenditure by end of FY12.

Daniel A. Neyer

LATE

3-12-09

Dear Rep Yamashita

I live on Kauai + have worked at Kawai Veterans Memorial hospital for 19 years. I don't believe it to be fair that the legislature is trying to balance the budget by reducing our retirement + health benefits. I have made my career working in public service knowing that my pay is not as good as in the private sector, but I could rely on retirement + health benefits for myself + my family. I think it is wrong for our legislature to take these benefits away from us. I implore you to vote "no" on HB 1715, HB 1719 and HB 1737

Sincerely

Phillip Tanner CRNA  
Anesthetist I

**LATE**

Feb. 12, 2009

Dear Rep. Kyle Yamashita

My name is Elizabeth Tanner & I live on Kauai these past 20 yrs. I am in the health care sector at Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital & I plan to retire in the near future. My salary was not as good as in the private sector but I could rely on the health & retirement benefits provided by the state.

I feel it very wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me for which I diligently earned & have been a dedicated employee.

I implore you to look at other ways to balance the budget, i.e.: raising the excise tax which would be a fairer way to address the states revenue problem. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden during these tough times.

Thank you  
Sincerely

Elizabeth Tanner

Please Vote "No" on HB #1715; HB 1719; HB 1737