

LATE

Testimony of:

**Blair Wulfert
Deputy Sheriff
Department of Public Safety**

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2009

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

419 South Beretania St.

HB1723

HB 1715

HB 1726

HB1727

Good morning Chairman Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on the bills in front of you. My name is Blair Wulfert and I have worked for the state of Hawai'i for 14 years. I am a sworn Deputy Sheriff for the State of Hawaii. A Deputy Sheriff is a State Police Officer who put himself/herself in harms way to arrest felons, enforce criminal statutes and protect the public. I **strongly oppose** HB 1723, 1715, 1726 and 1727. All of these bills make it seem as though the Hawaii State Legislature is willing to undercut the hardworking public employees and future employees of Hawai'i. It is unacceptable and I hope that this committee understands just how unjust these bills truly are.

The Hawaii State Legislature is attempting to balance the State budget on the backs of the State employees by reducing the health benefits and passing on the cost to the employees. This equates to "pay cut," for States Employees and this does not even include the possible take-a way's that is expected from the Executive Branch, through collective bargaining, and the probable rate increase proposed by HMSA. This is not sharing the pain, this is suffering the serious wounds that will be imposed on not just state employees, but our families who depend on us.

Today I would like to specifically comment on HB 1715. This bill increases the minimum age and length of service for an unreduced service retirement allowance for new employees. As civil servants, we do not do this job because of the pay. We do this job because we care about our community. We care enough to even care about the next generation of public workers. It is hard enough to find good qualified people to work for the state. If we make it so that we offer less than industry standard pay as well a weak package of benefits and retirement plan, we will be scraping the bottom of the barrel of applicants. We cannot make it so that state work is the last choice for incoming recruits. We have also seen in the past that the same employees, in the same bargaining unit, doing the same job that has two different sets benefits is in violation of labor standards. These benefits were later re-instated.

There are several alternatives to reducing the cost of government, balancing the budget, and being fiscally responsible, without reducing services and the responsibility of the State Government. I implore the legislative branch to further explore, educate, and ponder to make government more efficient and reduce needless waste.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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

LATE

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
House of Representatives
Committees on Labor and Public Employment
February 17, 2009

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 1723 Relating to Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

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. 1723.

This is another attack on the collective bargaining process. It proposes to further erode at the scope of bargaining by eliminating the negotiability of the employer contributions for health benefits and establish the employer contribution at fifty-five percent of the premium cost.

The current statute recognizes the negotiation process and allows for the employer and unions to engage in meaningful negotiations. Furthermore, the existing law does not preclude the parties from agreeing to a percentage less than the current level.

This legislation, along with similar bills, devalues the work and commitment of all public servants. HFFA strong opposes H.B. No. 1723.

LATE

February 17, 2009

HOUSE LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE

Karl Rhoads, Chair

Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

My name is Shirlene Miyashiro. I work for the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Bureau of Conveyances and am a member of HGEA.

I am a dedicated, faithful and hard working public servant since April 1, 1969 to the present. Come this April 1st, I will have 40 years of service with 2,138 hours Sick Leave and 585 hours of Vacation Leave.

It has been 18 years since I became a widower. I have 2 grown adult children and 1 grandson. Like everyone, I too have some financial and health issues. I have not collected Widow's Benefit from Social Security. I have been working very hard to make ends meet on my own.

In 1994, I had open heart surgery to repair my metal valve.

In 1998, I had bunion and dislocated 2nd toe surgery on my right foot. Practically every toe was worked on except one.

In 2008, I had breast cancer surgery, 4 treatments of Chemo Therapy and 33 treatment of Radiation. Currently, I am experiencing pain in my right shoulder and upper arm.

Last January 31st I celebrated my 61st Birthday. I as planning on retiring at age 62 but with a number of bills introduced this Legislative session against public employees benefits to balance the budget which I strongly feel is very wrong which is causing me to panic and to initiate retirement procedures.

I am here to voice my opposition and I am asking you for your support in opposing the following House Bills: HB 1106, 1108, 1715, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722 1723, 1725, 1726 and 1727.

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 time and consideration.

Shirlene Miyashiro
SHIRLENE MIYASHIRO
91-1015 Kumulipo Street
Kapolei, HI 97807

cc: Senator Mike Gabbard, Room 201
Representative Sharon Har, Room 438

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:28 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Christopher Martin

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:21 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stacey and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Stacey Dobashi

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:03 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joseph and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Joseph Yuen

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:59 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen and I am a teacher at Pu'ohala Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Karen Thompson

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:57 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kim and I am a teacher at Leilehua High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kim Blanchard

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: KKaahaaina@dhs.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:48 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1106, HB1718, HB 1719, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, HB 1727

Hi,

I am a social worker for the DHS. I'm also a voter, a taxpayer, a home owner, and a single mom. My child goes to a public school. I spend money everyday at local businesses to buy food, clothing, gas and other goods and services, such as medical services, that help keep Hawaii's economy going. And I don't believe it's fair for the legislature to be looking at public employees as a way to help balance the budget.

I have worked for the State for almost 19 years. My job has been essential to the health and welfare of many people who, through this department's services, have become more stable and capable adults and children. However, my job has become increasingly challenging, especially over the last few years, and now that necessary job positions are frozen yet demand for services continues to steadily rise it means that my workload also continues to rise.

I became a State social worker knowing that my pay would not be as high compared to working for a private agency. However, I wanted to work with one of the neediest populations in the state. I've always felt that the health, retirement, and life insurance benefits helped "make up" to me and my family for the "shortfall" in pay. But now the threat of losing what I believe are the well-earned benefits of this job looms large. I believe that I and many State workers like me have devoted our time, some of which we will never be compensated for, and effort in trying to do a good job and to help others and we do not deserve this.

On behalf of myself and my family I ask that the legislature look for other ways to balance the budget. Raising the excise tax may be a way for everyone to contribute and share the responsibility during these financially difficult times. The burden should not be on the public sector, especially since we make up only a limited amount of the workforce. I appreciate your efforts and hope that you will find solutions that are fair to all concerned.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kenwyn Kaahaaina

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yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:37 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is John and I am a teacher at Niu Valley Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
John Anderson

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:31 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carl and I am a teacher at Honaunau. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carl Ramsey

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:30 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is gaylynne and I am a teacher at Kaleiopuu. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
gaylynne higa

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:28 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carla and I am a teacher at Aina Haina. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carla Chang

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:27 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Konnie and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Konnie Smith

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:23 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is lenroe and I am a teacher at kaumana elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
lenroe vincent

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:11 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amber and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Amber Torres

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Marti Buckner [Marti.Buckner@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:10 AM
To: LABtestimony

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1723 - Relating to Reducing Employer Contribution to Health Benefits
House Bill 1725 - Relating to Halting the Drug Coverage Under EUTF
House Bill 1726 Relating to Curtailing EUTF Payment for Life Insurance Benefits
House Bill 1727 Relating to Prohibiting Provision of Dental/Vision Coverage

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, you will also certainly lose the trust and future votes of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. Therefore, I do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marti Buckner
Water Resources Planner
County of Maui

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Joanne_Amaki/WAIKIKIE/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:59 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726, 1727

I am opposed to the passage of HB 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726 and 1727. Please do not pass these bills. We need the benefits these bills provide. There are a number of workers who are close to retirement and will be negatively impacted if these bills pass. In addition, it will make workers rethink working for the state government in the future. Our pensions do not include enough money to pay for these take aways. I fear that we will have to apply for government assistance or welfare when we retire. I will not be able to attend today's hearings regarding these bills but I hope that you will consider other options to balance our state budget. Thank you for your assistance.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:59 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: 4kisha@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HB1723 on 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/17/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1723

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan S Yamashita
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: 4kisha@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/17/2009

Comments:

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:44 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Julie and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Julie Onigama

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:41 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Daniel and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Daniel Garcia

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:33 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joan Marie and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Joan Marie Yanazaki

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
House Bill 1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable
House Bill 1715 Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire
House Bill 1726 Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits
House Bill 1727 Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable. You will certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kagoshima
County of Maui

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:27 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheilynn and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Sheilynn Murata

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:26 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debra and I am a teacher at Keonepoko Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Debra Shirai

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:22 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Barbara and I am a teacher at James Campbell High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Barbara Aly

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:13 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jill and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jill Funasaki

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:11 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynette and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lynette Low

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Kerry Holokai [kholokai@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:02 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony 02-17-2009

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Kerry Holokai and a member of HGEA, Bargaining Unit 03. I live in Ha'iku, Maui.

As a public employee for 16 years, I am truly disturbed by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically:

HB1725 – Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF;
HB1723 – Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;
HB1715 – Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;
HB1726 – Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;
HB1727 – Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

Many government employees make the decision to work at lower pay in order to obtain medical, dental, and vision benefits. This is the only way so many of us are able to afford the outrageous medical costs. By choosing to accept lower wages, we then struggle to live paycheck to paycheck.

In all fairness, if you decrease benefits, you should then rightfully increase the salaries of all public employees accordingly. With the current cost of living, ever-rising health costs, inflation, insurance, taxes, etc., we will most likely still struggle, but that's the way life is in Hawai'i for many of us.

It seems that public employees are usually the target and often the ones to blame for our State's problems. Public employees are not the problem.

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

Mahalo

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:57 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Billie and I am a teacher at Leilehua. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Billie Lairsey

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:55 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sharon and I am a teacher at Maui District Office. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Sharon Seiki

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:50 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gayleen and I am a teacher at Momilani Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Gayleen Fujimura

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:39 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Holly and I am a teacher at Kaimuki HS. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Holly Soria

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:37 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynette and I am a teacher at OCISS. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lynette Wong

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:36 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Louise and I am a teacher at Kapunahala Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Louise Yoshimura

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:36 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jack and I am a teacher at Keonepoko Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jack Little

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Troy Ludwick [tludwick@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:34 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Opposition to: HB1106, HB 1723, HB 1725, HB 1726, HB 1727

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Troy Ludwick. As a public employee for eight years, I am deeply troubled by some of the bills introduced this session to address the budget shortfalls associated with the current economic downturn. I am writing to provide testimony against HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725.

I provided written testimony again HB 1106 on 2/13/09. Here is the content of that testimony:

HB 1106 is purportedly intended to 'protect the rights of public employees' in the event of a furlough. However my reading of HB 1106 leads me to conclude that it is instead designed to facilitate furloughs. This wolf in sheep's clothing approach is disingenuous and unbecoming. I would argue that any savings achieved by such furloughs would be more than offset by the detriments brought upon state employees as well as loss of productivity to the state. I ask that you please vote against this misguided attempt to grant authority to the Governor to cause further harm to state workers in these very difficult economic conditions.

Action on HB 1106 was deferred, and it is my understanding that it may be voted on today. I ask again that you vote against HB 1106.

I also provided testimony again HB 1725 on 2/13/09, consisting of the following:

HB 1725 seeks to increase state employees' cost of prescription drug coverage through June 30, 2015. However one would have take an extremely pessimistic view to believe that the current economic downturn will not have reversed course by 2015. Of course no one welcomes increases in health care costs. However if such an increase were to be enacted, it should at most be done temporarily -- on a yearly basis -- and rescinded once the economy improves. I ask also that you please vote against this measure.

HB 1727 similarly increases state employees' costs for dental and vision coverage through June 30, 2015. I again contend that a fairer approach, if such a measure were to be implemented, would be to have the measure enacted on a year to year basis and rescinded when the economy improves. To enact HB 1725 and HB 1727 as they currently exist would be akin to making public employees bear the burden of addressing current economic conditions over a period of time that will likely far exceed the current troubles with the economy. Please vote against HB 1725 and HB 1727, or failing that, please amend these measures so that they are in effect only until the economy improves.

HB 1723 and HB 1726 go even further by attempting to permanently reduce benefits by increasing health care and life insurance premiums for state workers. I believe that employer contributions to health care premiums should continue to be negotiable and that any curtailment of life insurance benefits should be temporary. If such measures are designed to deal with the current economy, then they ought not to be enacted permanently. Please vote against HB 1723 and HB 1726.

Lastly, taken collectively this slate of bills would represent a dramatic reduction of benefits and increase of costs for state workers, all of whom are citizens already struggling to make ends meet in these trying times. I believe they would serve as a catalyst to drain the state of its best talent, many of whom would surely be drawn to more attractive benefit plans in the private sector. These reductions would also force further cutbacks in

spending by state workers, and this would serve to further depress economic conditions and harm local businesses. Please do not hold state workers disproportionately accountable for the current economic conditions by unduly penalizing them in tough times. Please vote 'no' on all of these measures.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:26 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcia and I am a teacher at Central District. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Marcia Watanabe

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:23 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark and I am a teacher at State Office. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Mark Kilby

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:15 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mari and I am a teacher at Kaumana Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Mari Halsted

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: J R [jrgons@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:09 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 1715, 1723, 1725, 1726, 1727

I'm very disappointed to see that these bills have been introduced and are currently being considered. I, as well as many others in the Honolulu Police Department, have dedicated my life to serve the community. Aside from wanting to serve the communities that we grew up in, I joined the department because of the security of the benefits offered. Benefits both while working as well as benefits when retired. Through out my 12 years of service, 13 in June, I had been come at with a knife, spit on numerous times, assaulted, harassed, had my family threatened, and suffered serious bodily injury. These are just a few incidents that are just off of the top of my head. There are many other officers out there that have experienced this and more. I had co-workers that have been shot, been run over by a car (intentionally), and die. All as a result of their dedication to the job. It is disheartening to hear that with all of the sacrifices that we do for our community, that we love dearly, we may be left to fend for ourselves in the time of our lives when we need our benefits the most. Our benefits should be like a sign of gratitude for our years of dedicated service and sacrifice. We and our spouses will be dramatically affected from this. This was part of the deal that we entered into when applying for this job. Everything that we stand to lose has been earned, by every officer, through their blood, sweat, and tears.

I ask that you take into consideration the things that I have said. Please don't take away benefits from police officers. Keeping our benefits in tact would be the best way to say thank you, and to show them gratitude, for their years of dedicated service. Our society depends on us for help and security, please don't turn your back on us when we need it.

Thank you for the oportunity to voice my opinion.

Joel Gonsalves
(Registered Voter)

Windows Live™: Keep your life in sync. [Check it out.](#)

Windows Live™: Keep your life in sync. [Check it out.](#)

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:05 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is James and I am a teacher at Roosevelt High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
James Chiya

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:05 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dawn and I am a teacher at District Office. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Dawn Todd

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Karen Kagawa [kagawak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:57 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727 / Hearing Date: February 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Re: HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727
Hearing Date: February 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Karen Kagawa, and I have been a State employee since 1985. I currently work for the Department of Defense, Hawaii Army National Guard.

I am asking you to please vote "no" on the following bills: HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727. I've been with the State through the years with no raises and payroll lags, in hopes of one day receiving decent retirement and health benefits. I am devastated and frightened by the thought that these benefits I have been working for all these years could be taken away. Please don't diminish my entire career with the State. I do not want to become a burden to the State in my later years if I cannot rely on retirement and health benefits to live an independent life.

As a taxpayer, and someone who is already struggling to make ends meet, I ask you to vote "no" on HB 1723, HB 1715, HB 1726, and HB 1727. There are fairer ways to share the burden of addressing this revenue problem we are facing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Karen Kagawa

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:02 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rose and I am a teacher at Mauka Lani. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Rose Shin

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Evette_Tampos/PAHOA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:56 AM
To: LABtestimony; Rep. Karl Rhoads
Subject: HB 1725 & HB 1723

Importance: High

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

Conference Room 309

08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee

My name is Evette Tampos and I am a counselor at Pahoa Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/1/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost of prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefits plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Sincerely,
Evette Tampos
Pahoa Elementary School 965-2141 x228

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

Conference Room 309

08:30 a.m.

My name is Evette Tampos and I am a counselor at Pahoa Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plans.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefits plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work it out.

I strongly urge against the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Evette Tampos
Pahoa Elementary School 965-2141 x228

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:56 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jaclyn and I am a teacher at August Ahrens Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jaclyn Cacal

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:55 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcia and I am a teacher at Ewa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Marcia Keaulana

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:52 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debra-Ann and I am a teacher at Wailuku Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Debra-Ann Kiyabu

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:42 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michele and I am a teacher at Hilo High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Michele Uehara

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:41 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gaye and I am a teacher at Kaiser High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Gaye Hayashi

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:34 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keith and I am a teacher at Aiea Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Keith Mylett

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:32 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jean and I am a teacher at Princess Nahienaena. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jean Lukasik

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:17 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michele and I am a teacher at Kahalu'u Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Michele Mainaupo

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:15 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carrie and I am a teacher at Kaleiopuu Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carrie Wong

LATE

February 17, 2009

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

I'm writing to you to voice my opposition of the following bills:

House Bill No. 1723- Related to Public Employees
House Bill No. 1715- Related to Retirement
House Bill No. 1726- Related to the Health Fund
House Bill No. 1727- Related to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits
Trust Fund

By eliminating benefits from public employees, it will create a mass retirement of employees wishing to maintain retirement health benefits. I worked in the retail industry for over twenty years and in the 1980's-90's the retail industry took a hit from competition which caused the local businesses to cut back on benefits and salaries. For those reasons, I chose to change my career to work for the county since they had the best retirement and benefits. With the introduction of these bills, there is no incentive for employees to remain with the State or County governments with the elimination of these benefits.

By creating such a situation, public safety would be a major concern due to the anticipation of a mass exodus of public employees seeking to retire early in order to retain all of the benefits that were promised when they were hired. As jobs would not be immediately filled or certain jobs would have to be eliminated, there will be an urgent need for remaining employees to fill these vacancies through overtime work or emergency callback of experienced employees to maintain public service.
This would be a lose-lose situation with all the monies being paid out.

For this reason, I am voicing my opposition to the proposed house bills. The overall effect would create problems larger than can be fathomed as it would cause a major disruption to State and County service on all islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dennis G. LEE
Maui Police Department

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:46 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leonore and I am a teacher at E.B.DeSilva. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Leonore Sato

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:39 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Matthew and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Matthew Dillon

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:39 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wanda and I am a teacher at Retired. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Wanda Soares

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:33 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Priscilla and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Priscilla Chun

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:36 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carrie and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carrie Bashaw

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:36 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shari and I am a teacher at Nanaikapono. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Shari Ishii

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:30 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Steven and I am a teacher at Olomana. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Steven Pepe

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:28 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cynthia and I am a teacher at OCISS/ISB. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Choy

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:49 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynn and I am a teacher at Momilani. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lynn Sakamoto-Duensing

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: Lynne H Ogata [logata@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:54 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: unfair, outrageous, mean

I totally oppose to HB1725, HB1723, HB1715, HB1726, HB1727! I have worked for ridiculously low pay for several years just because I felt that the retirement benefits was worth the sacrifice. And now at age 57 you are taking this away?? What about you legislators? Didn't you just give yourselves a pay increase last year? Where is that money coming from?? If you vote for these bills, I can guarantee that this will be your last term. There are many civil servants who have long memories, if you want to remain in office listen to your constituents.

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:51 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

LATE

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marty and I am a teacher at Kaleiopuu Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Marty Sepkowski

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:36 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

LATE

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cedric and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cedric Ranchez

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:34 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

LATE

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Yvette and I am a teacher at McKinley High School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Yvette Lam

From: Carol_Docherty/PAHOA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:47 PM
To: LABtestimony; Rep. Karl Rhoads
Subject: HB 1725 & HB 1723

LATE

Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

Conference Room 309

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee

My name is Carol Docherty and I am a counselor at Pahoa Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/1/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost of prescription drug coverage to employees.

If this bill should pass it restricts the authority of the EUTF which Chapter 87A gives the EUTF the authority to determine the health benefits plans at a cost that is affordable to both the public employees and the public employers. The EUTF trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to determine what benefits they can offer to the public employees once they know the cost what the public employer will contribute via collective bargaining. The EUTF will have the flexibility to offer less benefits if the cost is higher than the employers/employees contributions or have the employee pay more if they want the same benefits. Again, leave it up to the EUTF trustees to make the determination as to what can be offered to the public employees at a cost that is determined by collective bargaining.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Carol Docherty

Pahoa Elementary School 965-2141 x227

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

Conference Room 309

My name is Carol Docherty and I am a counselor at Pahoa Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plans.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefits plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work it out.

I strongly urge against the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carol Docherty
Pahoa Elementary School 965-2141 x227

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: Ashley Nishihara [akn002@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:49 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: From A Concerned State Worker

LATE

Dear Whomever It May Concern,
I'd like to oppose the passing of the following bills:

HB 1106: Furloughing employees.
HB 1718: Halts reimbursement for Medicare B for employee retiring after 12/31/09.
HB 1719: Stops employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09.
HB 1723: Limits employers contributions to 55% and makes it non-negotiable.
HB 1725: Halts drug coverage under EUTF.
HB 1726: Curtails EUTF payment for life insurance benefits.
HB 1727: Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

My name is Lynda Nishihara. Here is my address:

1231 Ala Aupaka Place
Honolulu, HI 96818

I look forward to receiving your response.

LATE

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: Peter Vanderpoel [Peter.Vanderpoel@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:36 PM
To: LABtestimony; Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino; Rep. Karen Awana; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Marilyn Lee; Rep. Mark Nakashima; Rep. Kymberly Pine; Rep. Karl Rhoads; Rep. Scott Saiki; Rep. Joseph Souki; Rep. Roy Takumi; Rep. Kyle Yamashita
Subject: House Bill 1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF; House Bill 1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non- negotiable; House Bill 1715 Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire; House Bill 1726 Cu...
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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 1725 Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
 House Bill 1723 Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non- negotiable House Bill 1715 Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire House Bill 1726 Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits House Bill 1727 Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the promise that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable. You will certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it s done in Hawai i I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Peter K. Vanderpoel

Peter K. Vanderpoel
 Fire Fighter II
 Rescue 10/ B watch

(808)270-7911 (wk)
(808)870-4938 (cell)

County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments
larger than 12 MB, and will block or quarantine
high-risk file types in attachments.

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:37 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

LATE

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen and I am a teacher at Keonepoko Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Fenn

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:38 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Babette and I am a teacher at Honolulu. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Babette Arakaki

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:39 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1723 - Relating to Public Employees

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony Message

Subject: HB 1723-Relating to Public Employees

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009
Conference Room 309
08:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Margaret and I am a teacher at Waikoloa. I strongly oppose HB 1723 which makes the employer contributions non-negotiable under collective bargaining, and increases the active public employees to 45% of the monthly cost of the health benefits plan instead of the current cost sharing where the employer pays 60% and the employees pays 40% of the health benefits plan.

If this bill should pass, it would take away the only negotiable item under collective bargaining we have when it comes to our health benefits. Even in these tough economic times, it would be unfair for legislators to try to balance the state budget on the backs of public employees, especially when other alternatives have not been fully explored.

It is much better to leave the cost of our health benefit plans to collective bargaining where it will allow the Employer and the Union to work out.

I strongly urge against passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Margaret Spencer

We the undersigned, oppose the following bills:

February 12, 2009

- 1) HB1106 - Furloughing employees
- 2) HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09
- 3) HB1719 - Stop employer contributions for those retiring after 7/1/09
- 4) HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
- 5) HB1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable
- 6) HB1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits
- 7) HB1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage
- 8) HB1737 - Excludes certain forms of pay in computing compensation for retirement purposes

LATE

For the following reasons:

- 1) The majority of us came to work for the State of Hawaii for its benefits, not the pay.
- 2) It's unfair to cut our benefits by passing a law. It should be negotiated by our Union and agreed upon with our members.
- 3) If we are to be furloughed, it should include everyone that works for the State of Hawaii. This includes the governor down to the legislators.
- 4) Some of our members may not be able to meet their monthly obligations' (mortgage payments, bill, etc) if they are furloughed.
- 5) Basically, we were led to believe that we would receive the above benefits when we applied to work for the State of Hawaii. The health-care contributions was already changed in 1996 and now our legislators want to change it again.
- 6) We want to know what benefits our legislators and governor are giving up. It's very unfair that our legislators can retire after 10 years of service with full benefits. Is this going to change?

Please print your name and sign.

Name	Signature
Gwen Kostino	Gwen Kostino
Julia English	Julia English
Vera Yamasaki	Vera Yamasaki
Chanitel Suiat	Chanitel Suiat
Koren Wakatsuki	Koren Wakatsuki
Ray-Lynn Kawaraha	Ray-Lynn Kawaraha
Kristie Kwon	Kristie Kwon
Jodi Polendey	Jodi Polendey
Maile Horikawa	Maile Horikawa
Kim Fleming	Kim Fleming
Shori-Lynn Tateyama	Shori-Lynn Tateyama
Zee Higa	Zee Higa
Lana Kim	Lana Kim
Nancy Arakaki	Nancy Arakaki
Laureen Castro	Laureen Castro
Susan Hirokane	Susan Hirokane
Grace Takai	Grace Takai
Kenneth Ito	Kenneth Ito
Francis Kaneshiro	Francis Kaneshiro
Sandi Yamagata	Sandi Yamagata
Ten Sakayashi	Ten Sakayashi
Melanie Mousel	Melanie Mousel
Renee R Yamada	Renee R Yamada
Wade Okumura	Wade Okumura
Kristina Lum	Kristina M. Lum
Stanley Span	Stanley Span
SARISAN BELLISLE	SARISAN BELLISLE
Joy Green	Joy Green
Glenn Kuritake	Glenn Kuritake

We the undersigned, oppose the following bills:

February 12, 2009

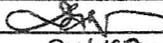
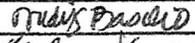
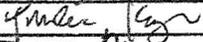
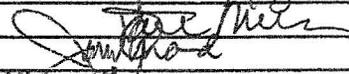
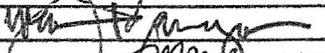
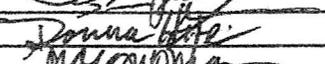
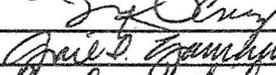
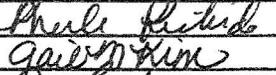
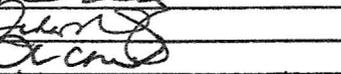
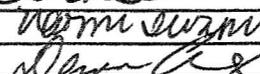
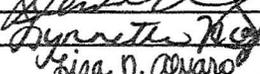
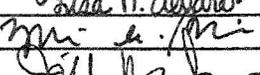
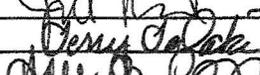
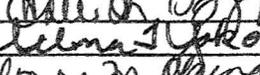
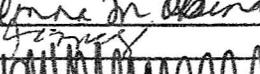
- 1) HB1106 - Furloughing employees
- 2) HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09
- 3) HB1719 - Stop employer contributions for those retiring after 7/1/09
- 4) HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
- 5) HB1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable
- 6) HB1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits
- 7) HB1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage
- 8) HB1737 - Excludes certain forms of pay in computing compensation for retirement purposes

LATE

For the following reasons:

- 1) The majority of us came to work for the State of Hawaii for its benefits, not the pay.
- 2) It's unfair to cut our benefits by passing a law. It should be negotiated by our Union and agreed upon with our members.
- 3) If we are to be furloughed, it should include everyone that works for the State of Hawaii. This includes the governor down to the legislators.
- 4) Some of our members may not be able to meet their monthly obligations' (mortgage payments, bill, etc) if they are furloughed.
- 5) Basically, we were led to believe that we would receive the above benefits when we applied to work for the State of Hawaii. The health-care contributions was already changed in 1996 and now our legislators want to change it again.
- 6) We want to know what benefits our legislators and governor are giving up. It's very unfair that our legislators can retire after 10 years of service with full benefits. Is this going to change?

Please print your name and sign.

Name	Signature
Maxima T. Domingo	
Judy L. Pasilio	
Trisha T. Kava	
JANE MOLDON	
JEAN GAMAD	
NANNY TAMONAN	
LEONOR YOSHIMURA	
EDNA A. LEO	
Donna Hite	
TIFFANY DEGUZMAN	
Norma Milcota	
LOVINA K. CHU	
Gail Yamamoto	
Merle Kishida	
Gail Kim	
GARETT MIGHTA	
Kathryn Opedal	
Jane Cheong	
LISA CHENG	
Naomi Y. Iwamoto	
Denise Arayas	
Lynnette Nagama	
Lisa Alvaro	
Zerlina Pangolinan	
Jill Nami	
Terry Tadaki	
Adde Tangjan	
VELMA T. YOKOGAMA	
Donna OKINAKA J	
Rowena Coronel	
KIM YAMAMOTO	

