



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 Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
The Honorable Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 207
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Hawaii State Ethics Commission

DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2015

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

ROOM: Conference Room 211

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.