



VOICE OF THE ILWU

HONOLULU HAWAII
LOCAL 142

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February 2003

Hawaii longshore approves new contract



ILWU longshore members on Oahu hold a stop work ratification meeting on January 31. The longshore negotiating committee (left) explains the terms of the contract before members vote.

Hawaii longshore members overwhelmingly approved the terms of a new contract settlement with over 95 percent voting "yes." The settlement covers basic longshore members working for Hawaii Stevedores, Inc., Brewer, Matson Terminals, and McCabe Hamilton and Renny. Longshore clerks and the maintenance shops also ratified separate settlements in February.

Members on Hawaii and Maui met on January 27, 2003. Kauai met on January 28 and Oahu members met on January 31, 2003. At these meetings, members were given the complete details of the settlement, had a chance to ask questions and hear explanations from the unions negotiating committee, and voted yes or no on whether to accept the new contract.

The votes were counted after the last meeting on Oahu and the final tally showed over 95 percent of the members voted yes to approve the new contract.

The new contract runs for six years—until June 30, 2008—and mirrors the agreement reached by the West Coast ILWU with the Pacific Maritime Association. Like the West Coast, wages will increase by a total of \$3.00 over the life of the contract, however, the wage increases for Hawaii come towards the end of the contract. The union negotiating committee agreed to make this tradeoff in order to match the pension increases achieved by the

West Coast. Accordingly, Hawaii pension benefits will increase from the current \$95 to \$150 multiplied by each year of service up to a maximum of 35 years.

The new contract includes a short six-month "window" period for longshore workers between the age of 59 and one-half and 62 who retire from active service between January 4, 2003 and June 30, 2003. The "window" provides for no reduction in pension benefits because of age.

In line with the West Coast, the Hawaii settlement maintains all other existing benefits such as the wage guarantee plan, medical, and dental.

Serving on the union negotiating committee were: Chairperson Nathan Lum, Elgin Calles, Raymond Carvalho, Patrick DePonte, Wendall Kiaha, Allen Rabut, Nelson Rita Jr., and spokesperson and Local President Eusebio "Bo" Lapenia Jr., assisted by International Representative Wes Furtado and Business Agent Tyrone Tahara.

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"Some of our members still don't understand why unions must be involved in politics . . . Politics does matter, and George Bush has given us a lot of examples of how working people can get shafted by a Republican President who blatantly puts business and the wealthy first."

—Local President Eusebio Lapenia Jr.
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Hawaii Division Recognition Night: Manuel Branco accepts the award for Best Medium Size Unit on behalf Unit 1201 - HT&T Longshore, which has 51 members.



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Nikki Bridges: 1923-2003

Next Local Executive Board Meeting: June 19-20, 2003, 10 a.m., Honolulu. Call (808) 949-4161 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Planning for our convention and future

By James Spinosa
ILWU International President

The ILWU will hold its 32nd International Convention this year in San Francisco from April 28-May 2. The delegates you have elected from your locals will be entrusted with setting the direction our union will take in the next three years.

This is an awesome responsibility. The lives of all ILWU members will be affected by the decisions we will make about how to defend our gains and extend our influence and decisions about how we will shoulder those responsibilities and finance those programs we decide on.

This is a daunting task, especially because we have just one short week of meetings to complete it. Given the challenges we have faced recently from our employers and the government and the challenges we can already see ahead of us and the rest of the labor movement, the International officers will be bringing some proposals to the Convention. Among these will be proposals to increase the ILWU's political and legislative activities.

When the Longshore Division was under attack last year by the combined forces of the employers and the Bush administration and its Republican allies in Congress, our Washington, D.C. office and our rank-and-file Legislative Action Committee moved quickly to rally our friends in Congress and in state governments to come to our defense. Those timely actions helped blunt the most extreme moves against us. The Bush administration was forced to drop its plans to send the military to seize West Coast docks and to publicly deny it ever threatened or planned to do so. Pending legislation to take away the ILWU's rights to collective bargaining and to strike or to break up our coastwise contract never made it to the floor.

The only weapon Bush had left to use against us was the Taft-Hartley injunction. But when the employers tried to use the injunction's prohibition against slowdowns to break the union, our friends in state governor's houses and legislatures and in local governments raise and legitimized our realistic safety concerns, helping us to dodge that bullet.

While we emerged from this struggle intact and with a good

contract, our enemies are not done with us. They still see us—rightfully—as the most democratic, progressive and militant expression of workers' power in this country.

Right now the employers are cynically using the terrorist threat and the need for security to weaken the ILWU. They are working overtime to see that legitimate port security legislation is twisted to harass individual longshore workers, to diminish our power at the point of production and to chip away at our jurisdiction, reducing the jobs that should be ours.

Then of course there is the constant barrage of Republican anti-worker laws that are aimed at all workers and affect ILWU members as well. These include everything from tax cuts for the rich that shift the burden of federal expenses further to workers, to laws that allow employers to escape their pension obligations to proposals to impose burdensome and costly accounting requirements on unions far in excess of what corporations must report.

It is clear that the defense of ILWU interests—and the interests of all workers—requires us to be much more involved in the political process. We need to make sure our voices are heard and listened to. We need to reward our friends and punish our enemies.

There are several ways we can do this. First we need the commitment and involvement of every member of the ILWU. The load is lighter if everyone helps to lift it. We need members to contribute financially and to volunteer their time and skills.

It is an unfortunate fact that political action requires money. We need to not only staff and operate our legislative office in Washington, D.C. and send rank-and-filers to the Capitol to lobby, we need to contribute money to pro-worker politicians. This is part of rewarding our friends. They have to run for reelection and ward off challenges by better funded pro-business candidates or they won't be around to help us. The law requires that union political donations, unlike those from corporations, come from a voluntary fund, so you must take the initiative for this to succeed. The International officers will be proposing to make a \$50 per year per member voluntary political action contribution official ILWU policy. If everyone pitches in, we could have nearly half a million dollars to spread around.

But your union needs more than

money—it needs your time and energy to make politics work for us. There are many ways you can help and each member should find one or two.

Each geographic area of the union has a "District Council," the ILWU's political action branch. [Local 142 has a Local Political Action Committee whose basic function is the same as the District Council.] District Councils lobby politicians, endorse candidates and promote legislation and policies beneficial to the ILWU and all working people. Your local's officers can put you in contact with your District Council and get you involved.

While the rank-and-file members of our Legislative Action Committee periodically travel to Washington, D.C. to lobby on our behalf, it is not necessary to go across the country to influence Congressional representatives. They make regular trips back to their home states. The District Councils can and should be organizing lobbying visits when the representatives are home. In the same manner local members should pay regular visits to state representatives at their home offices and get to know local officials as well—mayors, city council members, county supervisors. Politicians need to and

like to hear from rank-and-file union members.

Another thing rank-and-filers and their locals can do to extend the ILWU's political influence is to join and work with the AFL-CIO political organizations—your state Federations of Labor and your Central Labor Councils. [Local 142 is a member of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO, also called the "State Fed" for short.] These organizations bring together all the AFL-CIO unions in the area to effect political change in favor of workers. Pooling our efforts makes us all stronger, and gives us an excellent opportunity to build solidarity with other unions as well.

Last year the ILWU sent out 33 rank-and-filers to campaign in key states just before the November elections to try to defeat anti-worker candidates and elect pro-worker ones. They were effective and made great contacts with other union workers. This is another way we can reward our friends and punish our enemies and we need to do more of this.

We do not need to be the victims of political power in this country. Organized labor, and especially the ILWU, can have influence far beyond our numbers if we stay strong, smart and active.

Important Notice on ILWU Political Action Fund

Delegates to the 30th Convention of the ILWU, meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, April 7-11, 1997, amended Article X of the International Constitution to read:

"SECTION 2. The International shall establish a Political Action Fund which shall consist exclusively of voluntary contributions. The union will not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case will a member be required to pay more than his/her pro rata share of the union's collective bargaining expenses. Reports on the status of the fund and the uses to which the voluntary contributions of the members are put will be made to the International Executive Board.

"The voluntary contributions to the Political Action Fund shall be collected as follows:

"Up to One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) of each March and July's per capita payment to the International Union shall be diverted to the Political Action Fund where it will be used in connection with federal, state and local elections. These deductions are suggestions only, and individual members are free to contribute more or less than that guideline suggests. The diverted funds will be contributed only on behalf of those members who voluntarily permit that portion of their per capita payment to be used for that purpose. The Titled Officers may suspend either or both diversions if, in their judgement, the financial condition of the International warrants suspension.

"For three consecutive months prior to each diversion each dues paying member of the union shall be advised of his/her right to withhold the contribution or any portion thereof otherwise made in March and July. Those members expressing such a desire, on a form provided by the International Union, shall be sent a check in the amount of the contribution or less if they so desire, in advance of the member making his/her dues payment to the local union for the month in which the diversion occurs.

"Those members who do not wish to have any portion of their per capita payment diverted to the Political Action Fund, but wish to make political contributions directly to either the Political Action Fund or their local union, may do so in any amounts whenever they wish."

No contribution - I do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of \$1.50 prior to March 1, 2003.

Less than \$1.50 - I do not wish to contribute the entire \$1.50 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. I will contribute _____. I understand that the International will send me a check for the difference between my contribution and \$1.50 prior to March 1, 2003.

More than \$1.50 - I wish to contribute more than the minimum voluntary contribution of \$1.50 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. Enclosed please find my check for \$_____.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Local # _____

Unit # _____

Return to: ILWU, 1188 Franklin Street • San Francisco, CA 94109

NOTE: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS



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WASHINGTON D.C. REPORT

Labor solidarity is more important than ever

Attack on our nation's transportation workers

By Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

The year 2002 will become a major part of the ILWU legend. Looking back, it is difficult to fathom how the ILWU remains strong given the array of forces lined up to destroy this union.

The ship-owners and stevedoring companies, the politically powerful retail industry and the United States government all colluded in waging a war against the working people of this union because they don't like what the ILWU stands for. This union stands for real power in the hands of workers. This union stands for social justice. This union stands for an end to the exploitation of workers. Make no mistake about it. These forces wanted Congress to pass legislation to destroy the power of the ILWU. **They still do.**

Consider the fact that Chuck Raymond, Chairman of the Maritime Transportation System National Advisory Committee and CEO of CSX Lines wrote in the Journal of Commerce supplement (Jan. 13, 2003), "The major industry challenge for 2003 is to reinforce our transportation system with laws and practices that keep our people working and good flowing. He argues that the extreme Taft-Hartley Act is not a good enough tool for anti-labor, anti-worker forces to clamp down on the union. Raymond echoes the values of many in business in this country who place the flow of commerce well ahead of the values of social justice and the empowerment of workers.

Let's face it. The ILWU greatly benefited from the solidarity of unions around the world, but particularly the unprecedented support of AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka and his staff of hard-working trade unionists. We needed that solidarity to win the battle for a fair contract.

Now the workers in the airline industry face a similar predicament. The industry is using its economic troubles, and the tragedy of 9/11 to push through Congress legislation to take away the collective bargaining rights of aviation workers. Just as the AFL-CIO came to our aid, the ILWU must do whatever is necessary to help these struggling unions in the airline industry. It is imperative that we join the movement demanding

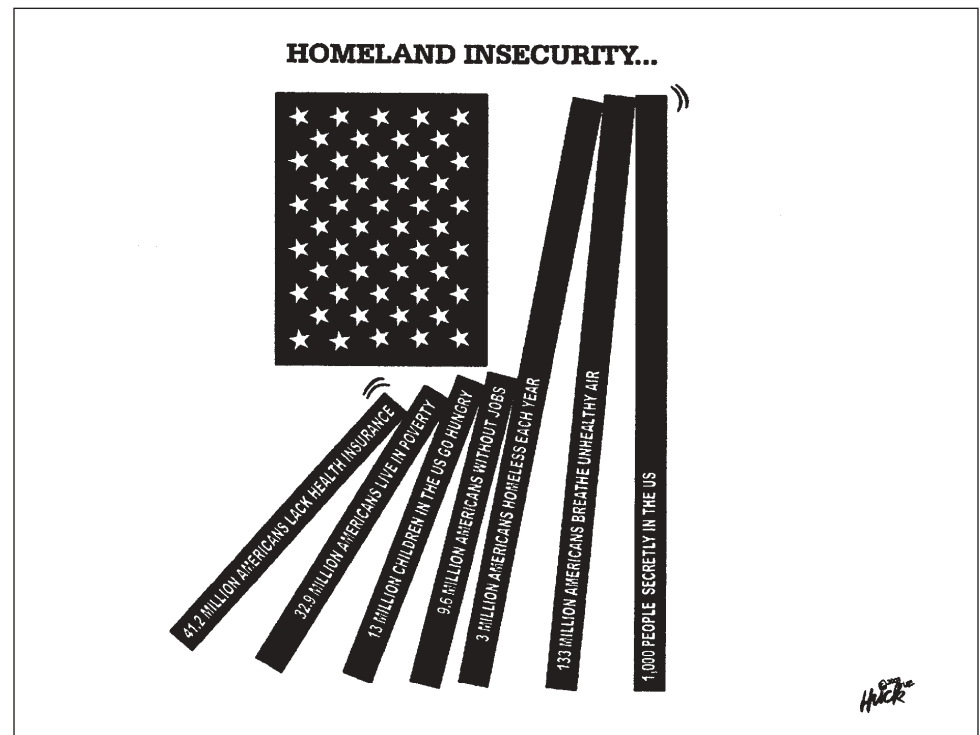
Congress refuse to take away collective bargaining rights for any worker, including aviation workers. If the airline industry gets away with destroying its unions, the ILWU will be next on the hit list. It is in our self-interest to act in solidarity.

Here's the issue. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) introduced the Airline Labor Dispute Act, S. 1327 in the last Congress. That bill would take away collective bargaining rights for aviation workers.

McCain's staff is currently rewriting the bill. It would give authority to the Secretary of Transportation to declare an "air transportation emergency" and force arbitration upon finding that a labor dispute involving an airline serving a hub airport threatens the local economy, foreign commerce, the balance of payments, or U.S. national security or foreign policy. In reality, the bill would force every union in the airline industry into arbitration and collective bargaining will become a thing of the past.

The bill does not even call for a fair arbitration process. The McCain legislation introduced last year

It is imperative that we join the movement demanding Congress refuse to take away collective bargaining rights for any worker, including aviation workers. If the airline industry gets away with destroying its unions, the ILWU will be next on the hit list. It is in our self-interest to act in solidarity.



includes language that prohibits the arbitration from selecting the union's proposal for a multitude of reasons if the union's proposal increases costs, while there are no stipulations to keep the arbitrator from selecting a management proposal for any reason. Airline unions call the legislation what it really is, the "Management Cramdown Bill."

Most of the airline industry, including the notoriously anti-union Federal Express, are united behind this legislation and believe its prospects for passage are good. Air Transport Association (ATA) President Carol Hallett declared Dec. 19,

2002 that the Railway Labor Act, which governs contract negotiations for airline industry workers, "urgently needs correction," and has created "agreements that dangerously weaken airlines." Hallett said that the prospects for passage of the legislation are bright in 2003 because the

Republicans now control the House, Senate and White House.

"There is a real opportunity for this legislation to move forward," Hallett emphasized.

Much as PMA organized the West Coast Waterfront Coalition, the airline industry has formed the so-called "Communities for Economic Strength Through Aviation," comprising approximately 400 organizations to lobby Congress for legislation adverse to airline unions.

It is very difficult to pass legislation through the United States

Senate without some level of bipartisan support. Just as the Pacific Maritime Association hired a former Democratic member of Congress from California, Mel Levine, to lobby fellow Democrats in Congress against the ILWU, the airline industry has done the same thing. The industry has retained former Rep. Vic Fazio (D-CA), and former Senator Chuck Robb (D-VA) to garner support from Democrats in Congress. These former members of Congress—all of whom had decent labor voting records—demonstrate that most politicians can be bought to trample on the rights of American workers. The ILWU and the entire labor movement appear to have few permanent political friends.

If the airline industry gets away with its agenda of grabbing power from its workers through the political process, its ploy will be copied by other transportation employers. All the circumstances for arbitration envisioned by the McCain legislation apply to the ILWU—impact on foreign commerce, injury to the local economy, national security, foreign policy. These are the buzzwords used to malign our union.

It is in the ILWU's self-interest to kill this bill. I urge all ILWU members to write their Senators and Representatives to urge them to vigorously oppose the McCain legislation that takes away collective bargaining rights for aviation workers. You can use the following addresses and your letter will be delivered to your representatives in Congress:

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hawaii Division applauds outstanding units

HILO—Gusty winds and heavy rain failed to dampen the spirits of several hundred Hawaii Division members and retirees who packed the ILWU Hall in Hilo for a night of fellowship, tasty food, and hot music on February 15, 2003. They gathered for the 26th Annual Recognition Night to celebrate and a select group of ILWU units for their outstanding contributions to their membership and to the trade union movement.

The Hawaii Division of the ILWU has 5,000 members who work in 39 units on the Big Island. The unit is the basic ILWU organization at each work site or company which has a collective bargaining agreement with

the union. Altogether, there are 198 units in the state of Hawaii which comprise ILWU Local 142.

Each unit has its own officers, who are responsible for carrying out union programs among the members of their unit, with help always available from the full-time business agents of their Division. Their activities range from assisting members with problems on the job, making sure members get the full benefit of the union contract, running and attending meetings, and helping with Division programs such as political action and organizing. This work can demand a lot of time and commitment from these unit



Hawaii Division editors for 2002 (l-r): Teena Butterfield (who was an editor on Maui and will begin editing a bulletin for West Hawaii supermarket units), Jeannie Martin - Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows, Swanee Rillanos - Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, Anthony Kubera - MLP Keaau, Jamie Spencer - Orchid at Mauna Lani, Jeanne Yoshizawa - Mauna Loa Mac Nut Corp., Dara Vierra - Sack 'N Save Hilo and Puainako, Hawaii Division Education Coordinator Richard Baker Jr., Margaret Aguiar and Anna Ater, also from Sack 'N Save. Not pictured: Corinna Salmo - MLP Ka'u.



Dennis Andres and Rey Gascon from Unit 1401 - MLP Ka'u receive the award for Best Large unit on behalf of their members from President "Bo" Lapenia.

officers, all of whom serve as unpaid volunteers.

There are other rewards besides pay. There is the invaluable education and training they receive; there is the satisfaction of helping to bring justice and dignity on the job; and there is the chance to be named an outstanding unit on Recognition Night.

Thank You

Recognition Night is one way that Hawaii Division has found to show appreciation for a job well-done and to identify units that serve as a model for other units to follow.

Hawaii Division Director Fred Galdones explained the criteria used in choosing the outstanding units—service to members, handling grievances on their own, holding regular membership meetings, attending the monthly Division Executive Board meetings, and getting involved in union political action.

Five units were chosen this year. Two units were named as outstanding in the small unit category of 1-29 members—Unit 1426 - Hamakua Medical Center and Unit 1513 - Makalei Golf Course. Unit 1201 -

Hawaii Division recognition night President's remarks

We need to take our country back in 2004

We are gathered here tonight to honor and give recognition to those units and individuals who have done an outstanding job in carrying on and supporting the work of this union. They worked hard and deserve the credit.

On behalf of the local officers and the entire membership of this union, *thank you* for all you have done and continue to do for this organization.

I also want to thank all the rest of you

here, the Division full-time officers, our pensioners, our active members, and your families. I know all of you worked very hard this last year, especially around the elections in support of our Unions political action program.

We had some disagreements over which candidate to endorse in this last set of elections, but the main thing is we don't allow these differences to divide us or divide this union. Politicians come and go, but this union is here to stay. In the long run, we need to always think about what is best for this organization and what is best for our membership.

Throughout our long history, the

ILWU has been able to maintain its unity and strength, because of our commitment to rank-and-file democracy. We have learned that democracy works best when there is free and open debate over the issues and when people are not afraid to voice their opinions. We have learned to have faith in and support the decisions that come out of this democratic process, because this is the best way to build unity, and with

unity, comes strength.

Why politics?

Some of our members still don't understand why unions must be involved in politics. Some of our members think it's too political when we talk about the differences between Democrats and Republicans. And a lot of our members apparently think politics isn't important and doesn't matter to them, because they don't bother to vote or aren't even registered to vote.

Politics does matter, and George Bush has given us a lot of examples of how working people can get shafted

by a Republican President who blatantly puts business and the wealthy first.

In longshore negotiations on the West Coast, we had to take on the employers *and* President Bush, who intervened by ordering the opening of the docks under a Taft-Hartley injunction. Earlier, the Bush Administration warned ILWU President Jim Spinosa that a longshore strike would be viewed as a threat to national security. Bush had already shown a readiness to take away the right to strike. He intervened in negotiations between machinists at Northwest and United Airlines and between flight attendants and American Airlines.

Union-Busting

Our federal government should set an example for the nation in the way they treat their employees. So what does Bush do? He becomes a union-buster.

Just last month, 64,000 airport screeners were denied the right to unionize and bargain collectively.

Why? Because, says the newly created federal Transportation Security Administration, "Fighting terrorism demands a flexible workforce that can rapidly respond to threats" and this "can mean changes in work assignments and other conditions of employment that are not compatible with the duty to bargain with labor unions."

Last January 2002, claiming it was a matter of national security, Bush issued an executive order that wiped out union representation for 300 secretaries, file clerks, and messengers working for the U.S. Justice Department. He signed the order and the union was out. The union representing these workers, the American Federation of Government Employees, was simply told their bargaining units no longer exist. Another 170,000 federal workers may also

lose their right to union representation when they are transferred into the new Department of Homeland Security.

By his example, Bush is telling employers that it's okay to bust the union. So in Hawaii, more employers are encouraged to fight or break the

... a legal immigrant could be deported for sending money home that ends up in the hands of an organization the State Department has put on the Foreign Terrorist List. There are 35 groups on that list, three of which are in the Philippines.

union—at Hawaii Motors, at Hale Anuenue, at Ohana Keauhou Beach Hotel, at HT&T, or at the King



(L-r) Damien "Skip" DeMello (Unit 1513-Makalei Golf Course) and Jo Ann Lau Kong and Roxanne Paiva-Rosborough (Unit 1426 Hamakua Medical Center) receive the Best Small Unit awards for their units.

HT&T Longshore was named the outstanding medium sized unit with 30-99 members. Two large units with over 100 members received the outstanding award—Unit 1515 - Orchid at Mauna Lani and Unit 1401 - MLP Ka'u.

Keeping members informed

Hawaii Division's hard working crew of 15 unit bulletin editors also received awards. These volunteers produce a monthly union newsletter which goes to the members of their unit. The newsletter helps to educate and inform members about union activities.

Tony Kubera, the editor for Unit 1403 - MLP Keaau, received first prize for the best Division bulletin. Jeanne Yoshizawa, the editor for

Unit 1402 - Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Corporation, received the second prize.

Richard Baker Jr., the business agent in charge of advising the editors, explained how the bulletin program is one of the many ways the union develops leadership among its members. Richard explained how he and Fred Galdones were former bulletin editors.

Pension Club Awards

ILWU Pensioners Council president Tom Poy presented the last awards of the night's program to two outstanding pension clubs. The awards, which includes a cash prize donated by the ILWU Memorial Association, were given to the Honokaa Pensioners Club for the

most activities and the Pahala Pensioners Club for recruiting the most new members (14 new members).

Guest Speakers

Hawaii Island Mayor Harry Kim and Local 142 President Eusebio "Bo" Lapenia Jr. were the keynote speakers for the event. Mayor Kim explained how he sees the union as a positive force for social justice, a view shaped by his experience growing up on Olaa plantation, where his father worked. Kim warned that, "there are forces out there who want the union out, who don't want the union in this society. I don't think this is good, for you, for government, for workers, for business, for the County." Kim also expressed his personal opposition to war, which he called "lunacy."

In his remarks, President Lapenia went further and named the anti-union forces hinted at by Harry Kim. "Politics does matter, and George Bush has given us a lot of examples of how working people can get shafted by a Republican President who blatantly puts business and the wealthy first," Lapenia said.

Lapenia gave examples of how the Bush Administration denied the right to unionize to 64,000 airport screeners in the newly created federal Transportation Security Administration, how Bush interfered in longshore negotiations with a Taft-Hartley injunction, and how Bush wiped out the union in the U.S. Justice Department. (See below for the full text of Lapenia's remarks.)

"By his example, Bush is telling

employers that its okay to bust the union," Lapenia said. "So in Hawaii, more employers are encouraged to fight or break the union—at Hawaii Motors, at Hale Anuenue, at Ohana Keauhou Beach Hotel, at HT&T, or at the King Kamehameha Hotel."

President Lapenia concluded by urging members to get more active in politics by preparing for the 2004 elections. "The labor movement has a vision of a world that is very different from the vision being promoted by the people running this country today. This is why our union has to be active in politics. This is why we need to be educating our members and their families and reaching out to the community. This is why we need to be preparing for the 2004 elections. We need to take our country back in 2004."



Arthur Reeves, representing Unit 1515-Orchid at Mauna Lani accepts the Award for Best Large Unit (tie with MLP Ka'u).

Kamehameha Hotel.

Our freedom and civil rights are being seriously undermined in the name of national security. The so-called "Patriot Act", which Bush pushed through Congress in October 2001, is turning our country into a police state. The law goes overboard in giving the FBI and CIA the power to spy on us, secretly search our homes or workplace, arrest and detain citizens, and deport legal immigrants. For example, a legal immigrant could be deported for sending money home that ends up in the hands of an organization the State Department has put on the Foreign Terrorist List. There are 35 groups on that list, three of which are in the Philippines. The Patriot Act even requires background security checks for CDL drivers who carry hazardous materials.

The Patriot Act is so bad that a number of cities have passed resolutions calling for its repeal. Our Hawaii State Legislature is also considering two resolutions to repeal the unconstitutional provisions of this act.

Tax Giveaways

Bush is plundering our nations treasury with tax giveaways to the rich.

Over half—52 percent—of the Bush Tax Cut of June 2001 goes to the wealthiest one percent—people who earn an average of \$1.5 million a year. They get back an average \$85,000 a year from this tax cut—a total of \$884 million. Most of us working people will get a tax cut worth only \$800 - \$1000.

To sell his first tax cut, Bush gave Congress misleading figures that estimated a federal surplus of \$5.6 trillion and the cost of the tax cut at only \$1.3 trillion. The real surplus was closer to \$1.6 trillion and the tax cut could cost as much as \$2 trillion. This

There's not enough money to cover prescription drugs under Medicare, to strengthen Social Security, or to fix our schools. But there's enough money to give tax breaks to the rich.

is one reason why the federal budget is now showing a \$300 billion deficit this year. This deficit takes money away from other programs such as education, threatens Social Security and Medicare, and is

forcing the government to make other cuts, such as the pay and benefits of federal workers.

In November 2002, President Bush ordered a cut in the 2003 pay increase for rank-and-file federal workers and the elimination of a locality pay allowance. He said the added cost would threaten the fight against terrorism and the federal government needed to stay within budget. Yet one week later, Bush approved paying cash bonuses

to top management, many of them political appointees, as a reward for their good work.

Now, Bush is calling for even more tax cuts for the wealthy by eliminating the tax on corporate dividends. There's not enough money to pay federal workers a decent wage. There's not enough money to allow federal workers the right to unionized. There's not enough money to cover prescription drugs under Medicare, to strengthen Social Security, or to fix our schools. But there's enough money to give tax breaks to the rich.

These are just a few examples of what Bush is doing. His record on the environment, on dealings with companies like Enron, on safety and health, on immigration, on equal rights is just as bad. What's amazing is how this is all being ignored, because we are being distracted by push for war against Iraq.

Bush appears hell bent on dragging us into a war that will only benefit military contractors and oil companies. A war would only make things worse in the Middle East and would threaten Hawaii's tourism industry. The rational solution is to continue the weapons inspections and deal with countries like Iraq and North Korea by working through the United Nations. Our State House of Representatives just passed a resolution supporting such a policy.

More than wages and benefits

In these grim times, we are reminded that unionism has always been much, much more than handling grievances and bargaining with individual employers over wages and working conditions.

The union movement has to be concerned about what's happening to this country and what's happening in this world.

The Preamble of our own ILWU Constitution states our objective is: "to advance the living standards of our fellow workers everywhere in the world, to promote the general welfare of our nation and

The labor movement has a vision of a world that is very different from the vision being promoted by the people running this country today.

our communities, to banish racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, to strengthen democracy everywhere and achieve permanent peace in the world."

The labor movement has a vision of a world that is very different from the vision being promoted by the people running this country today.

This is why our union has to be active in politics. This is why we need to be educating our members and their families and reaching out to the community. This is why we need to be preparing for the 2004 elections.

We need to take our country back in 2004.

Secretary of Labor Chao angers union leaders

By Mark Gruenberg
PAI Staff Writer

HOLLYWOOD, Fl (PAI)—Labor Secretary Elaine Chao thought she had an open and honest session with the nation's union leaders Feb. 26. Putting it mildly, they disagreed.

After the closed-door meeting the conservative Republican Labor Secretary held with the AFL-CIO Executive Council in Hollywood, Fla., federation President John J. Sweeney took to the press conference podium and called the session "unbelievable."

That was one of Sweeney's milder comments. And he wasn't alone. Even Teamsters President James P. Hoffa was critical, though he has been wooed by Chao's boss, President Bush, even being invited into the first lady's box during a State of the Union address.

"We're disappointed frankly that they don't understand labor issues and labor people," Mike Mathis, the Teamster's political director told The New York Times. "The way the secretary presented herself today was proof of that. We think it's important that the labor movement strengthen its resolve as we go into 2004 to elect a president who understands the working people."

"Chao was a Secretary of Labor who sounded like a Secretary of Commerce," Sweeney said. "What we saw from her was a secretary who was contentious . . . angry and

insulting at all points.

"In all my years in the labor movement, I have never seen a Secretary of Labor who was so anti-labor," he told reporters.

Chao's attitudes and her manner reflect Bush's anti-union stands, he said. "Union leaders came away more committed than ever to a change in the White House," he said.

Chao, of course, saw it differently. "I want to work with organized labor," she said. Her spokeswoman, Kathleen Harrington, followed her boss to the podium and called Chao's session with the council "an open and honest exchange."

That's diplomatic Washington-speak for sharp disagreement.

Chao came to the meeting advocating a new Bush administration proposal to force more than 5,000 local unions, plus all national unions, to spend millions of dollars and thousands of hours each year filling out forms disclosing every bit of spending—starting at \$2,000 or \$5,000—on everything from pencils on up. Chao claimed such disclosure would give more "transparency."

Corporations do not have to file

such detailed disclosures, AFL-CIO associate general counsel Damon Silvers noted.

When Machinists President Thomas Buffenbarger challenged Chao on the contrasting disclosure requirements, she flourished a list that she claimed had the names of seven local IAM officials indicted, convicted, or served prison time for

financially hurting their members. That got everyone mad.

Buffenbarger was particularly furious because in all seven cases Chao cited the union had uncovered the misuse of funds and cleaned its own house,

investigating the officers involved, barring them permanently from representing any IAM member again and then turning the matter over to the Dept. of Labor.

Chao also advanced other positions that organized labor did not like, including:

- Forgoing an immediate hike in the minimum wage and providing "the flexibility to have some discretion for regional differences." Bush has long backed letting states opt out of the federal minimum wage law,

which would set off yet another economic race to the bottom.

- Defending Bush's decision to ban unions for workers in the new Dept. of Homeland Security, for airport screeners, and for others. Challenged to name an incident where unionization threatened national security, Chao answered, "The increased flexibility he [Bush] has requested [to ban unions] is so we can better protect Americans." She stopped there.

- Advocating Bush's economic plan, including his proposed \$674 billion 10-year tax cut for the rich, by claiming Bush inherited a recession that started in mid-2000 under Democratic President Bill Clinton. The National Bureau of Economic Research, a non-partisan group that measures recessions, said it started in March 2001. The AFL-CIO says it's still going.

At a time when unions are facing enormous problems with rising health care costs, layoffs and people losing retiree benefits, the fact that Chao came into their house obviously prepared with documents to denounce the labor movement angered everyone.

"Secretary Chao's appearance before the Council only reinforces a view that I—and numerous other members of the Council—have previously expressed: the Bush administration is the most anti-union administration we have ever experienced," Sweeney said.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. workers approve new contract

PUUNENE, Maui—ILWU members at Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. (HC&S) ratified a new contract on February 24, 2003. The five-year contract covers some 681 field and mill workers and provides improvements and additional benefits for ILWU members at HC&S.

Workers will receive a total negotiated wage increase of 15 percent, or three percent per year for five years. In addition, profit-sharing negotiated in the last contract gave workers a two percent payout this February, in effect giving them a raise of five percent in 2003.

The night shift premium and trainer rate were both increased by five cents per hour.

Effective June 1, 2003, employees will also receive long-term disability insurance (LTDI) coverage at the company's cost.

An improvement to the sick leave language allows sick leave to commence from the first day of illness. Also, a vision coverage rider is included as part of the medical plan, with eyeglass lenses free and frames covered up to \$40.00.

"The company did well in 2002 so this was a good time to negotiate," said spokesperson William Kennison.

Negotiating on behalf of HC&S were: Chairperson Rodney Medeiros, James Chester, David Livergood, Robert Zahl and Kennison.

Pineapple units extend contract for one year

KAHULUI, Maui—Pineapple members approved a one-year extension of their contract until February 7, 2004. The extension affects some 2,000 ILWU members at Maui Land and Pineapple and Dole and Del Monte pineapple companies on Oahu.

The contract extension was recommended by the full pineapple caucus, which met on Feb. 11, 2003, on Maui. Some 42 members representing ten pineapple units attended the caucus. The caucus reasoned that it would be better to keep the current wages and benefits in place and put off negotiations for a new contract until next year, when, hopefully, economic conditions will improve for the three pineapple companies and the impact of war on Iraq would be known.

The statewide pineapple negotiat-

ing committee members were David Amor, Douglas Cabading, Teddy Espeleta, Martin Jenson, Cynthia Kaina, Lehua Kalua and Glen Murayama from Maui, Boyd Isneec, Avelino Martin, Richard Morgan, Darlene Palmerton, Matthew Rodrigues, and Earl Totten from Oahu, spokesperson Eusebio "Bo" Lapenia Jr., and business agents Brandon Bajo-Daniel and Delbert DeRego.

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. technicians, clerks ratify new CBA

PUUNENE, Maui—The 25 clerks and technicians who are members of the ILWU at Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. (HC&S) unanimously ratified a new contract on March 26, 2003.

The five-year agreement provides wage increases of three percent per year for a total of 15 percent over the life of the contract.

In addition, supplemental pension will be increased five percent per year for five years.

ILWU members who are scheduled for night shift work will see their night shift premium increase by five

cents per hour.

Negotiating on behalf of HC&S clerks and technicians were: Chairperson Akin Jones, Karl Kahui, Lolita Yagin and spokesperson William Kennison.

Bulk sugar contract signed with KT&S

KAHULUI, Maui—KT&S Bulk Sugar workers have ratified a new contract on March 13, 2003. The agreement is the only bulk sugar contract that exists in Hawaii, and covers six workers at the KT&S Bulk Sugar in Wailuku.

The new bulk sugar contract includes wages increases that follow the Hawaii longshore contract, for a total increase of \$3.00 per hour over six years.

Bulk sugar's pension benefits also increase, following West Coast and Hawaii longshore settlements. Pension goes up to \$150 over the course of the contract—to be multiplied by the number of years of service up to a maximum of 35 years.

The ILWU negotiating committee members were Chairperson Mark Ueki, Ernest Cabral and spokesperson William Kennison.

Pope John Paul II says "No to War"

In his Christmas Day message, Pope John Paul II called on all religions and on all people of good will to avoid war and build peace instead. In particular he talked about the building conflict in the Middle East. In his New Year's address in January the Pope again repeated that military force must be the very last option and a war would be "a defeat for humanity."

The Pope and the Vatican have made it clear that the so-called "preventive war" that George Bush wants to wage against Iraq could not be considered a "just" war—on either legal or moral grounds. A war would only make matters worse.

In a speech to the Vatican's Diplomatic Corps on January 13, 2003, the Pope called war "a defeat for humanity."

Work and pray for an end to war

More recently, on March 24, 2003, after the start of the U.S. led war on Iraq, Pope John Paul II reminded a group of military chaplains that the vast majority of humanity rejects the use of war to resolve conflicts between nations.

"It should be clear by now that war used as an instrument of resolution of conflicts between states was rejected, even before the Charter of the United Nations, by the conscience of the majority of humanity, except in the case of defense against an aggressor. The vast contemporary movement in favor of peace - which, according to Vatican Council II, is not reduced to a 'simple absence of war' - demonstrates this conviction of men of every continent and culture."

The Holy Father highlighted "the strength of different religions in sustaining the search for peace is a reason for comfort and hope. In our view of faith, peace, even if it is the result of political accords and understanding among individuals and peoples, is a gift from God that we must constantly invoke with prayer and penance. Without a conversion of the heart there is no peace! Peace is only achieved through love! Right now we are all asked to work and pray so that war disappears from the horizon of humanity."

Religious community opposes Iraq war

The National Council of Churches, representing 36 Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox Christian denominations is the U.S., also took a strong position against the war. In their April 2, 2003, newsletter, the Council called on their 50 million members in the United States to continue their work as "peacemakers."

"The start of the U.S.-led war against Iraq has not changed our vocation as Christians to be peacemakers. Throughout the past months churches have risen to this high calling. We have witnessed for peace and shared our understanding

of the biblical basis for peacemaking. In this arduous task, we have taken comfort and strength in the words of Jesus who said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'

"In this same passage, Jesus tells his followers, 'You are the light of the world,' and teaches us to let our light shine before others. In the gloom of war, let us be guided by the light of faith and let it shine forth through our words and actions.

"We who have worked so hard to avert a pre-emptive war against Iraq

"NO TO WAR! War is not always inevitable. It is always a defeat for humanity. International law, honest dialogue, solidarity between States, the noble exercise of diplomacy: these are methods worthy of individuals and nations in resolving their differences. I say this as I think of those who still place their trust in nuclear weapons and of the all-too-numerous conflicts which continue to hold hostage our brothers and sisters in humanity. At Christmas, Bethlehem reminded us of the unresolved crisis in the Middle East, where two peoples, Israeli and Palestinian, are called to live side-by-side, equally free and sovereign, in mutual respect.

"Without needing to repeat what I said to you last year on this occasion, I will simply add today, faced with the constant degeneration of the crisis in the Middle East, that the solution will never be imposed by recourse to terrorism or armed conflict, as if military victories could be the solution. And what are we to say of the threat of a war which could strike the people of Iraq, the land of the Prophets, a people already sorely tried by more than twelve years of embargo? War is never just another means that one can choose to employ for settling differences between nations. As the Charter of the United Nations Organization and international law itself remind us, war cannot be decided upon, even when it is a matter of ensuring the common good, except as the very last option and in accordance with very strict conditions, without ignoring the consequences for the civilian population both during and after the military operations."

—Pope John Paul II to the Diplomatic Corps at the Vatican
Monday, January 13, 2003

mourn for all the lives now threatened — indeed, already lost — by the failure of their leaders to find alternatives to war. May God bless all our efforts to bring light into a world under the shadow of war."

from <http://www.nccusa.org/>

In January, a group of 46 leaders of the National Council of Churches had requested a face-to-face meeting with President George Bush to express their opposition to the war. Bush refused.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S WAR ON IRAQ Adopted by the ILWU Local 142 Executive Board on March 20, 2003

WHEREAS the Bush administration has not proved its case that Saddam Hussein is linked to al-Qaida, or responsible for the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, or an imminent threat to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS the unilateral, preemptive war that the Bush administration is waging is in violation of the United States Constitution, as an act of war requires a declaration by Congress. Bush's war violates the United Nations Charter and international law, undermines a peacekeeping process that has existed for over fifty-seven years, and has turned many of our allies against the U.S.; and

WHEREAS the claims of the Bush administration that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction is directly contravened by United Nations inspectors' reports, and current U.N. efforts to affect the peaceful disarmament of Iraq are working; and

WHEREAS war on Iraq will cost the lives of American military and reserve personnel—mostly the sons and daughters of working families. We do not want our rank and file soldiers to give their lives fighting an unjust war. War on Iraq will devastate an already suffering Iraqi society, half of whom are children. A report prepared by Nobel Prize recipient International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) estimates that between 48,000 and 260,000 civilians and combatants will die in just the first three months of war, and that postwar health problems could cause another 200,000 deaths; and

WHEREAS war will not make us safer from terrorism. On the contrary, an unprovoked war may be interpreted as an attack on all Muslims, fueling hatred for America and giving rise to more terrorist attacks against the U.S.; and

WHEREAS the U.S. is spending billions of dollars on an unjust war at a time of economic crisis, taking money away from hospitals, schools, housing, and social programs urgently needed by the poor, the unemployed and the elderly. It is still not clear how much the war and the efforts to rebuild Iraq would cost—estimates range from close to 100 billion to over 1 trillion dollars; and

WHEREAS the Bush administration's focus on war diverts attention from its anti-worker agenda. The Bush administration has interfered with the contract negotiations of ILWU West Coast longshore by using the Taft-Hartley Act against them, stripped 170,000 government employees—now part of the new Homeland Security Department—of their rights to collective bargaining, and proposed legislation allowing the government to suspend many union rights in the event of war. Bush's budget provides huge tax cuts for the wealthiest 1% of Americans while slashing funding for programs that benefit the poor and working people of our country; and

WHEREAS the climate of fear fostered by the Bush administration has allowed the passage of the Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act, which have taken away basic rights in the name of national security. This climate of fear is heightened by the Bush administration's rush to war, and is fertile ground for further curtailment of our civil liberties, as evinced by the proposal of Patriot Act II, which expands the scope of the Patriot Act; and

WHEREAS the ILWU has a proud history of opposing unjust wars, in accordance with our objectives as stated in the Preamble of our Constitution "... to advance the living standards of our fellow workers everywhere in the world, to promote the general welfare of our nation and our communities, to banish racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, to strengthen democracy everywhere and achieve permanent peace in the world . . .";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 142 joins with others in the labor community and citizens around the world in opposition to unilateral, preemptive war against the people of Iraq; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the ILWU Local 142 urges the Bush administration to end this war as quickly as possible and work toward peace in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the ILWU Local 142 encourages its members to publicly oppose this war by joining in mass protest, signing petitions, speaking out to educate fellow members, and other means; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the ILWU Local 142 calls on the Bush administration to live up to its responsibility to American working families and stop its war "at home" on worker rights, immigrant rights, and civil rights immediately.

Civil rights activist Nikki Bridges Flynn: 1923-2003

By Steve Stallone
Editor, ILWU Dispatcher

Noriko “Nikki” Sawada Bridges Flynn, former ILWU President Harry Bridges’ wife for the last 31 years of his life, died Feb. 7 at age 79 from complications of a chronic illness. But Nikki was much more than the spouse of a legendary labor leader—she was a civil rights activist and poet in her own right, an orator with quick wit and a sharp tongue.

Nikki was born in 1923 in Gardena, Calif., the daughter of Japanese immigrant farm workers. When President Roosevelt ordered the internment of all Japanese Americans on the West Coast into “relocation camps” in 1942, Nikki and her family were sent to live in Poston, Arizona for three years. The concentration camp was built on a poverty-ridden Indian reservation. Nikki and her parents were assigned to share a 25 by 25 foot unpartitioned structure with what she described as a “stranger-bachelor” since the rules required four people in each shelter. When the war was over and the internees released, the camp’s officers warned them that once outside, they could not congregate in groups of more than five.

But now the family’s leased farm (Japanese immigrants weren’t allowed to own land or become citizens) and all their possessions were gone. They ended up in the Bay Area where Nikki supported them on her salary as a secretary. She became politically active, working with the War Relocation Authority, the American Council on Race Relations, the Berkeley Interracial Committee and the CIO because of its anti-racist activities.

She met Harry Bridges while working for the famous radical attorney Charles Garry. Bridges and Garry were co-sponsoring a fundraising event for the Mine, Mill and Smelters Union in 1958 when Garry introduced the two. Bridges asked her out and ten days after their first date they eloped to Reno, Nevada.

But even their wedding would become a political struggle. When

they went to the marriage license bureau, the clerk told them there was a state law forbidding a Caucasian from marrying an Asian, Black or American Indian. Nikki, a self-described “smart ass,” responded, “What’s so sinister about a person of color seeking to marry a colorless individual?”

But this couple was not to be deterred. They filed a suit against the law and Bridges made the media aware of the situation. The case received national and international attention. Three days later the courtroom was packed with reporters and civil and ethnic rights proponents when the U.S. District Court judge ruled in their favor. They dashed to the clerk’s office with the court order, received their marriage license and were married that day. In its next session the Nevada state legislature rescinded the racist law, but it wouldn’t be until 1967 that the U.S. Supreme Court would rule race-based marriage restrictions unconstitutional.

In 1959 Nikki gave birth to the couple’s daughter, Katherine.

Nikki had attended one year at Santa Ana Junior College before her internment. She went back to school at age 50, taking writing classes at San Francisco State University. She quickly blossomed into a writer, drawing on her personal experiences and her cultural heritage for stories that were published in, among others, Harpers Magazine, Ms. Magazine and Reader’s Digest. She also received the University of Missouri’s “Penny Award” for literature.

Nikki continued her civil rights work and was an active member of



Harry Bridges and Noriko Sawada wed in Reno after challenging Nevada’s law preventing interracial marriage, December 1958. Photo courtesy UPI.

the Japanese Women’s Group and the Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition, which awarded her its highest honor, the “Woman Warrior Award” for “Community Advocacy and Politics.”

When the U.S. government finally formally apologized to Japanese Americans for the war time internment in 1990 at a congressional ceremony in San Francisco, Nikki read her poem “To Be or Not To Be: There is No Such Option.” The poem is a wrenching exploration of the racism she and her parents were subjected to before, during and after the internment and her own internal struggle to come to grips with her identity as both an American and a woman of Japanese ancestry. Nikki later printed the poem and donated the proceeds from its sale to the Reparation Committee of the Japanese-American Citizens League.

Later that year her husband died. An IBU ferryboat brought his family, friends and colleagues out of the San Francisco Bay past the Golden Gate Bridge where his ashes were scattered. At the memorial, in her typical witty and frank way, Nikki told the gathered mourners, “It has been my honor, my privilege and a source of considerable irritation to have shared 31 years of Harry’s life.”

In 1994 Nikki remarried, wedding Ed Flynn, the retired president of the Pacific Maritime Association.

Although Flynn had been Harry’s adversary across the bargaining table for years, they had developed a friendship, which Nikki continued. This time Nikki chose May Day for the date and the Olympic Club in San Francisco for the site because the city had just won a lawsuit forcing it to admit women as full members.

Nikki retained her connection with the ILWU throughout her last years, helping endow the Harry Bridges Chair at the University of Washington’s Center for Labor Studies and serving as honorary chair of the Harry Bridges Institute. She also offered her considerable prestige to the successful campaign to get the city and Port of San Francisco to name the plaza in front of the Ferry Building the Harry Bridges Plaza.

At her request, when Nikki died, she had her ashes taken out aboard an IBU ferryboat past the Golden Gate Bridge to be scattered like Harry’s. At the memorial Nikki’s grandchild Marie Shell read her poem “To Be or Not To Be: There is No Such Option.”

Nikki is survived by her husband Ed Flynn and five stepchildren, daughter Katherine Wiggins, stepson Robbie Bridges, grandchildren (on the Bridges side) Richard and Marie Shell, Kevin Fales, Nicole and Annie Bridges, and Hunter Wiggins.

Visitor counts up; January 2003 sees 12 percent increase in “visitor days”

HONOLULU—More visitors and longer stays resulted in a 12 percent increase in visitor days for January 2003 compared to the same month last year. Much of this increase is credited to the NFL Pro Bowl which attracted nearly 18,000 visitors to Hawaii.

A total of 53,784 more visitors were in Hawaii in January 2003 than last January. Of this number, more than half or 27,289 were from Japan and other countries. The number of visitors from the mainland increased by 26,495. These visitors also stayed slightly longer, which translates into a 19.1 percent

increase in international visitor days and a 9.9 percent increase in domestic (mainland) visitor days. These numbers are based on data collected by the States Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). For more visitor data, see the DBEDT website at www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/monthly.

“Visitor days” is computed by multiplying the number of visitors by the length of their stay in Hawaii. This gives a better picture of the real impact of tourism than just the number of visitor arrivals.

Lanai reported the biggest in-

crease in arrivals with 30 percent more visitors than last January. Maui followed with an 18.7 percent increase. Oahu and Kauai had similar increases of around 10.9 percent. The Big Islands increase was a modest 9.3 percent and Molokai reported a decrease of 6.1 percent.

With the exception of the Big Island, the strong visitor counts resulted in higher occupancy and higher room rates for Oahu, Maui, and Kauai. As a result, hotels on these islands had a significant average increase of 18.5 percent in

revenues per room for the three islands. Maui had the highest average room rates at \$193 per night, while Oahu had the highest occupancy at 73.7 percent. These numbers are based on monthly surveys conducted by Smith Travel Research and includes hotels, condo hotels, hostels, and bed and breakfast rooms.

The Big Island had slightly higher room rates (\$2 more) which were offset by slightly lower occupancy rates (about one percent lower). The net result was January 2003 was almost the same as January 2002.