

THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES The Twenty-Eighth Legislature Regular Session of 2015

## **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING:	Thursday, February 26, 2015
TIME OF HEARING:	3:00p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING:	Conference Room 308
	State Capitol
	415 South Beretania Street

## TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 141 RELATING TO QUALIFIED COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

We continue to have serious concerns regarding this measure. As stated in previous testimony on the measure, we stress that it adversely affects members of the United Public Workers. We believe that passage of this bill is just one more step towards privatization of public services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 24, 2015

Chair Sylvia Luke Finance Committee Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306 Honolulu, HI 96813

Fax #: (800) 535-3859

Re: Committee on Finance Hearing for HB 141 on Thursday February 26, 2015 at 3pm.

Dear Chair Luke:

Please support HB141 to help me keep my job at Ka Lima O Maui. Ka Lima has given me job skills and training to hold a job. These contracts are very important to me and my peers. Because of this job, I now earn my own money and that gives me independence and confidence. I work hard to keep everything clean in the parks.

By supporting this bill, you are helping persons with disabilities keep their job.

Sincerely,

Keoni Wilson



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Sincerely,

Jason Sugahaca



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Sincerely,

Nathan Rosberg



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Sincerely,

Daniel Rodriguez

J. Walter Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani Street, Suite 198 - Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 Tel: (808) 244-5502 / 244-5503 - Fax: (808) 244-2077 info@kalimaomaui.org

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Sincerely,

Samuel Manini



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FURIN KARMUNAI



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Brian Bartilan.



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Sincerely,

Hokulani Bailey.

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Re: Committee on Finance Hearing for HB 141 on Thursday February 26, 2015 at 3pm.

Dear Chair Luke:

I am writing in support of HB 141 that clarifies the language in exemption # 16 of HRS 76-77. The bill amends the exemption from the civil service laws for contracts for personal services, building, custodial, and grounds maintenance services, with qualified community rehabilitation programs at a cost of no more than \$850,000 by specifying that the \$850,000 maximum applies per contract.

This effort is to provide additional clarity to the amount of \$850,000 that has been recently incorrectly interpreted as an aggregate amount instead of an amount per contract. All parties involved always intended for the amount of \$850,000 to be interpreted as per contract and not as a total amount.

In addition, the State of Hawaii Attorney General provided a favorable opinion on the interpretation of the language agreeing that it should be read as "per contract".

The future of these contracts is crucial to the mission of our organization; "Enhancing Lives through Self-Reliance" for persons with disabilities through employment related programs. Our grounds and custodial service contracts, that currently total \$1.4 million, employ 55 persons with disabilities. The contracts allow us to deliver services such as assessments, evaluation and training and ultimately employment for a population that is often times overlooked. Employment opportunities provide dignity, self-respect, independence and the chance to become contributing members of our community.

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Please help us by passing HB 141 in its current version so we can continue to put paychecks in deserving hands. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

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