



SHOPO
STATE OF HAWAII ORGANIZATION OF POLICE OFFICERS
"A Police Organization for Police Officers Only"

February 11, 2009

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

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

Re: Testimony on House Bill 1725 Relating Hawaii Employee-Union
Health Benefits Trust Fund

My name is Tenari Ma'afala and I am the President of The State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO"). We represent over 2700 police officers in the State of Hawaii. SHOPO opposes House Bill 1725 which from 07/01/2009 to 06/30/2015: (1) prohibits health benefits plan of the employer-union health benefits trust fund from providing prescription drug coverage; and (2) allows board of trustees to make prescription drug benefits available through drug coverage plans that are paid for entirely by employee-beneficiaries.

When the legislature adopted the Hawaii Employer-Union Benefit Trust Fund ("EUTF") in 2001, it eliminated the option of obtaining health coverage through union-sponsored plans. The premise of the EUTF was to provide a single health benefit program for public employees to strengthen the bargaining power which the Health Fund lacked.

Furthermore the amount of contributions which the States and Counties are required to make under Section 87a-32 through 87a-37, HRS, toward the payment of cost for health benefits plan is subject to collective bargaining. This measure is in direct conflict with collective bargaining rights.

Finally, drug coverage is an important component of health benefits. Therefore, placing the total cost of drug benefits on the workers is in direct conflict with the intent of the EUTF and collective bargaining.

SHOPO strongly opposes HB 1725.

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

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:20 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Stacey and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Stacey Dobashi

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:22 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Jonathan and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Lee

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:59 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Karen and I am a teacher at Pu'ohala Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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

Testimony Message

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 Kim and I am a teacher at Leilehua High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kim Blanchard

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Eva Blumenstein [Eva.Blumenstein@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:46 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony to Bills HB 1719 and HB 1725

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

I would like to thank you for considering my testimony. My name is Eva Blumenstein and I have been a public employee for over 10 years. Should the proposed bills HB 1719 and HB 1725 pass, the effect on me, my family and my community would be detrimental. Reducing medical benefits until Medicare retirement age sounds like an innovative way of reducing state spending - until you look at the individual cases, the effects and increased costs to the state and community that would create. A few years ago I had a back surgery due to pain and disc problems. This surgery caused a permanent spinal cord injury and I lost functions and quality of life. Nevertheless, I went back to work as soon as I could and struggle to perform at my previous level. I succeed. However, my medical and drug expenses exceed \$3000/month. You can understand what even a temporary break in drug coverage as proposed in Bill HB 1725 would mean to me. If I can't access the medicine I need to function, I will be unable to work and become a burden to our community and a GREATER EXPENSE to the state. Before considering the cost savings you anticipate from these bills, you need to crunch the numbers of the permanent cost increase of emergency care and welfare for diabetics, heart disease sufferers and disabled public servants who would not be able to access their drugs and stay at their jobs.

You are all aware the we public servants choose our jobs because the service we do to our communities and because the benefits are worth the lower wages that we would find in the private industry. Cutting these benefits after public servants already put in their contribution of years of service is a broken promise and it's extremely unethical.

I'm sure you will find cost saving measures with less severe impacts than these misguided bills. Please vote NO on HB 1719 and 1725.

Sincerely,

Eva Blumenstein

County of Maui.

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

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: 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 10:38 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Jami and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jami Muranaka

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:35 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 John and I am a teacher at Niu Valley Middle School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
John Anderson

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:29 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 gaylynne and I am a teacher at Kaleiopuu Elem. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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

Testimony Message

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 Carl and I am a teacher at Honaunau. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carl Ramsey

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:27 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Konnie and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Konnie Smith

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:24 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Carla and I am a teacher at Aina Haina. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carla Chang

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:22 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 lenore and I am a teacher at kaumana elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
lenore vincent

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: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:10 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Amber and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Amber Torres

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: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 10:07 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Errin and I am a teacher at Nanaikapono Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Errin Sandobal

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:51 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 lorrin and I am a teacher at Kaimuki HS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
lorrin lee

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:45 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Thelina and I am a teacher at Konawaena Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Thelina Alfiler

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:44 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Thelina and I am a teacher at Konawaena Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Thelina Alfiler

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:43 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Julie and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Julie Onigama

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:39 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Daniel and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Daniel Garcia

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:32 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Joan Marie and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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

Testimony Message

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 Sheilynn and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Sheilynn Murata

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:25 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Debra and I am a teacher at Keonepoko Elementary . I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Debra Shirai

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:21 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Barbara and I am a teacher at James Campbell High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Barbara Aly

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Holly Nishimitsu [hollynis@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:15 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725 and 1727

TO: LABtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Holly Nishimitsu

SUBJECT: HB 1725 and 1727 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

My name is Holly Nishimitsu and I am a Speech-Language Pathologist at Kapa'a Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 and 1727 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF prescription drug coverage and dental and vision coverage for all state and county employees-beneficiaries.

If these bills should pass, it would encourage state and county employees to retire before July 1, 2009 since having to shoulder the costs of such coverage would be prohibitive.

Despite having been a public servant for over thirty years, I had intended on continuing to work at my profession, which is already a shortage category. The passage of said bills would result in my retirement before July 1, 2009 as well as numerous other experienced Speech-Language Pathologists, leading to a greater shortage of qualified personnel and severely impacting the services that are delivered to our students with communication impairments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

See how Windows Mobile brings your life together—at home, work, or on the go. [See Now](#)

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:14 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Jill and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jill Funasaki

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:12 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Jill and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jill Funasaki

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:08 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Lynette and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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 8:54 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Sharon and I am a teacher at Maui District Office. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Sharon Seiki

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:51 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Billie and I am a teacher at Leilehua. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Billie Lairsey

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Adrianna_Flavin/MAUIDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:47 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Re: HBs 1106, 1719, 1725

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Adrianna M. Flavin. As a public employee since 2003, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically:

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

I pose this question to the Speaker: What about the disruption to us as residents of this state? A reduction in our salaries is hugely disruptive at a time when we find ourselves more and more the sole breadwinners for our entire families. How can we afford a reduction to our salaries when we are some of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy? We also strongly disagree with Section 4 of HB 1106. The Governor does not have the authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

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

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

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

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is

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

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

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:48 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Gayleen and I am a teacher at Momilani Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Gayleen Fujimura

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:37 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Holly and I am a teacher at Kaimuki HS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Holly Soria

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:35 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Louise and I am a teacher at Kapunahala Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Louise Yoshimura

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:35 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Jack and I am a teacher at Keonepoko Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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 8:29 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony Message

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 Lynette and I am a teacher at OCISS. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lynette Wong

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:27 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Gayleen and I am a teacher at Momilani Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Gayleen Fujimura

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Therese.A.Ngirturong@hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:26 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: hb1725,hb1106

Importance: High

Please don't cut our pay and benefits!

I am a state employee, taxpayer, and registered voter.

With the current economic condition, we hear that we more than likely will not be receiving any raises in the contract negotiations.

With the economy the way it is, if our pay and benefits are cut, we will have to look for other means of supplementing our existing income.

I am a single mother who has been separated for 4 years. I already work 2 jobs to make ends meet and to prepare for my children's futures.

May I ask you?

___ If you allow the current legislation to pass, ordering public employees to a work furlough, which will result in less pay, will we be able to apply for public assistance?

If the state cuts our pay, will we be able to apply for EBT so that we can feed our children and feed ourselves

If they cut our medical benefits, will we be able to apply for medquest so that we can take our children to the doctors?

And, will we be able to go to the doctor when we are sick?

If our pay is cut, what assistance will there be for people who have children in after school care?

What happens when it is no longer affordable because we cannot pay for it because we will be making less income?

If the state cuts our retirement benefits, will we be able to apply for welfare when we can no longer work?

To me it seems that you will only create a worse economic situation because you will be adding public employees to the already existing group of people struggling as they exist below poverty level.

Please do not cut our pay and benefits.

thank you,

Therese Ngirturong

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:23 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Mark and I am a teacher at State Office. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Mark Kilby

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:22 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Marcia and I am a teacher at Central District. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Marcia Watanabe

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Karen Kagawa [kagawak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:19 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725, Hearing Date: February 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Re: HB 1725
Hearing Date: February 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and member 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 single, have a mortgage, and earn a very modest amount. I've been with the State through the years with no raises and payroll lags, in hopes of one day receiving decent 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 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 1725. 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 8:14 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Mari and I am a teacher at Kaumana Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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 8:02 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 James and I am a teacher at Roosevelt High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
James Chiya

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:02 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Dawn and I am a teacher at District Office. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Dawn Todd

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 8:01 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Rose and I am a teacher at Mauka Lani. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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 7:55 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Jaclyn and I am a teacher at August Ahrens Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jaclyn Cacal

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:53 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Marcia and I am a teacher at Ewa Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Marcia Keaulana

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:53 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Phyllis and I am a teacher at Iliahi Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Chee

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:45 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Raul and I am a teacher at Kailua Intermediate School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Raul hayasaka

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:45 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Debra-Ann and I am a teacher at Wailuku Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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 7:40 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Michele and I am a teacher at Hilo High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Michele Uehara

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:40 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Gaye and I am a teacher at Kaiser High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Gaye Hayashi

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:33 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony Message

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 Keith and I am a teacher at Aiea Intermediate. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Keith Mylett

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:31 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony Message

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 Jean and I am a teacher at Princess Nahienaena. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jean Lukasik

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:53 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Leonore and I am a teacher at E.B. DeSilva. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Leonore Sato

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:31 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Priscilla and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Priscilla Chun

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:38 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Matthew and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Matthew Dillon

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:35 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Wanda and I am a teacher at Retired. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Wanda Soares

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:32 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Carrie and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carrie Bashaw

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:14 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Carrie and I am a teacher at Kaleiopuu Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Carrie Wong

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:17 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony Message

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 Michele and I am a teacher at Kahalu'u Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Michele Mainaupo

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:18 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Lydia and I am a teacher at Kilauea. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lydia Osakoda

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:26 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Cynthia and I am a teacher at OCISS/ISB. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Choy

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:31 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Steven and I am a teacher at Olomana. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Steven Pepe

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 12:42 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Lynn and I am a teacher at Momilani. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lynn Sakamoto-Duensing

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 2:50 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

LATE

Testimony Message

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 Marty and I am a teacher at Kaleiopuu Elementary School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Marty Sepkowski

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:35 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

LATE

Testimony Message

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 Cedric and I am a teacher at Kaimuki High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cedric Ranchez

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 2:33 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

LATE

Testimony Message

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 Yvette and I am a teacher at McKinley High School. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

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...

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.

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:36 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Testimony Message

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 Kathleen and I am a teacher at Keonepoko Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Fenn

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:37 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony Message

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 Babette and I am a teacher at Liholiho Elementary. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Babette Arakaki

yamashita1- Kathy

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:26 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony Message

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 Margaret and I am a teacher at Waikoloa. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Margaret Spencer

From: Jennifer Carlstrom [jennifer.carlstrom@doh.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:23 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB1725

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

dear sirs,

please reconsider...we are people , too.! we need to continue with our medications without paying full price....otherwise there may be some very sickly state employees.

sincerely,

jennifer carlstrom

From: do_not_reply@members.hsta.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 3:17 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1725-Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony Message

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 michael and I am a teacher at kaimuki high school. I strongly oppose HB 1725 which eliminates the prescription drug coverage from 7/01/09 to 6/30/15. This bill shifts 100% of the total cost for 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 benefit 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
michael riess

February 11, 2009

LATE

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

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, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also 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. 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

We the undersigned, oppose the following bills:

February 12, 2009

LATE

- 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

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
GINEN KUSTINO	<i>Gina Kustino</i>
Tulra English	<i>Tulra English</i>
Vera Yamasaki	<i>Vera Yamasaki</i>
Chanice Sufat	<i>Chanice Sufat</i>
Koren Wakatsuki	<i>Koren Wakatsuki</i>
Ray-Lynn Kawasaka	<i>Ray-Lynn Kawasaka</i>
Kristie Kwon	<i>Kristie Kwon</i>
Jodi Palendey	<i>Jodi Palendey</i>
Maile Horikawa	<i>Maile Horikawa</i>
Kim Fleming	<i>Kim Fleming</i>
Sheri-Lynn Tateyama	<i>Sheri-Lynn Tateyama</i>
Zee Higa	<i>Zee Higa</i>
Lana Kim	<i>Lana Kim</i>
Nancy Arakaki	<i>Nancy Arakaki</i>
Laureen Castro	<i>Laureen Castro</i>
Susan Hirokane	<i>Susan Hirokane</i>
Grace Takai	<i>Grace Takai</i>
Kenneth Ito	<i>Kenneth Ito</i>
Frances Kaneshiro	<i>Frances Kaneshiro</i>
Sandi Yamagata	<i>Sandi Yamagata</i>
Ten Sakayashi	<i>Ten Sakayashi</i>
Melanie Mousel	<i>Melanie Mousel</i>
Renee R. Yamada	<i>Renee R. Yamada</i>
Wade Okumura	<i>Wade Okumura</i>
Kristina Lum	<i>Kristina M. Lum</i>
Stanley Span	<i>Stanley Span</i>
SARSA BELLISLE	<i>Sarisa Bellisle</i>
Joy Green	<i>Joy Green</i>
Glenn Kuritake	<i>Glenn Kuritake</i>

We the undersigned, oppose the following bills:

February 12, 2009

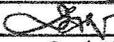
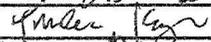
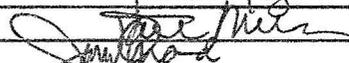
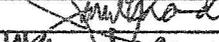
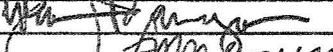
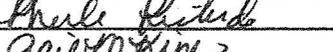
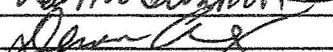
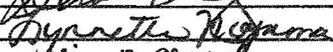
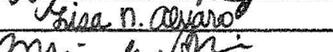
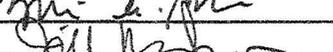
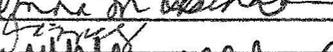
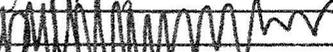
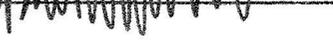
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- 6) HB1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits
- 7) HB1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage
- 8) HB1737 - Excludes certain forms of pay in computing compensation for retirement purposes

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
Maxime T. Domingo	
Judy L. Basilio	
Trisha T. Kaya	
JANE HOLDEN	
JEAN GONZALEZ	
WANNY TAMMOLAN	
Leonid Yamamura	
EDWARD LEE	
Donna Hite	
TIFFANY DEGUZMAN	
Norma Miyata	
LOVINA K. CHU	
Gail Yamamoto	
Merte Kishida	
Gail Kim	
GARETT MIGHTA	
Kathryn Opedal	
Jane Cheong	
LISA CHENG	
Naomi Y. Iwamoto	
KRISTE AOKI	
Lynnette Nakagawa	
Lisa Alvarez	
Zerlina Pangalinan	
JILL NADA	
Terry Tadaki	
Adelle Adick Tangjian	
VELMA T. YOKOGAWA	
Donna OKIMAKA	
Rowena Coronel	
KIM YASUMURA	

We the undersigned, oppose the following bills:

February 12, 2009

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- 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
(Janelle) Kubo	Janelle Kubo
Howard Ching	Howard Ching
Charvela Balcega	Charvela Balcega
Carmen Valerio	Carmen Valerio
Lynette Sunamoto	Lynette Sunamoto
NICOLE SARNE	NICOLE SARNE
Grace Takemoto	Grace Takemoto
Jency Muramoto	Jency Muramoto
Kathy Keawe	Kathy Keawe
MARCA WILSON	MARCA WILSON
LELANI FRANCES	LELANI FRANCES
Alison Coleman	Alison Coleman
Venancia Mun	Venancia Mun
Evelyn Balcega	Evelyn Balcega
Nady Ching	Nady Ching
ANNEHUI MATSUNAGA	ANNEHUI MATSUNAGA
Elizabeth Austria	Elizabeth Austria
Iwoka Tsuchiya	Iwoka Tsuchiya