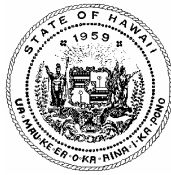


HB 1177

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

LEILA A. KAGAWA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

January 30, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

For Hearing on Friday, February 1, 2013
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 309

BY

BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

House Bill No. 1177
Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO CHAIRPERSON NAKASHIMA AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of H.B. 1177 is to amend Chapter 87A, Hawaii Revised Statutes relating to the administration of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF).

The Department of Human Resources Development ("DHRD") has comments regarding section 8 of this bill, which proposes transferring the EUTF from the Department of Budget and Finance to DHRD for administrative purposes.

DHRD does not have the resources and expertise necessary to provide effective administrative oversight of the EUTF. Should the EUTF be transferred to DHRD, DHRD would need additional positions and funding for administrative and personnel services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL 1177**

February 1, 2013

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

House Bill 1177 makes the following amendments to Chapter 87A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which governs the Hawaii Employer-Union Trust Fund (EUTF):

- Allows the EUTF to procure carriers, third-party administrators, consultants, actuaries and auditors exempt from the procurement code;
- Adds two new sections on fiduciary duties and prohibited transactions and liability for breach of fiduciary duties;
- Allows the EUTF to employ or retain an attorney independent of the Attorney General;
- Increases the membership of the EUTF Board of Trustees from 10 to 12 and changes how trustees are appointed, their terms of office, quorum and voting requirements;
- Provides for sub-boards to administer exclusive bargaining unit contributions and benefits;
- Requires active employee benefit plans to be based on collective bargained contributions and retiree benefits to be based on legislative appropriations; and
- Transfers the EUTF from the Department of Budget and Finance (Department) to the Department of Human Resources Development.

We are opposed to this bill. First, the Department has serious concerns with the modifications to the composition of the EUTF Board. Placing the retiree beneficiary board member as part of the employer group for voting is inappropriate as the retiree beneficiary member represents retiree interests and as such should be a part of the employee group (as is currently the case), which represents beneficiaries, for voting. Specifying that the five other employer board members represent five different jurisdictions severely dilutes the Governor's ability to look out for the State's interest and results in each employer trustee representing a disproportionate share of the employer group. While we are not specifically opposed to adding county representation to the board, allowing the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu to appoint a board member and the mayors from the County of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai to appoint another employer board member is not reflective of the EUTF's membership. Currently, State employees make up approximately 76% of the EUTF participants.

Given the Governor's overall responsibilities for managing State government and State finances, the Governor should appoint the majority of employer board members without regard to specific employer jurisdictions. However, if board members are to be added, we strongly suggest a neutral member. A neutral eleventh member would facilitate working through the board's deadlocks and balance the needs of both employer and employee interests.

Second, we strongly believe that the Attorney General is better suited to ensure that long-term State interests are protected rather than an outside attorney. The staff of the Department of the Attorney General can bring a broad background of familiarity with the EUTF and other State statutes at a lower cost

than an outside legal firm. The cost of an outside attorney will have to be borne by the public employers and the plan's participants.

Third, requiring benefit plans to be based on collective bargained amounts rather than determining collectively bargained amounts based on plan designs established by the EUTF is problematic. Such an approach could result in material fluctuations in plan benefits from year to year and may make it difficult to design benefit plans that meet the needs of beneficiaries. This change may also cause administrative difficulties such as completing plan design and negotiating with vendors in sufficient time for open enrollment periods, especially given the history of completing negotiations very late in plan delivery cycle. Similarly, for retirees, requiring that the plans be based on approved appropriations may also cause difficulties in completing plan design and bidding/negotiating with vendors in sufficient time for open enrollment periods.

Fourth, given the fiscal complexities involved and the size of the EUTF's expenditures in relation to the total State budget, transferring the EUTF to the Department of Human Resources Development would not be in the best interest of the State.

We are not opposed to exempting the EUTF from Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes. We defer to the Department of the Attorney General regarding provisions relating to fiduciary duties.



**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Telephone: (808) 587-4700
e-mail: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
<http://hawaii.gov/spo>

TESTIMONY
OF
AARON S. FUJIOKA
ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

February 1, 2013

9:00 a.m.

HB 1177

RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMPLOYEE-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND.

Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Hashem and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1177. The State Procurement Office (SPO) testimony is limited to SECTION 1, adding new sections to chapter 87A, specifically page 1, lines 4 to 8 of the bill.

The SPO opposes the amendment in SECTION 1 proposing to exempt the Hawaii Employer-Union Benefits Trust Fund from HRS chapter 103D, the Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Code). The Code is the single source of public procurement policy to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure and transparency in the procurement and contracting process are vital to good government.

Public procurement's primary objective is to give everyone equal opportunity to compete for Government contracts; to prevent favoritism, collusion or fraud in awarding of contracts. Meeting this objective requires a single set of statutes and rules that define and mandate the use of selection processes that are competitive, efficient, fair, transparent, open and impartial. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance with HRS chapter 103D conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

We request that SECTION 1, page 1, lines 4 to 8 of the bill be deleted. Thank you.

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 235, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4900 FAX (808) 241-6877

Testimony of Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.

Before the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, February 1, 2013
9:00 am
Conference Room 309
State Capitol

House Bill 1177 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

Honorable Chair Henry Aquino and Members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment,

I am writing in support of House Bill 1177 which proposes a number of changes to Section 87A, Hawaii Revised Statutes. In particular, my testimony relates to Section 87A-5 Composition of board.

In the past years, legislative bills have been proposed whereby the counties would be given representation on the board. These measures have failed despite numerous testimonies received in support of increasing the number of trustees on the board to ensure county representation. I am pleased that this measure proposes to have two county representatives, one from the City and County of Honolulu and one from the neighbor islands. Being that the counties comprise four of the five public employers contributing to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF), it seems only fair that the counties are properly represented on the board.

This board makes decisions that significantly affect the counties, their employees, and retirees. All public employers must fund board decisions, but currently the state is the only public employer represented on the board. We acknowledge the service and contributions of the EUTF board but presently there is no one on the board who has direct knowledge of the effect of board decisions on the counties, their employees, and retirees. Knowing the counties' perspective would assist the board as it deliberates and make decisions that will affect all public workers and retirees.

I support the passage of House Bill 1177 and thank the committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this important measure.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.
Mayor

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