

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1034

February 25, 2011

MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
COST ITEMS

House Bill No. 1034 provides fund authorizations and appropriations for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 collective bargaining costs associated with the December 23, 2010 agreement negotiated between the State and counties and the exclusive bargaining representative of collective bargaining units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13 and their excluded counterparts to increase employer contributions for Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund premiums beginning March 2011. Appropriations of \$18,095,166 are provided.

We support immediate passage of this Administration measure.

State employees have absorbed the costs of all premium increases since July 2009. This increase in employer contributions coincides with the next Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund premium increase to begin in March 2011. Passage and approval of this bill prior to March 18, 2011 (for pay period March 1st to March 15th) will minimize the necessity of making retroactive adjustments.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 7:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1034 on 2/25/2011 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/25/2011 1:30:00 PM HB1034

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: gregory swartz
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/25/2011

Comments:

I oppose this bill to the extent that the Governor is funding health benefits for active employees, but trying to eliminate them for former workers who are Medicare-eligible seniors or disabled. The latter is unconstitutional, discriminatory and abusive to seniors and the disabled. In other words, if you fund active employee health benefits, you need to be fair and fund health benefits for seniors and the disabled who would be most impacted by any reduction.