

Testimony of Public Service Employees as Private Citizens

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B Lee, Vice Chair

LATE

(1271)

SB 1217 SD1 HD1

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

These comments in strong opposition to this proposed measure are offered by several public employees as private citizens who share concern over the impact of this bill.

As members of the community, we feel SB 1271 will have a catastrophic effect on the ability for many of the state entities to accomplish their tasks. It punishes senior leaders who have accepted daunting challenges and have worked tirelessly. Unscheduled and forced use-or-lose leave will result in en masse vacation leave of our most experienced staff just when we need them most. The attrition clause disproportionately punishes organizations that have employee turnover because of the mobility of highly skilled workers, or even internal upward mobility. The remaining few loyal employees will be crushed under the demand of high expectations and a crippled workforce. Imagine a tourism-based state that:

1. Could not detect or respond to disease outbreaks
2. Lost the ability to test for bioterrorism and chemical terrorism threats
3. Could not assure food was free of Salmonella, warn when air contained sulfur dioxide, or certify that water was free of sewage
4. Left the population vulnerable to avian influenza, West Nile virus, and rabies
5. Could not determine when norovirus threatened our vulnerable populations or our valuable tourist industry
6. Lost federal funded, high quality jobs because of these restrictions
7. Lost the very external grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements that the state has become dependant upon to do its day-to-day work

For these reasons and many others, the undersigned strongly oppose this measure, and appreciate the opportunity to bring this opposition to your attention.

Rebecca Sciulli
Rebecca Sciulli

Gail Kunimoto
Gail Kunimoto

Remedios Gbse
Remedios Gbse

Pamela Honda
Pamela Honda

Sheree Lee
Sheree Lee

Cheryl-Lynn Daquip
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Paul M. Fox
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Mark Nagata
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ACUche

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Elsie Christobal
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Gloria Raymundo
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Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Wednesday, April 8, 2009
Conference Room 308
4:00PM

Written Testimony of Various Legislative Office Managers

Opposition to SB1271 SD1 (Proposed HD1) Relating to Public Employees

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to oppose SB1271 SD1 (Proposed HD1) which requires managerial employees in the Executive and Legislative Branches who are exempt from civil service to use, donate or forfeit vacation accrued during their employment with the State. This bill also requires that if a managerial employee is discharged, the employee cannot be reemployed by the same department from which they were discharged.

We believe this bill is unfair, punitive and discriminatory as it singles out a specific category of employees and negatively impacts rights currently guaranteed under Chapter 78, HRS. While Legislative Office Managers are exempt from Chapter 76, HRS, we perform valuable and direct services to the public for the elected officials we work for. Many of us work well beyond regular state office hours, and receive no overtime compensation like our civil service counterparts. Taking away legally accrued vacation time from Office Managers at the end of our tenure of employment is clearly a violation of equitable treatment for public employees.

In addition, we oppose the provision of the bill that bars exempt managerial employees from returning to state employment with the same department. This would have a detrimental effect on the Legislature as an institution since many experienced Office Managers would not be able to be rehired in the event their legislator did not return to office. The loss of this institutional knowledge would hurt the efficiency and productivity of the legislature. This provision would also adversely affect those individuals who would like to remain working in public service at the legislature and leave them no options for continued employment. This would be a great disservice to the public since it would remove those individuals committed to public service.

We understand that all options should be looked at during this difficult budgetary process. However, this measure is not fair or equitable to your most loyal employees who are the front line in dealing with your constituents, making your offices run smoothly, and helping to facilitate the legislative process.

We respectfully OPPOSE this measure in its current form.

Sincerely,

Diane Dunphy

Blayne Higo

Amorina Rabago

Sharon M. Miranda

Esther

Maura C. Andrade

James J. Seery

Ann S. Takahi

Melissa K. Miranda-Jones

Paula Salcedo

Leon R. Brown

Nancy Kishimura

Arline Hagan

Ju W

Rose Kuniyoshi

Foni Davis

Lauren Alder

Bernadette Jo

Cynthia M. APANA

Kynte Marushige

Lori Tomagala

Baron Fisher

Ganis N. Hageki

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Wayn n. yager

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Mich S. young

Sharon Sagayadoro

Jane S. Mikulane

Lori S. Vandyke

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Wahyuni

Amir Kholo

Jan Shu