

To the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts,

My name is [First Name] and I'm a business owner... [Add personalization here e.g. type of business, how long you've been in business, how many employees, etc.]

Thank you for scheduling this hearing and for the government's desire to improve the tax rate schedule for Hawaii employers.

However, I'd like to respectfully provide comments about my concerns.

It's my understanding that the Governor's Administration has proposed Schedule D, F & G for 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively ([HB1005](#) & [SB1159](#)), while the House has proposed Schedule C, D & E for the same years respectively ([HB470](#) & [SB682](#)). Both sets of bills also call for the exclusion of *all* unemployment claims for 2020 in determining 2021 rates.

While this is a step in the right direction, **I fear that raising the tax rate schedule to anything other than Schedule C for 2021 and 2022 will have negative and significant financial impacts on Hawaii's business community.** It will force many of us to close.

Additionally, though both bills "allow" for 2020 utilization rates to be excluded in determining 2021 rates, we need this to be *mandated*.

The mass shutdowns that triggered unemployment to skyrocket were the result of *societal* decisions rather than *business* decisions, of which employers cannot fairly be responsible for footing the bill alone.

I urge our lawmakers to reconsider these bills and advocate for holding rates at Schedule C for 2021 and 2022, mandating the exclusion of 2020 utilization, and looking for *new* ways to replenish the state's depleted unemployment reserves.

Can I count on you?

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

[YOUR NAME]