



**TESTIMONY OF JAN K. YAMANE, ACTING STATE AUDITOR,
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 126, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC
EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS**

**House Committee on Finance
February 26, 2015**

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

I am Jan Yamane, Acting State Auditor. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 126, making appropriations for public employment cost items. The purpose of this bill is to fund Hawai'i employer-union health benefits trust fund and other cost adjustments authorized by Chapter 89C, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining, including staff in my office. We encourage passage of this bill unamended. I am available for questions should you have any.



Robin K. Matsunaga
Ombudsman

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TESTIMONY OF ROBIN K. MATSUNAGA, OMBUDSMAN,
ON H.B. NO. 126, A BILL FOR AN ACT
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of H.B. No. 126.

The purpose of this bill is to provide the funds necessary to cover cost items and cost adjustments for employees of the legislative agencies. Your favorable consideration of this bill will allow it to continue to be available as a vehicle throughout this legislative session, should the Legislature later determine that such cost items and adjustments are warranted, and would be appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Acting Director

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Testimony

HB126

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Luke and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments in support of H.B. No. 126, Making Appropriations for Public Employment Cost Items.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the public employment cost items of and cost adjustments for employees of the legislative service agencies, the Senate, and the House of Representatives.

As you know, the staff of the Legislature and the legislative service agencies are excluded from collective bargaining. The Bureau strongly supports the measure's continued progress through the legislative process so that a viable legislative vehicle will remain available should the Legislature later determine that such cost items and adjustments are warranted.

Thank you again for your consideration.



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

State of Hawaii • Bishop Square, 1001 Bishop Street, ASB Tower 970 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

BILL NO: H.B. 126, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COST ITEMS

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Members
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Room 306
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Hawaii State Ethics Commission

DATE: Thursday, February 26, 2015

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

ROOM: Conference Room 308

The Hawaii State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) requests the Committee’s support of H.B. 126, which is to appropriate additional funds to the legislative agencies, including the Commission, to fund Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments authorized by chapter 89C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining.

The Commission’s approved budget for FY 2015-2016 does not include any amount to fund the costs associated with Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund costs and other cost adjustments that the Legislature may deem appropriate. It is critical that the Legislature appropriate additional funds for the Commission should the employees of the Executive departments be entitled to adjustments in benefits and pay. Without the additional appropriation, the Commission may be unable to provide its employees with similar adjustments.

Thank you for considering the Commission’s testimony on H.B. 126.



League of Women Voters of Hawaii

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

HB 126 Making Appropriations for Public Employment Cost Items

Legislative Officers and Employees; Appropriation

Makes appropriation for the public employment cost items of and cost adjustments for employees of the various legislative agencies.

TESTIMONY

Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports an adequate appropriation for public employment costs; therefore, the League **supports HB 126** which would fund the Hawaii Employer-Union Trust Fund Benefits costs and other cost adjustments for legislative officers and employees excluded from collective bargaining for fiscal year 2015-2016. This would include employees of the State Ethics Commission, Office of the Auditor, Legislative Reference Bureau, and other essential public services. These legislative agencies provide essential services to the public. League as well as other community organizations rely on the work of these employees.

We urge you to pass HB 126. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.