



VOICE OF THE ILWU

HONOLULU HAWAII
LOCAL 142

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March 2004

Ownership change at Grand Wailea Members continue fight for fair contract

WAILEA, Maui—Another new owner but management's the same—and so the fight for a fair wages and benefits continues for 900 ILWU members at the Grand Wailea Resort on Maui. Since the super luxury hotel opened in 1991, it has changed ownership five times and management three times. The latest ownership change was in April 2004.



Conditions for the workers have also changed drastically. At one time, their ILWU contract gave them the highest wages and benefits in the industry, until owner number four—KSL Recreation—took over the property in 1998. KSL wanted to fire all the workers and bring in a new workforce at much lower wages and benefits.

The ILWU fought back with a campaign to “keep the workers working.” The union helped the workers build community and political support. Pressure was put on KSL's parent company

KKR (Kolhberg, Kravis, and Roberts). Grand Wailea workers held rallies and demonstrations.

First class hotel, second class wages

KSL finally agreed to give preference in hiring the former workers but continued to demand cuts in wages and benefits. The new owners wanted a first-class hotel but was only willing to pay second-class wages. It would take another 19 months of member mobilizing and hard bargaining by the ILWU to get an acceptable

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Save Poamoho Camp

HONOLULU—Over 300 people, mostly ILWU pineapple members, their families and retirees, living in 60 homes in Poamoho Camp in Central Oahu are in danger of being evicted and losing their homes by the end of June 2004. Poamoho is an old pineapple plantation camp run by Del Monte for its employees. The camp sits on 30 acres out of 2200 acres leased by Del Monte from the Galbraith estate.

In February, Del Monte informed Poamoho residents that the company will not be renewing its lease with the Galbraith Estate and all 300 residents must move out of their homes by the end of June. Del Monte plans to demolish the houses, remove pineapple from the rest of the 2200 acres, and return the land to Galbraith.

The notice caught the residents
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Ethanol bill would help sugar industry

HONOLULU—Four ILWU members gave testimony in committee hearings of the Hawaii State Legislature to urge lawmakers to support new legislation that would help the sugar industry survive in Hawaii. One proposed law would require that gasoline sold in the State be made of a blend of at least 10 percent ethanol. This would reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported

fossil fuels (gasoline and oil) by using ethanol which can be locally produced from sugar or molasses, a sugar by-product. A second bill gives companies a tax credit for capital investments in ethanol producing facilities.

If these laws are passed, Hawaii sugar companies would have a ready market for some of their sugar and molasses production.

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What about working people?

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for their contributions to the ILWU

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“I will always consider Poamoho my home.” page 8

ADDRESS LABEL

Next Local Executive Board Meeting scheduled for June 24-25, 2004 • 10:00 am • 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu

WASHINGTON D.C. REPORT

Bush lies, proposes dishonest budget

by Lindsay McLaughlin
ILWU Legislative Director

A national budget is a statement about our values and priorities as a nation. On Feb. 3, 2004, President Bush presented his proposed budget to the U.S. Congress. It slashes programs to create jobs, to provide health care for Americans and to strengthen public education. Instead, Bush proposes to funnel money to the wealthiest of Americans and supports more “outsourcing” of American jobs.

Just four years ago, the U.S. had a \$236 billion surplus that we were using to strengthen Social Security by paying down America’s debt. Today, we are faced with a budget that creates the largest deficit in the history of the U.S. Worse, Bush’s budget is wholly dishonest. Its numbers are cooked for political purposes

and it fails to include the out-of-control costs of the military occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bush budget will not create jobs

Bush claims his budget will create jobs. He has to at least pretend it will because he has the worst jobs record since Herbert Hoover. Over the last three years, the U.S. has lost three million jobs. And his projections of jobs created by his policies are at best delusional—at worst, just more lies.

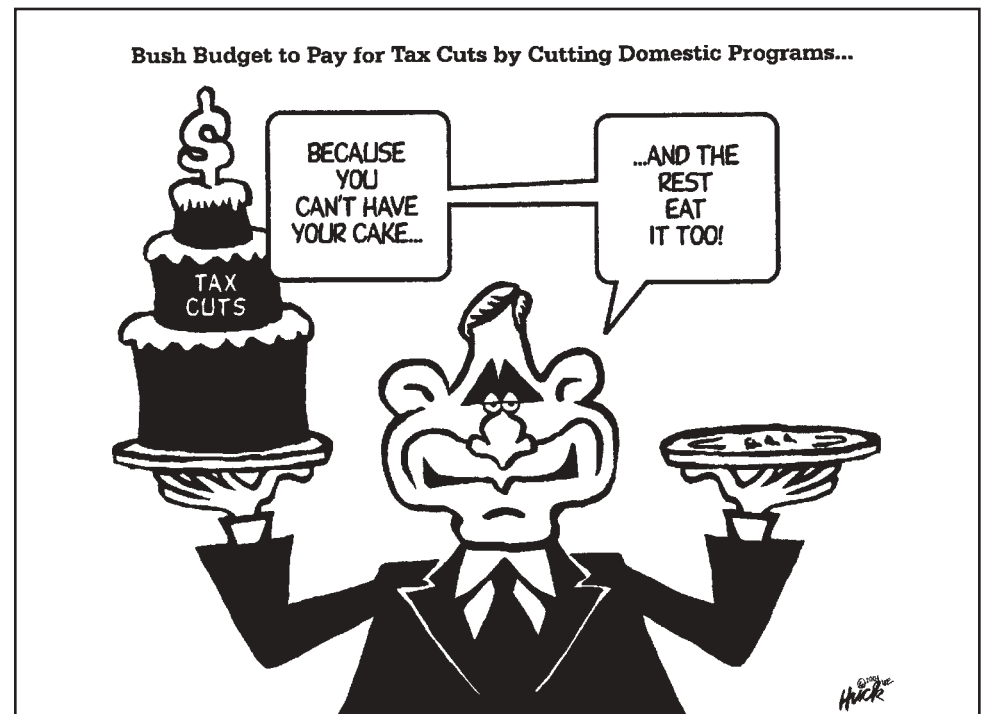
The Bush budget will only make a bad situation worse. It cuts \$286 million from job training and employment services, on top of the \$1.5 billion in cuts to job training and related services Bush has proposed since he took office. It also puts funds for adult and dislocated workers programs in block grants to states, jeopardizing the few remaining resources to retrain laid off workers for other occupations.

More money for the greedy

Two million Americans are expected to exhaust their unemployment benefits over the coming months. The Republicans refuse to extend these benefits to the needy because they want more money for the greedy. To do that Bush proposes to make his expiring tax cuts permanent at a cost of \$131.6 billion over five years. The budget would give away approximately \$1 trillion of tax cuts to the wealthy over the next 10 years.

Under Bush’s plan, the wealthiest five percent of Americans would receive nearly half of the payoff from the trillion-dollar tax cut, more than what the bottom 90 percent of American households receive.

The budget includes tax breaks for companies that move jobs overseas. Bush’s economic report



as well as his chief economic advisor Gregory Mankiw said it was good to send jobs out of the country. Bush’s report says “The loss of work to other countries, while painful in the short term, will enrich our economy eventually.”

Encouraging outsourcing

In Bush’s State of the Union Address Jan. 20 he said, “Much of our job growth will be found in high-skilled fields like health care.” But his economic advisor Mankiw said, “We will outsource jobs to lower-wage countries as a way to help control the upward spiral of health care costs in the United States of America.”

So Bush lies about trying to create jobs, and then sends his minions out to tell the truth that they are intentionally trying to destroy good-paying jobs because it is good for some corporate bottom line. What planet is this guy from?

Transportation budget “all talk, no action”

Bush fails to fund a part of the budget that economists agree would create jobs—transportation infrastructure. For every \$1 billion spent on infrastructure, 47,000 jobs are created. Under the six-year, \$256 billion proposal for highway and transit spending unveiled in Bush’s budget, 5.6 million fewer workers would land good jobs that under leading bipartisan proposals in Congress. That plan would create about twice the number of jobs Bush has destroyed since he took office.

“The budget is all talk, no action when it comes to meeting the transportation needs of our

country,” Ed Wytkind, President of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO said. “Instead of fixing crumbling roads and bridges, improving and expanding public transit and Amtrak, and making air travel safer and more efficient, President Bush has put forward a budget blueprint that is heavy on rhetoric, but light on accomplishment.”

On other infrastructure programs, Bush’s short changes our ports by refusing to adequately fund the Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with critical navigation projects. The marine transportation system is facing a crisis as a result of continued insufficient federal funding for the Corps to perform dredging to deepen channels. The Corps is not maintaining the Port of Redwood City, California which employs ILWU members, because the administration has refused to release money to maintain the channel.

Keeping work places unsafe

Bush’s budget ensures that American workplaces will be dangerous. Adjusting for inflation, Bush proposes to slash the

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WORDS TO KNOW

bipartisan—1) of, related to, or involving members of two parties; 2) supported by both sides.

infrastructure—1) the underlying foundation or basic framework (as of a system or organization); 2) the permanent installations required for military purposes; 3) the system of public works of a country, state, or region; also, the resources (as personnel, buildings, or equipment) required for an activity.

OSHA—The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a federal government agency and part of the Department of Labor.

Pell Grants—The Federal Pell Grant is an award for undergraduates with no prior bachelor’s or professional degree. Eligibility is based on need.

rhetoric—1) study of the technique and rules for using language effectively (especially in public speaking); 2) loud and confused and empty talk; “mere rhetoric”; 3) high flown style; excessive use of verbal ornamentation; 4) using language effectively to please or persuade.

Definitions from Merriam-Webster online dictionary (<http://www.m-w.com/dictionary.htm>), Hyperdictionary (www.hyperdictionary.com) and the U.S. Department of Labor (http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/2004_2005/english/types.htm).



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Editor: Mel Chang

Bush budget exposed—continued from page 2

Occupational Safety and Health Administration by \$6.5 million. For the third year in a row, he is proposing to slash OSHA's worker training and education programs, from \$11.1 million to \$4 million.

Medicare? Don't count on it

The Bush budget is most callous in its cut to health care for the nation's impoverished. This year's budget once again proposes to disperse Medicaid funds through block grant to the states. Under the proposal, states have the option to cut benefits to certain Medicaid populations and to roll back benefits.

Underfunding education

The Bush budget also give lie to his much-touted commitment to education. It provides only half the funds promised for after-school programs, freezes funding for Pell grants for students trying

to afford college and cuts \$22 million from reading programs. The administration highlighted \$250 million of funding for job training programs for community colleges, but other job-training funds were cut by close to \$300 million. The budget cuts another \$316 million in vocational training funding from the Department of Education. In all, Bush has proposed \$1.5 billion in spending reductions for job training and vocational education since he took office.

Money for war profiteering

The bipartisan Congressional Budget Office reviewed Bush's budget and concluded that it not only would fail to cut the deficit in half in five years as Bush claims, but it would actually add another \$2.75 trillion to the debt over the next 10 years. And that does not even include any money for the biggest sink hole of Bush

policies—the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq—past this September. The White House has acknowledged it will ask Congress for another \$50 billion for the wars after the election.

The only way for Bush to pay for his military ventures and pay off Haliburton, SSA and other corporations profiteering from the war during this period is to steal yet more money from programs that help the poor and needy and transfer the money to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Values, principles and priorities: The Bush budget values the WEALTHY. Its principle is to take money from the needy and give it to the greedy. The Bush priorities include JOB DESTRUCTION and more profits for corporations. If you disagree with the Bush budget, let your member of Congress know. They can be reached at (202) 225-3121. ♦

LONGSHORE UPDATE

ILA and United Maritime Alliance reach agreement on six year pact

TAMPA, Florida—Negotiators for the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance representing longshore employers announced agreement on a six-year master contract on March 23, 2004. The agreement comes six months before the September 30 expiration of the contract. The union will continue to negotiate separate, local agreements covering port-specific conditions and rules. ILA members on the East Coast and Gulf ports are scheduled to vote on both the master contract and their local agreements on June 1, 2004.

The ILA and ILWU are two separate unions with very different traditions and organizations. The ILWU represents longshore and other workers on the West Coast and Hawaii.

The ILA agreement will increase the pay for regular longshore workers from \$27 an hour to \$31 an hour in the last year of the contract in 2010. There are \$1 an hour increases in the first, third, fifth, and sixth year of the contract.

Unlike the ILWU, the ILA has a two-tiered wage system which was established in their 1996 contract. New workers will start at \$16 an hour. Their wages would increase by a total of \$7 over the life of the contract to \$23 in the last year.

The new agreement also includes an agreement over technology issues and increased employer funding for health and welfare benefits. While management agreed to increase its payments for health and welfare, the union accepted changes that include multiple levels of benefits and increased co-payments. ♦

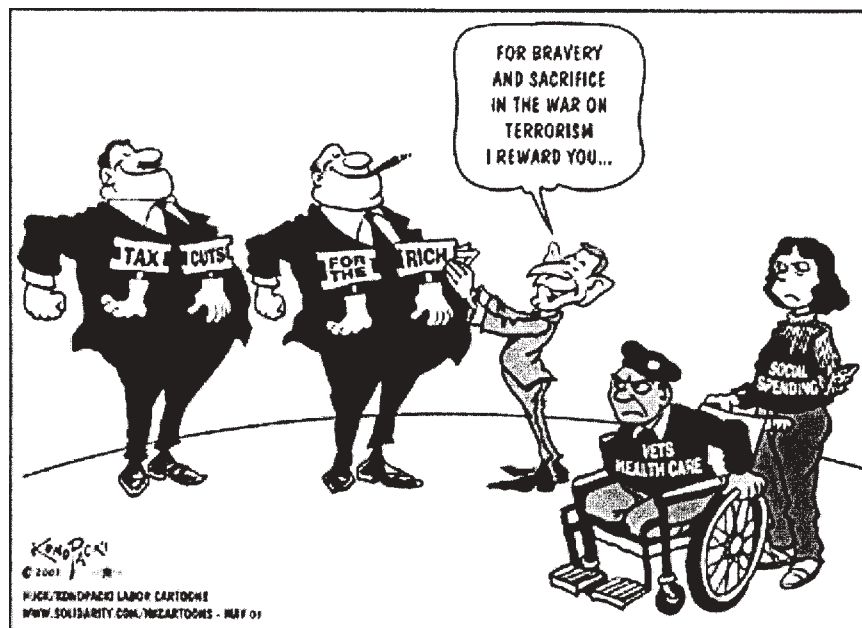
✂ cut and post

Take Our Money...Give it to the Rich

Bush's Tax Cuts were giveaways to the rich.

Bush gave away so much of our tax money that there's . . .

- no money left to fix our highways
- no money to improve our schools
- no money to deal with our community's drug problems
- no money to fund the Medicare program
- no money to take care of Social Security
- no money to pay our soldiers a decent wage



The most wealthy people in America will get over 72% of the tax cut. The rest of us got peanuts. The tax burden on business is the lowest in history. The burden was taken away from the rich and dumped on the middle class and the poor. This is the tax cut Bush now wants to make permanent.

Bush doesn't care. This was all part of his plan. This is the Republican master plan to

dismantle government—giving the valuable parts to business (they call this privatizing) and gutting the social side that takes care of people (Social Security, Medicare, education, environmental protection, health and welfare, labor rights).

This is why Union members like us must get involved and put a stop to this outrage.

This is the Republican master plan to dismantle government—giving the valuable parts to business (they call this privatizing) and gutting the social side that takes care of people.

Take our Country Back in 2004

Register to vote and support your Union Political Action Program

The VOICE of the ILWU welcomes letters, photographs and other submissions. Write to: Editor, VOICE of the ILWU, 451 Atkinson Dr. Honolulu, HI 96814

Oahu awards recognize service to members and community

HONOLULU—A downpour soaked Oahu on February 27, 2004. High winds, heavy rain, thunder and lightning gridlocked Oahu streets. Many areas were flooded, trees were downed, and power was knocked out in Salt Lake and Pearl City. Mud and debris slides further worsened travel into Honolulu.

But the terrible traffic and treacherous weather did not deter some very dedicated Oahu ILWU members. They braved the elements to attend the Oahu Division Executive Board (DEB) and annual awards dinner scheduled for that evening. Not all award winners were able to attend, but several did.

The DEB agenda was suspended at 6:45 p.m. and Division Education Coordinator Karl Lindo rose to thank the rank-and-file and retired members who contributed so much to the union in 2003.

Every year, an "MVP" or Most Valuable Pensioner award is given to two retirees for their outstanding participation in union programs. This year Bob Freitas of the Love's Bakery Pensioner Club and Esther Scharsch of the Dole Pineneers were chosen for the honor. "They have been really great in coordinating the pensioner activities, like the weekend BINGO events," said Division Pensioner Coordinator Larry Ruiz.

"Community Service" awards are also given out, this year to Chairperson Kenneth Ige of Unit 4412 - Servco Pacific Inc. and Steward Ted-Hugh "Keli" Johnston of Unit 4404 - Pepsi Bottling Group. Ige was praised for his volunteer work in the ILWU's political action and sports programs. Johnston is a long-time volunteer with the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) annual food drive.

Two "Most Inspirational Leader" awards were given out for 2003. One was awarded to Unit 4404 - Pepsi Bottling Group's former Chairperson Sharon Basmayor. Although not currently on the job, Sharon continues to come to union meetings and attend political action functions. According to Division Director Dave Mori, "it's hard to find leaders of

Sharon's caliber."

The other inspirational leader award was given to a group of members—the workers at new Unit 4310 - Dole Plantation Store. Business Agent Brandon Bajo-Daniel particularly praised the negotiating committee as a core group of strong members who held the unit together for almost a year while they worked to get a first contract.

The "Outstanding Stewards" for 2003 were Ruth Bersabal of Unit 4420 - Straub Clinic & Hospital and David Gravatt of Unit 4420 - Kapiolani Medical Center. According to Business Agent Brian Tanaka, "Ruth is the backbone of the unit. She attends almost all unit meetings and her persistence in the new hire program makes her second to none. David has been very instrumental in keeping his department involved and informed."

"Unit Leader of the Year" awards went to Dillon Hullinger of Unit 4405 - Foodland Super Market Ltd. and Rendell Banis of Unit 4415 - Mililani Town Association. Dillon, who is chairperson for the unit, manages to build communication in his unit despite the obstacle of having 16 locations islandwide. Rendell is a true unit leader, resolving problems in the workplace and keeping his members informed and involved.

The "Outstanding Units" for 2003 were Unit 4421 - Waikele Golf Club, Inc. (1-29 members); Unit 4408 - Weyerhaeuser (30-99 members); and Unit 4420 - Sodexho, Inc. (100 & over members). Waikele Golf Club members struggled for two years to negotiate their contract. In 2003 they put their jobs on the line with a strike vote. A settlement followed, and although the unit is made up of only 18 members they pulled together and came through with dignity.

Weyerhaeuser negotiations are handled by a spokesperson from the mainland on management's side, who typically comes for a one-week period during which the contract is settled. In 2003, management dropped a bombshell at the end of the negotiation week, asking for

major concessions on the medical plan. The spokesperson left town faced with a possible strike. When word got back to the corporate office about how strongly members supported the efforts of their union negotiating committee and that the concessions were not acceptable, management withdrew its proposal. The medical and retiree medical benefits were preserved.

Sodexho workers are some of the lowest paid workers in the health care field. But what is so significant about them is the way they persist and continue to grow as union members. They suffered from a company split-off from Straub when they were organizing into the union. Despite the setback, they continued to organize. They

work hard for the gains in their contract, and are active participants in the union. 94% of the membership attended the most recent contract ratification vote. 90% of Sodexho members voted in the 2003 union officer election. Sodexho members should be proud that they are setting a standard for participation toward which all ILWU units should aim. ♦



(L-r) Business Agent and Division pensioner program coordinator Larry Ruiz and Bob Freitas, who was honored as "MVP" or Most Valuable Pensioner for 2003. Freitas is a member of the Oahu Love's Bakery pensioner club.



Unit 4408 - Weyerhaeuser Co. won the award for Outstanding Unit, 30-99 Members. Unit Chairperson Sililo Pale (l) and Steward Clarence Ledward (r) accept the award on behalf of their members from Oahu Division Director Dave Mori.



Kenneth Ige (r) receives a 2003 Oahu Division Award for Community Service from Business Agent Brandon Bajo-Daniel for his participation in the ILWU's political action and sports programs.



Unit 4405 - Foodland Super Market Ltd.'s Chairperson Dillon Hullinger (r) was chosen as one of two Unit Leaders of the Year by Oahu Division. According to his Business Agent Karl Lindo (l), "Dillon really grew as a Unit Chair last year. He really took the initiative to bring things up about the unit and help take care of them."

MEET YOUR OAHU DIVISION OFFICERS



Dave Mori
Oahu Division Director

Dave Mori is the only remaining Oahu fulltime officer who hails from the sugar industry. "Historically, the strength of the ILWU has always been in its democratic nature and its ability to empower rank-and-file union members to take on challenges to improve their lives and places of work. As a union member, you have both the right and the responsibility to be an active part of the ILWU. The union is not a separate entity that makes things better for you; we are the union, and through our collective work, we make things better for ourselves. Every one of you is needed to make a strong ILWU."



Shane Ambrose
Oahu Division Business Agent

Shane Ambrose is one of two Oahu Business Agents from Unit 4405 - Foodland Super Market Ltd. "I first started as a rank-and-file member in 1990 at Foodland as a grocery clerk, then served as a temporary Business Agent and on the Local Executive Board. During my term, I'd like to meet as many members as I can one-on-one to talk about issues that affect them and their unit. I ran for office to give back to the union what it has given me and apply the things I've learned in service of the members. I am looking forward to meeting you, learning more about your industry, and about the concerns you have on the job."



Brandon Bajo-Daniel
Oahu Division Business Agent

Brandon Bajo-Daniel hails from the Unit 4306 - Del Monte Fresh Produce. "I want the members to believe in the union. I will try to accomplish this by doing the best I can for them, establishing good relationships and acting with integrity. I ran for office to work with other elected officers to make a difference in this union, and I believe we can do it. Coming from Molokai and living on Maui, I have seen two industries—sugar and pineapple—go downhill. That is why I feel we need to get involved with political action, to make sure other industries stay strong and viable. Remember, 'an injury to one is an injury to all.'"



Karl Lindo
Oahu Division Business Agent

Karl Lindo worked at the Hawaiian Waikiki Beach Hotel and was a union organizer before becoming a Business Agent. "I hope to continue helping members learn and understand their rights as union members, and to do my best to represent them at the workplace. I believe in what the ILWU stands for and feel its important to serve the union and the membership. The members are what makes the ILWU a great union. Because of their support and participation, I feel I can make a difference in improving their lives as union members."



Larry Ruiz
Oahu Division Business Agent

Larry Ruiz is the other of two Business Agents from Unit 4405 - Foodland Super Market Ltd., Oahu's single largest unit. "My goals include getting good contracts for our members, and that means getting more members involved in the activities of the unit. When members are active and educated—and the company knows it—we negotiate from a position of strength. I will also work to process grievances in a timely manner, and try to find grievance resolutions that are "win-win"—good for the workers and the company."



Tyrone Tahara
Oahu Division Business Agent

Tyrone Tahara serves as the longshore industry Business Agent and is from Unit 4201 - McCabe, Hamilton & Renny. "My goal is for the Hawaii Longshore Division to have closer communications and ties with the West Coast Longshore, Wharf Clerks, Maintenance & Repair, Warehouse, Clerical Locals and the International. This is the only way we can learn from them and prepare for negotiations in 2008. When I first ran for office, there were a few long-time members holding thing together, who made many sacrifices for the cause of the Union. I urge everyone, especially the new hires, to get involved to maintain what we have in our contract."



Brian Tanaka
Oahu Division Business Agent

Brian Tanaka is one of two Business Agents who are on leave from Unit 4406 - The Honolulu Advertiser to serve the union. "My main focus over the next triennium is to work to improve the living and working standards of our members. We can accomplish this by mobilizing members to build strong units, negotiating strong contracts, and making a commitment to police those contracts diligently. I will do my best to represent the needs and concerns of the rank-and-file members of the ILWU. I will listen to your concerns, keeping an open ear and open mind. The most important thing is that as members, we remain united; our unity gives us strength on the job."



Michael Yamaguchi
Oahu Division Business Agent

Mike Yamaguchi also from Unit 4406 - The Honolulu advertiser, is a first-time officer. "My main goal is to educate members about their rights under the contract. Management knows that many workers don't know their rights. I don't want members to feel intimidated by management if the contract is violated. With education, members will know what they can and should do when that happens. The number one fear of management is an educated union member. We also need to negotiate good contracts that continue to give good pay, benefits, and pensions so that members can raise and support their families, and to encourage more members to actively participate in the union."



Wilson / UCS



Carol Alviar
Division Clerk

Grand Wailea members fight for fair contract

continued from page 1

labor agreement. That contract ran three years from July 2000 to October 31, 2003.

The contract fell short in a number of areas, but it was far better than what KSL first proposed. Grand Wailea members decided to live with the second rate conditions of that first contract, but in future negotiations they fully intended to recover lost gains and bring Grand Wailea wages and benefits up to previous first-class levels.

When the negotiations for a second contract between the ILWU and KSL started in November 2003, it was clear that KSL was not interested in improving conditions for their employees. Instead, KSL wanted more cuts in wages and benefits—proposing to make employees pay for meals and pay more for their medical coverage.

To make matters worse, KSL is using attorney Greg Sato as their negotiator. Sato is from the “business-oriented” law firm of Torkildson, Katz, Fonseca, Jaffe, Moore & Herington. Sato is involved in other negotiations with the ILWU, where negotiations have dragged on for a long time at the expense of both management and workers. On the Big Island he is representing an employer who wants a 15% cut in wages. On Kauai, he is complicating negotiations for a small group of condominium owners by arguing for unusual union security language. With so many negotiations going on at the same time, Sato has caused scheduling problems and long delays for all groups.

Hotel for sale

In the middle of these negotiations, KSL announced that the hotel was being sold. Besides negotiating a new contract, the union also had to be concerned about protecting the job security of Grand Wailea members.

In mid-February, it appeared that real estate investment firm CNL Hospitality Properties would be the buyer. The deal was finalized on April 2, 2004, with CNL paying \$2.2 billion for the Grand Wailea and five other KSL resort properties—Doral Resort & Spa in Miami, La Quinta Resort & Club in California, the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix; the Claremont Resort & Spa in Berkeley, Calif; and Lake Lanier Islands Resort near Atlanta.

As part of the deal, KSL Recreation will continue to manage the hotel until the end of this year. At that time, KSL would have to



Grand Wailea workers stand together for a fair contract.

compete with other companies such as Marriott to win a longer-term management contract. Both Marriott and KSL currently manage other properties owned by CNL.

CNL is the nation's second largest hotel Real Estate Investment Trust (Host Marriott is the largest), with a portfolio of 136 hotels and resorts with total assets of more than \$6 billion. A Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) is organized to take advantage of a special tax break that allows a company to avoid paying any corporate income tax. Instead the company must pay out at least 90 percent of its taxable profit as dividends to its stockholders. In addition, while REIT's are able to own and invest in real estate, they are prohibited from operating or managing their properties. This is why CNL must depend on companies like Marriott or KSL to manage their hotels.

Contract talks continue

With KSL still in charge of running the hotel, the ILWU has resumed contract talks with KSL management.

The union negotiating committee has been rallying Grand Wailea members for what will be a tough fight to get a fair contract. Over 500 members attended a series of informational meetings held on March 27 and 29. They made it clear they want KSL to respect and appreciate the work they do to make the hotel one of the world's best. Members made it clear they want the union to make improvements in the contract and to oppose the cuts sought by KSL. ♦

A history of the Grand Wailea Rise and fall of fortunes

WAILEA, Maui—When the super luxury hotel opened in 1991 as the Grand Hyatt Resort & Spa, it set a record, which still stands, as the most expensive hotel every built in Hawaii with a construction cost of \$600 million.

The hotel's owner, Japanese developer Takeshi Sekiguchi, had dreams of making it the best resort in the world. The hotel set new industry standards for luxury, with 53 suites, a massive spa, elaborate water features and \$30 million worth of art from such famed artists as Picasso, Warhol, Leger, Botero, and others. Room rates topped out at \$7,000 a night in 1991, and today range from \$465 to \$10,800.

The hotel, but more importantly its workers, began earning the industry's highest awards for excellence and outstanding service. The Grand Wailea Resort became known world-wide for the ultimate in service and luxury. Even though the hotel struggled financially, Grand Wailea workers were able to make steady gains, and by 1997 were earning the highest wages and benefits in the state, thanks to union contracts negotiated by the ILWU.

Shattered dreams

By 1992, recessions in the U.S. and Japan combined with George Bush's (the father) first war against Iraq hit Hawaii's tourism industry hard. Hawaii real estate values plummeted and many Japanese investors, who paid astronomical prices for U.S. and Hawaii properties, found themselves in deep financial trouble. Many of them, including Sekiguchi, had financed their purchases by borrowing most of the money from Japanese banks.

In 1993 Sekiguchi broke with

Hyatt and formed an independent management firm called the Grand Wailea Resort, Hotel & Spa to oversee the hotel. Sekiguchi had to buy out the remaining management contract from Hyatt Corporation at the contract's full value, rumored to be \$30 million. In 1995, Sekiguchi sued Hyatt for mismanagement.

Sekiguchi continued to run the Grand Wailea until 1998, when the banks finally foreclosed on his \$357 million mortgage and took control of the property. International Hotel Acquisitions is said to have purchased the property from Credit Suisse First Boston for between \$275 and \$310 million and then sold it six months later in December 1998 to KSL Recreation for \$373 million.

Under new management

KSL bought a different management style to the Grand Wailea and workers had to fight to keep their jobs and prevent even deeper cuts in wages and benefits. ILWU members at the hotel who are now involved in a contract struggle began to fall behind other ILWU hotels in wages and benefits.

In 2001 another recession and the 9/11 terrorists attacks caused a deep drop in Hawaii's tourism industry. There was also another war against Iraq in 2003 by George Bush (the son). The similarities with events 10 years ago are eerie. But there is one big difference, KSL appears to have sold the Grand Wailea at a profit. ♦

Helping the sugar industry: ethanol bill continued from page 1

This in turn would help protect the jobs and futures of hundreds of ILWU sugar workers.

Kauai members

Steven Weinstein, an ILWU member and a weighmaster at Gay & Robinson sugar plantation on Kauai, has worked in the sugar industry for 25 years. He told state lawmakers that the sugar industry has declined in the past ten years on Kauai, with the closures of McBryde Sugar and then Amfac Sugar. G&R has been doing all right and just about breaking even at today's sugar prices, but the future is very uncertain. "With the price of sugar on the world market barely competing with cheaper sugar from other countries and other



Steve Weinstein:

"... we don't know how much longer we can last."

sources of sugar, we don't know how much longer we can last," Weinstein testified. "If the market for ethanol is created and G&R can get tax credits to build an ethanol-producing facility, we have a good shot at keeping the plantation going—and preserving a way of life."

Jerry Lagazo, an irrigator at Gay & Robinson plantation, is a third generation sugar worker. "I think ethanol could be a lifesaver for the sugar industry in Hawaii," Lagazo said. "On top of producing sugar for food, G&R could use the bagasse that's left over to make ethanol. That will really help us at G&R." Lagazo explained how working on a sugar plantation is more than just a job—it is also a way of life. "G&R also gives us housing. I live in a plantation camp at Kaumakani. My kids are all grown now, but they were raised there. G&R has 400 plantation homes. If G&R shuts down, I don't know what will happen to these homes and where we will live. I hope you will think about us at G&R when you decide on these two bills. Our future is in your hands," Lagazo said.

Maui members

Maui member David Livergood spoke about how he moved from the Big Island to work for HC&S as a mechanic, repairing heavy equipment in the shop and in the field. "Working for the sugar company has been good for me and my wife. We own our own home and I make a comfortable



Jerry Lagazo:

"I think ethanol could be a lifesaver."

living. Sugar has been good to many of us working at HC&S," Livergood testified. "But in the past few years, the sugar industry has been going through rough times. Sugar prices have gone down and there's more competition from cheap foreign sugar. This year, we've been told that



Bob Zahl:

"Instead of dependence on oil from other countries that drives our gasoline prices sky high, it makes good sense to use something like ethanol."

David Livergood:

"Sugar has been good to many of us working at HC&S . . . but in the past few years, the sugar industry has been going through rough times."

HC&S is hurting because of bad weather and low prices. We might be lucky to just break even. If the State provides incentives for companies to produce ethanol, I figure those companies can use the molasses that HC&S produces. Right now, the molasses is shipped to the mainland and sold there. But we just found out that next year, the ships won't be able to transport the molasses so HC&S will be stuck with all this molasses on Maui. Ethanol plants will be a big help to HC&S. If HC&S is able to turn a profit, so will their workers. That's what we're counting on. I hope you will pass both bills," Livergood urged.

Another Maui member, Robert Bob Zahl has been working as an electrician at HC&S for 14 years. Zahl pointed out the many advantages of blending ethanol and gasoline. "I think the proposals to encourage ethanol production will be good for Hawaii. Ethanol is a renewable source of energy and can be made from locally produced molasses. Molasses is a by-product of the sugar we produce at HC&S. Instead of dependence on oil from other countries that drives our gasoline prices sky high, it makes good sense to use something like ethanol that we can produce right here in Hawaii. Ethanol is clean burning and has fewer pollutants than gasoline. It will be good for the environment and good for our economy," explained Zahl.

Your job and politics

These four ILWU members know how politics directly affects their jobs. That is why all ILWU members should register to vote and use the power of their vote to elect legislators who will pass laws to help working people. ♦

Important lesson for all

All ILWU members can learn important lessons from the events at the Grand Wailea Resort. In the current economic climate, many hotels and other companies are for sale or may change management. Grand Wailea members have learned the hard way that U.S. labor laws provide little protection when a company is sold. It is only by strongly supporting their union that Grand Wailea members have been able to secure their jobs and their wages and benefits.

Many ILWU units make the mistake of mobilizing only after negotiations break down. Grand Wailea members are learning they should have strengthened their union organization and mobilized members at least 6 to 9 months before the start of negotiations. Grand Wailea members are rallying in support of their union now, but this should have been done months earlier.

Economic conditions and management changes can happen suddenly and unexpectedly. Don't be caught unprepared.

If you are interested in becoming a steward or attending training classes, call your Business Agent at the ILWU Local 142 Division Office nearest you:

- Hawaii (808) 935-3727
- Maui (808) 244-9191
- Kauai (808) 245-3374
- Oahu (808) 949-4161

Residents rally to save Poamoho Camp

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by surprise. Many had been born and raised in the camp, which has become a tight-knit community where everyone knows each other. The residents wanted to save Poamoho—they didn't want their community destroyed.

More time needed

The ILWU moved quickly to help the residents save their community. The union has a lot of experience in converting plantation camps into low-cost housing for members and retirees. However, it would be almost impossible to develop such a housing program before the June

30 deadline.

The residents needed more time, so the union turned to the State Legislature to put pressure on Del Monte and the Galbraith Estate. Two resolutions were introduced in the State House of Representatives that called on Del Monte to extend its lease until at least December 2005 or provide financial assistance to aid the residents to seek housing solutions. The resolutions also requested Galbraith Estate to consider a lease agreement either to the Poamoho Community Association or to an entity of the residents' choice until at least December 2005.

A hearing on the resolutions was held on April 2, 2004. The ILWU, Del Monte member Boyd Isnec, and retirees Vaeleti Tyrell and Haunani Tyrell testified in support of the resolutions.

Solution found?

As a result of all the activities mounted to save Poamoho, private housing developer Peter Savio stepped forward with a solution that could save the community. His company would take over the lease, secure financing, and subdivide the land into lots

and homes that residents could purchase. In return, Savio would earn a fee of 5 percent plus costs.

On April 10, Poamoho residents voted to accept Savio's plan. Del Monte and the Galbraith Estate are also supporting the plan.

Below are excerpts from testimony give by ILWU members and retirees before the House Committees on Agriculture, and Labor and Public Employment on April 2, 2004.

Testimony of Haunani Tyrell

My name is Haunani Tyrell. I was hanaied to my grandparents and was raised in Poamoho Camp.

Poamoho Camp was a great place to grow up. Back then, there were lots of kids. We could go into anyone's yard, help ourselves to a fruit, play with the animals, talk story. Everyone treated us kids like their own family even though we were of many different cultures. My values and who I am today was shaped by growing up in Poamoho Camp.

I am a mother myself now. I have two young sons, age 3 and 1-1/2. I live in Whitmore Village with my own family, but I go to Poamoho Camp every day to have my grandparents baby-sit my children. I want them to develop the right values and way of thinking just like I did in Poamoho.

I will always consider Poamoho Camp my home. There's no place like it. I can't imagine it gone. It holds so many fond memories for me. My roots are in Poamoho.

I thank the Legislature for considering these resolutions to help my grandparents and all the others to stay at Poamoho Camp. I don't want the houses to be torn down. I want the community to be safe. I hope you will pass HCR 73 and HR 50 for the sake of all the Poamoho Camp residents and for the sake of everyone, like me, who have gained so much because Poamoho Camp exists.



Poamoho resident Randy Sanborn.

Testimony of Boyd Isnec

My name is Boyd Isnec and I am chairman of the ILWU Unit at Del Monte.

I am a lifelong resident of Poamoho Camp. My father came from the Philippines in 1946 and started working for Del Monte. He was given a house and raised all of his six children there. When I finished high school, I went to work for Del Monte too. I worked in all kinds of jobs and, through the company, I went to school at night to become a maintenance construction mechanic. I am grateful to Del Monte for my job and for my housing, where I raised my own four children.

Life has been good at Poamoho. When we were young, we used to have a baseball league and there were lots of families and single men living there. Everyone knew each other and we were a close-knit community. Today, we have 60 families in Poamoho and we're still a community. Many of the people living at Poamoho grew up there just like me. We know each other and we have a bond.

Sometimes people passing by don't even know that so many people live at Poamoho. Even though the camp is along the main highway, it's still a little secluded and lets us preserve our country lifestyle with gardens, chickens, and other animals. But in our camp, we have been able to raise honest, productive citizens who understand the value of hard work and community.



Poamoho Camp supporters House District 46 Rep. Michael Magaoay, House District 39 Rep. Marcus Oshiro, 58-year resident of Poamoho Doro Agduyeng, Bill Paty, and State House District 38 Rep. Marilyn Lee. (Below) Residents held a rally and press conference at the State Capitol on April 2, 2004.

