



VOICE OF THE ILWU

HONOLULU HAWAII
LOCAL 142

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May 2002

Union political action success New laws benefit working families

HONOLULU—Thanks to union political action, working families made big gains in this year's legislative session. Four significant pieces of new legislation sought by the ILWU were passed by state lawmakers. The Hawaii RX (SB 2520) and RX Expansion Program (HB 2834) will make prescription drugs more affordable for retirees and union members. Health Insurance Regulation (HB 1761) should help control the rapidly increasing cost of medical insurance, which affects wages and benefits on the job. A ban on discrimination based on genetic information (SB 2180) protects our members from unfair treatment by insurance companies and employers.

ADDRESS LABEL

Another very important piece of legislation sought by the ILWU, which would protect workers when a company is sold, narrowly failed passage by a single vote. The Employment Security Bill (SB 2118) would have required a new owner of a company to keep at least half of the workforce. The bill passed in the House but the vote in the Senate was tied at 12 yes and 12 no. Unfortunately, a bill does not pass with a tied vote.

Other important worker benefits and programs were protected or maintained. The Employment Training Fund (SB 733) which has provided funds to train thousands of workers was made permanent but will be funded at a reduced contribution rate. An attempt by Republicans to make workers pay up to 40% of the cost of medical coverage under the Prepaid Health law (HB 2750) was defeated.

The Legislature also passed a number of other laws which the ILWU supported, because of the benefit to working people. A new law which goes into effect two years from now sets a maximum price which can be charged for gasoline. A bottle

recycling bill will help protect our environment by reducing solid waste.

In all, this year's Legislative session was very productive and beneficial for Hawaii's working families. See below for more information on these new programs.

—continued on pages 2-3.

ILWU Local Executive Board Meeting Schedule:

- September 12-13, 2002
10:00 a.m., Harry Kamoku Hall (Hawaii Division Hilo Office, 100 W. Lanikaula Street)
- December 12-13, 2002
Time and location for the December LEB meeting will be printed in the VOICE prior to meeting date

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2002 HAWAII LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Union political action success New laws benefit working families—continued from page 1

ACT 76 (HB 2834, SD 2, CD 1) Reduce cost of Prescription Drugs.

This legislation will provide relief for consumers from the high cost of prescription drugs by establishing, within the Department of Human Services, a pharmaceutical discount program for all state residents under which the State obtains manufacturers' rebates on drugs that are offered at discounted prices to program participants. The program would take effect July 1, 2004. It provides reimbursement to participating pharmacists, establishes an advisory commission, and creates the Hawaii RX Special Fund. It also appropriates funds to develop a plan of implementation and to provide that plan to the Legislature before the 2004 Legislative session. This bill takes effect July 1, 2002.

ACT 75 (HB 1950, SD 2, CD 1) Expands Medicare Prescription Drug Eligibility.

This bill would establish a Medicaid prescription drug expansion program to offer discounted prescription drugs to qualified individuals whose income is at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. It also establishes the Medicaid prescription drug rebate special fund to receive all rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers from the prescription drug expansion program. The bill appropriates funds for rebates and administration of the program. It takes effect July 1, 2002.

The ILWU supported both of these bills because the high cost of prescription medication was causing extreme hardships for many retired ILWU members who have to pay for prescription drugs out-of-pocket. These programs would help reduce the cost of drugs by using the buying power of the state to negotiate lower prices from drug manufacturers.

ACT 74 (HB 1761, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1) Regulates Health Insurance Rates.

In a state where employers are required to provide health insurance benefits, this bill assists Hawaii's workers and their employers by ensuring a floor against inadequate or predatory rates and providing a safeguard against excessive or discriminatory rates.

It authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to regulate the rates of managed care plans, which includes health insurers, health maintenance organizations, and mutual benefit societies. It prohibits health insurance rates that are excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory, and requires

health care insurers to submit rate filings for approval by the Insurance Commissioner. Also, establishes penalties and appeal procedures. This bill takes effect on July 1, 2003.

The ILWU supported this bill because the increasing cost of medical plans is becoming a major issue in negotiations. Companies were either demanding that workers pay a larger portion of the cost of medical benefits or get less in wage increases and other benefits.

Almost all states have some form of medical premium rate regulation, and the idea behind this bill is to require medical insurance providers such as HMSA and Kaiser to provide information to and get approval from the State Insurance Commissioner for rate increases. This is already required for insurance companies selling workers' compensation, motor vehicle, and other property and casualty insurance lines. This would give the public some handle on determining whether these increases are fair and necessary.

SB 2180, SD 2, HD 1 Prohibits Discrimination Based on Genetic Information and Genetic Testing.

This legislation prohibits discrimination in employment due to an individual's or family member's genetic information. The law also prohibits insurance companies from requiring genetic testing or using genetic information as a condition to obtain benefits, coverage, or renewed coverage for health, life, and long-term care insurance.

ACT 77 (SB 2179, SD 2, HD 1, CD 2) Caps the Price of Gasoline.

This bill responds to long-standing concerns over the high price of gasoline in the State of Hawaii. The Legislature received valuable information as a result of the State's antitrust lawsuit against several major oil marketers, including that the major oil companies realize profit margins far in excess of the margins realized in other oligopolistic and equally concentrated markets.

The legislation increases the efficiency in the use of the State's energy resources by instituting measures to reduce the price of gasoline at the wholesale and retail level. It improves energy management in state facilities by requiring agencies to comply with certain energy efficiency standards, strategies, criteria and practices, which will save taxpayer dollars and reduce emissions.

More specifically, the bill establishes gasoline price caps effective July 1, 2004. It requires the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to analyze fuel prices and conduct audits under the Petroleum Industry Reporting Act. DBEDT is also required to conduct extensive analysis and develop a comprehensive report with recommendations before the 2003 Legislative session on further legislation that may be needed regarding the gasoline markets and price controls. The bill appropriates funds for the study. It becomes effective upon approval.



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Editor: Mel Chang

2002 HAWAII LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SB 733, SD 1, HD 1, CD 1 Provides Funds for Worker Training.

The Employment and Training Fund was set to expire at the end of 2002, but this bill makes the program permanent by assessing employers 0.01% of payroll which goes into the fund. It also requires employers who use these training programs to contribute 50% of the cost of the assistance in cash or in-kind contribution.

US employers spend less than 2% of their payroll on training and most of this is for managerial and supervisory employees. Regular workers receive very little training and what training they do receive is mostly informal on-the-job-training. In 1992 the ILWU supported the creation of the Employment Training Fund to provide more formal training for workers at all levels.

In its first year of operation in 1992, only 630 people took advantage of the free training offered by the State's Employment Training Fund (ETF). Last year, that number mushroomed to 18,576, a phenomenal increase that confirms the need and demand for worker training.

Employers can refer their employees to existing short-term, non-credit training courses such as those offered at the University of Hawaii Community Colleges and other ETF approved public and private training vendors. Training courses that are available include, but are not limited to: computer, business, management, health, medical training, or soft skills training. The program is open to all within a company.

Non-profit agencies and even unions like the ILWU are eligible to use ETF training programs. The ILWU has used the ETF to upgrade the skills of its office staff and business agents. Most of the classes taken were computer related. Two Oahu business agents took the introductory class on Windows 98 from the Computer Training Academy. Tuition for the one day class cost \$109 which was paid by the ETF.

The ETF also develops specific training programs. A program for health care workers includes: personal safety (dealing with infectious disease and bloodborne pathogens); violence prevention; teamwork; leadership; and problem solving. A program for agricultural workers includes: growing and caring for seeds; planting trees; operating heavy equipment; preparing sites; logging; and maintaining roads. Certification training for landscape technicians includes: plant identification; irrigation maintenance; seed and sod installation; sprayer calibration; water conservation; and environmental protection. These programs helped many laid-off ILWU sugar workers on the Big Island train for new jobs.

Over the past ten years, the ETF provided a total of 31,323 training programs, most of which were in use of computers and computer software. Not surprisingly, small businesses with 10 or less employees were the biggest users of the training fund.

ILWU members can take advantage of the ETF to get free training to improve their skills on the job. For more information on the classes available, the requirements, and how to apply for these classes, go to the ETF website at: <http://dlir.state.hi.us/wdd/etf/micro.htm>. Workers need to be referred by their employers, but this can be as simple as having your employer sign the application form supplied by the ETF.

ACT 43 (SB 2787) Protect Workers Under Wage and Hours.

Increases the monthly guaranteed compensation required to exempt an individual from the protection of minimum wage and overtime requirements under the Hawaii Wage and Hour Law. Under the previous law, workers who were guaranteed a monthly wage of \$1,250 or more were not protected under the Hawaii Wage and Hour Law. The new law increases the amount to \$2,000 which would protect more low-wage workers. The ILWU supported this bill.



Oahu Division members sign-wave for windward area Senator Bob Nakata, who heads the Senate Labor Committee. (L-r) Tyrone Tahara, Wallace Abe, Calvin Werner, Brian Tanaka, Sharon Basmayor and Richard Desmond.

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 July 1, 2002.

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 July 1, 2002.

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



Some of the Maui Division pensioners with their Pensioner Club Coordinators Bill Drury and Virgilio Viernes (back left) and Local Vice President Robert G. Giral (front right).



Attentive pensioners learn about issues important to Hawaii's elder citizens.

21st Biennial ILWU State

Every two years, members of the ILWU State Pensioners Association gather for a conference to learn about issues and programs that benefit seniors, hear about the state of the union, reunite with old friends and make new ones.

This year's conference was no exception. More than 100 ILWU pensioners from Kauai, Maui, Hawaii and Oahu met on April 18-20 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu for a schedule full of activities.

Pensioners heard from all three Local officers during the conference about the state of the union. Local President Bo Lapenia talked about the importance of this year's elections (see full text of speech below). Local Vice-President Robert Giral provided an update on the multi-million dollar renovations at the ILWU's Honolulu headquarters. Local Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura spoke with gratitude for the loyalty and dedication of our pensioners and the challenges of instilling those same values in our members today.

Also speaking at the conference were Rep. Dwight Takamine, Rep. Roy Takumi, and Laura Manis of the Coalition on Affordable Long-Term Care.

Rep. Takamine spoke about the challenges he faced this legislative session as chair of the House Finance Committee. Just as Hawaii's economy was beginning to

rebound, the tragic events of September 11 set us back once again. Rep. Takamine assured the pensioners that, despite revenue shortfalls, the Legislature was committed to providing for the needs of Hawaii's residents.

Rep. Takumi provided first-hand information about two bills that would provide relief for the high cost of prescription drugs. He noted that only Republicans voted against both bills (just as only Republicans voted against the Prepaid Health Care Act in 1974), saying that we should wait for Congress to enact prescription drug coverage through Medicare. But Rep. Takumi said our seniors cannot wait for Congress; Hawaii's legislature needs to do something now. Both bills eventually passed this session and were signed into law on May 31.

Laura Manis educated the pensioners about Care Plus, a proposal to provide long-term care services through a payroll tax of \$10 per month. In 1992, when the Family Hope Program was first introduced, nursing home costs were about \$40,000 a year. Today, costs average \$168,000 a year. Few can afford

President Lapenia's address to pensioners' conference delegates

Brothers and Sisters, I am honored to be here, addressing your 21st Biennial ILWU State Pensioners Conference. You and other ILWU retirees like yourselves really deserve most of the credit for building this great union and starting a peaceful revolution that transformed Hawaii into a modern, democratic society.

You had the courage to stand up against the power of the Big 5 companies—a group of employers that had accumulated great wealth by exploiting native Hawaiians and immigrant workers from China, Japan, the Philippines, Portugal, and elsewhere. We all know the history of how the plantations deliberately recruited workers from different countries to keep them divided and how any attempt to form unions were crushed. The Big 5 had absolute control of Hawaii's economy, legal system, and government, but you had the courage to stand up to the Big 5 and fight for economic justice on the docks and on the sugar and pineapple plantations.

You learned from the mistakes of the past, and built a union based on the principles of racial equality and

rank-and-file democracy. This enabled the ILWU to bring the different ethnic groups together into a single, industrial union, which the Big 5 was unable to break.

You had the vision to combine the economic struggle for better wages and conditions on the job, with the political struggle. You got union members and their families to organize the power of their vote and elect candidates who were friendly to labor. Instead of allowing government to be a tool of the wealthy and the Big 5, you put government to work building schools, parks, and hospitals for working class communities, and passing laws like workers compensation, unemployment insurance, and prepaid health to protect working people on the job.

Follow your footsteps

By the time I got into the union, you retirees had already done most of the work. The active members of

the ILWU have it much easier because of you. You showed us the way; you blazed the trail; and all we had to do was follow your footsteps. Today, in these tough economic times, we consider it a success if we manage to negotiate a contract with a small wage increase and prevent the takeaway of the rights and benefits that you put into place. This is particularly true in political action where most of our work is aimed at preventing the other side from weakening and taking away laws that benefit working people.

"You had the vision to combine the economic struggle for better wages and conditions on the job, with the political struggle."

This union will never forget how much we owe to you retirees. This Pensioners Association, the pensioner clubs, and each of you will always have a place of great honor and respect in this organization. When we negotiate new contracts, we'll remind our active members they should do what they can to negotiate pension increases for past retirees.

Where the union can help our

retirees in other ways, we will do what we can. Some of you may know about the group drug plan started by our Memorial Association, which has helped to reduce the cost of prescription drugs for retirees. Using the resources of the union and the ILWU Memorial Association, we were able to put together a large enough group of several hundred retirees. We then negotiated with providers like HMSA for a group drug plan. It's not a solution to the high cost of drugs, but it does provide some immediate relief to our retirees. This is a good example of how much more we can accomplish by organizing and acting collectively—which is what unions are all about.

Our Political Action Program will continue to place high priority on issues important to senior citizens—to protect social security, for affordable long-term care, and to find a solution to the cost of prescription drugs.

Back to politics

This problem with prescription drugs is a good time to talk about the 2002 elections and politics, which is the last subject I want to talk about

Pensioners Conference

nursing home care so many end up on Medicaid, which is also paid for with tax dollars. The Legislature this session failed to enact Care Plus, but did agree to establish an interim board of trustees to develop a recommendation for the next Legislature to implement a long-term care financing program.

Each pensioner club gave a brief report about the club's size, officers, and activities. Several clubs (like G&R, Honokaa, Paaui, Pepeekeo) are active volunteering in their communities as friendly visitors at nursing homes and in the schools. Club representatives were all very articulate in their reports.

After the second day's session, pensioners walked across Atkinson Drive to the ILWU headquarters, currently under renovations, to tour the completed Phase I and see the restored ILWU mural. Pensioners who contributed toward the mural restoration were pleased to see their names etched in glass on the conference room doors.

The conference was not all speeches and serious stuff. Pensioners enjoyed a great dinner and bingo the first night, coordinated by Oahu Division FTO's who sent each guest home with a nice "goodie bag." The second night's banquet featured entertainment by the pensioners themselves (including jokes by

John Arisumi, retired Maui Division Director). Appreciation was extended to officers for the past term (Fred Lee, president; John Arisumi, vice-president; Juan Francisco, secretary; and Tom Poy, treasurer). ILWU Memorial Association President Yoshito Takamine installed officers for the new term: Allen Alconcel, president; Juan Francisco, vice-president; Tom Poy, secretary; and Haruye Ichiki, treasurer. On both nights, members of the Oahu Division Pensioner Council hosted the hospitality room where pensioners were able to meet and mingle.

The third day was devoted to a tour of Oahu, mapped out by Bob Freitas, Oahu Division Council president. The tour traveled through downtown Honolulu, to Pali Lookout, along H-3, to Kapolei's "Second City," through Ewa Villages, along Kunia, to Dole Visitor Center and Helemano Plantation. Pensioners saw parts of Oahu they had not seen before and also could see the many changes since the closing of the sugar plantations.

Neighbor island pensioners returned home with fond memories of Oahu and their old and newfound friends, especially grateful for the hospitality extended by all the Oahu pensioners and FTO's. One and all are looking forward to an even better conference on Maui in 2004.



After the second day's session, retirees walked over to the ILWU building on Atkinson Drive to see the restored ILWU mural, "Solidaridad Sindical."



The pensioners conference was a good opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. (L-r) Kauai's Haruo "Dyna" Nakamoto with the Big Island's Shintaro "Rocky" Higa and Shigeichi Asuka.

es: "I know we can count on you to help ... with political action"

before I conclude my remarks.

The ILWU has not changed its policy of Independent Political Action. The ILWU is not tied to the program of any political party. We start with what is in the best interest of our members, and then we endorse candidates from either party based on their support of union programs.

But the political reality is this—the Republican Party has adopted a political program and goals that are almost the direct opposite of what we seek in the best interest of our members. We have our differences with Democrats, but we also share many of the same goals. This is why our union endorsements have mostly been Democratic candidates and the few Republicans we do endorse are usually at the County level.

Take prescription drugs and Social Security—there is a big difference in how Republicans and Democrats approach this problem.

The Republicans—and this is spelled out in the party platform of the Republican National Committee and supported by President Bush—oppose using any more public funds to expand or strengthen Social

Security and Medicare. Instead, Republicans want to "fix" Social Security by diverting money from the trust fund into "personal savings accounts" which are invested in the stock market. You might want to ask Enron employees what they think about this idea. Republicans propose "modernizing" Medicare by offering a greater choice of coverage and reducing administrative costs. Republicans want us to trust the drug companies to do the right thing, and they give the example of the Medicare RX Discount card being offered by some drug manufacturers.

On the other hand, the platform of the Democratic Party calls for more public investment in Social Security and Medicare. The Democrats want to add prescription drugs as a Medicare benefit. They want to use the budget surplus to pay for these improvements instead of giving away the surplus in tax breaks. The Democrats believe that government is needed to keep business in line and should step in to do something about medical costs and prescription drugs.

On these issues, our Union's program is closer to that of the

Democrats. Sufficient funds should be invested to strengthen Social Security and expand Medicare to include prescription drugs. One reason these programs are underfunded in the first place is because of budget cuts that started under Republican Ronald Reagan and continued under George Bush.

Social Security should remain a public program and not be privatized. Our union supports the idea that government needs to keep an eye on business. As workers, we know we can't depend on management to do the right thing—that's why we join and organize unions.

Difference between Republicans and Democrats

There's a big difference between Republicans and Democrats. Let me read from our Statement of Policy on Political Action, adopted by our 22nd ILWU Local 142 Convention:

"The Republican Party, historically in Hawaii and today, nationally and locally, has represented a conservative, often reactionary, point of view that is anti-union, anti-worker, anti-family, anti-community and anti-people. The Democratic Party

also includes those who support and advocate the same or similar conservative programs as the Republicans, but it is within the Democratic Party that labor has found its most consistent allies."

These words about the Republicans are harsh, but let me give you some examples of the kinds of laws they want to pass in Hawaii. Republican Senator Sam Slom introduced Senate Bill 626, which would make it illegal for unions to require members to pay union dues as a condition of employment. This is the so-called Right To Work law, which is really aimed at destroying unions. Slom also introduced bills to abolish the Hawaii occupational safety and health law and to weaken workers compensation.

On the House side, Republicans Jim Rath and William Stonebraker introduced House Bill 877 to remove "the right to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining" from our State Constitution. Another bunch of 8 Republicans (Meyer, Rath, Ontai, Djou, Auwae, Fox, Davis, and Leong) and one Democrat (Kahikina) introduced House Bill 313 which would require the governor to seize and operate the docks in case of a

—continued on page 6

Union bids farewell to "Voice of the ILWU" Saburo Fujisaki

HONOLULU—ILWU members and retirees across the state are mourning the loss of a man who truly dedicated his life to building the union and serving its membership.

On May 30, 2002, Saburo Fujisaki, known at "Sabu" to friends and fellow ILWU members, died on Oahu following a long illness. He was survived by his wife Bette, son Lance Fujisaki, daughter Luann Yoshida, and two granddaughters.

In April of this year, a resolution of appreciation was passed at the ILWU State Pensioners Association 21st Biennial Conference that best describes how the the ILWU feels about Sabu:

"Saburo Fujisaki has been a union man for many years.

"In 1943, as a 23-year-old electrician, Sabu and a small group of workers organized Olaa Sugar plantation and were chartered by the ILWU in 1944. Sabu served as officer, organizer and bulletin editor at Olaa Sugar Local 148 (later Local 142 Unit 1103) and as Big Island strike committee secretary and publicity director during the historic 1946 sugar strike that lasted 77 days.

"When six sugar locals were consolidated into United Sugar Workers Local

142 in October 1947, Sabu served as interim secretary-treasurer and was elected to that position in January 1948. He was also assigned to the ILWU Reporter (later VOICE of the ILWU) as staff writer.

"In 1952, he was appointed Territorial Union Defense Director as the union mobilized its ranks to defend ILWU Regional Director Jack Hall, who was indicted under the Smith Act. Sabu worked hard to fend off strong anti-union attacks and fight for the union's very existence. At the same time, he was appointed sports program and medical claims department director. In 1955, he was appointed to head the newly established membership service department.

"ILWU pensioners especially owe a debt of gratitude to Sabu for what he accomplished as Membership Service Director. In 1958, he organized the ILWU State Pensioners Association, forming clubs in all Divisions. He was instrumental in forging close ties with ILWU pensioners clubs and county senior citizen programs. Until today, several Big Island pensioner club remain an integral part of the county programs.

"Sabu established the ILWU state pensioners conference in 1961,

allowing ILWU pensioners from throughout the state to come together on a biennial basis to re-establish ties with one another, learn about union programs, and renew their commitment to the ILWU.

"Without Sabu's vision, the ILWU pensioner program may never have materialized. Sabu provided the initiative, the energy, and the hard work to establish the ILWU pensioner program as a strong, vital part of the ILWU. It is to Sabu's credit that the program continues almost 20 years after his retirement.

"Today, despite his illness, Sabu remains a strong union man. His example is an inspiration to us all.

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 21st Biennial State Conference of the ILWU State Pensioners Association express deep and sincere appreciation to Saburo Fujisaki for his dedication to the ILWU pensioner program and to the union which he served so well."

...**"for many, many more years to come."**

Upon his retirement Fujisaki stated, "My years of relationship with the ILWU has been a great learning and rewarding experience—I am fortunate for having met thousands of wonderful people on all of the islands.

"The ILWU has done much towards improving the lot of working



Saburo Fujisaki
May 1920 - May 2002

people—and bringing major economic, social, and political gains which benefit everyone in Hawaii. May the ILWU continue to be a moving force, maintain its respected position within trade union circles, for many, many more years to come."

The contributions that Sabu made to the ILWU during his years of service to the union are immeasurable. He has touched the lives of thousands of ILWU members through the education and membership service programs he administered. And ILWU workers will continue to benefit from the programs he helped to develop for many, many years to come.

Lapenia addresses pensioner conference —continued from page 5

longshore strike. They also proposed House Bill 319 which would cut the minimum wage in half for tipped employees in the food and beverage industry. Gomes, Djou, and McDermott introduced HB 886 to remove the presumption clause from Workers Compensation, which would make it harder for injured workers to qualify for benefits.

These are just a few examples of the anti-labor bills being pushed by the Republicans. And it is not just a few individuals, because they are signing these bills as a group.

These are not ordinary or innocent proposals. The same kind of bills are being introduced by Republicans all across the country. This is part of a calculated and deliberate strategy to destroy unions, to weaken government, and to give business a free hand to pursue the almighty dollar.

Election 2002

We don't get this kind of anti-worker and anti-union legislation from Democrats. We get some bad bills from the Democrats and we may disagree with how they do things, but the Democrats are not conspiring to destroy unions. We can usually work with them to find solutions we can all live with.

The Republicans, on the other hand, have become the party of business and the wealthy, and they are waiting for their chance to run this state. This is why the 2002 elections will be the most critical election ever faced by working people in Hawaii.

For the first time in 40 years, the Republicans think they have a good chance of electing the next governor and capturing more seats, even a majority, in the House of Representatives. If this happens, we will have a state government that is hostile to unions and worker's rights. If this happens, we can expect increasing attacks on the wages and benefits we all worked so hard to achieve. If the Republicans gain control, our fight to improve Medicare and Social Security will become even more difficult.

A lot is at stake in this election. We have made political action a top priority in every Division. We have started registering our members and their families to vote. We are spending more time educating our members about the issues in this election. Soon our Political Action Committees will begin meeting with candidates who seek the union's support, and we expect to complete the endorsement process by July 23rd. Some of you may be involved in this process, as the State PAC Committee has invited each Division to send a pensioner observer to sit on the committee.

I know we can count on you to help, as you always have, with our Political Action program. This is going to be a tough election, but with your help, this is a fight we are going to win.

On behalf of the 22,000 active members of the ILWU, I want to thank you for all you have done and are continuing to do for this union.

ILWU LOCAL 142 BULLETIN

ISSUED BY ILWU LOCAL 142

451 ATKINSON DRIVE, HONOLULU

To All ILWU Units

Recruitment begins for Sixth ILWU Labor Institute

August 25-31, 2002
Tokai University Pacific Center
Honolulu, Hawaii

HONOLULU—The ILWU Sixth Labor Institute, a week-long leadership training program for rank-and-file leaders, is scheduled for August 25-31, 2002, at Tokai University in Honolulu. Tokai has a strict non-smoking policy which will be enforced.

The Institute will begin with registration and orientation on Sunday afternoon August 25. Classes will run from Monday through Friday, and delegates return home on Saturday, August 31, 2002. Units on Oahu may send additional delegates for shorter periods of one or more days.

The Institute will focus on the leadership and practical skills needed by rank and file leaders to mobilize members and win better contracts.

Delegates will have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of classes. Part

of the Institute will also deal with the upcoming elections and a mobilizing plan to defeat anti-labor candidates.

Units are encouraged to take this opportunity to improve the skills and education of their unit leaders. The Local will take care of instructional costs, materials, travel, room, and board. Units are responsible for paying lost wages for any delegates they may send.

Questions?

Ask your Business Agent or call your Division office:

- Hilo: 935-3727
- Waimea: 885-6136
- Kona: 329-2070
- Waikulu: 244-9191
- Lihue: 245-3374
- Oahu: 949-4161

Units will need to hold membership meetings to choose delegates and to get membership approval to spend unit funds for this purpose.

Units should work with their Business Agents to submit names of participants and alternates to their Division by July 22, 2002. The Division will make the final selection of delegates. The deadline for Divisions to submit names to the Local for the Institute is July 31, 2002.

A total of 90 participants will be accepted into the Institute. Following are the number of delegates allocated to each Division: Hawaii - 31; Maui - 44; Kauai - 13; and Oahu - 28.



47th Annual ILWU Men's Fast-Pitch Softball champs "Sons of Kauai."



Hawaii Division's "Mauna Lani" team took home second place.

Kauai Division team builds fast-pitch softball dynasty

by Brian Tanaka
Oahu Division Business Agent

HONOLULU—The 47th Annual ILWU Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament was held May 11, 2002 on Oahu at Salt Lake District Park. The usual single elimination format was changed to a round robin format because Maui Division was not able to field a team this year. The change in format did not rattle standing state champion Kauai from winning their fifth straight fast-pitch title.

Game 1: Kauai vs Hawaii

The Sons of Kauai defeated Hawaii's Mauna Lani in the first game behind the throwing arm and hitting of veteran Kauai pitcher Fred Medeiros. Medeiros pitched a three-hitter and batted two for three—including a triple and two runs batted in.

Early on in the game, Hawaii jumped out to a 2-0 lead on a hit batter, two singles and a bases loaded walk. Hawaii pitcher Patrick Prieto baffled Kauai and kept them scoreless for five innings.

In the top of the sixth Kauai came alive and took advantage of two costly errors, scoring three runs and taking the lead. Medeiros' two-run triple in the top of the final inning pushed Kauai's lead to 5-2, and the fired-up pitcher shut out the Hawaii team for the rest of the game.

Also contributing to the win were David Perreira and Ronald "Blackie" Viquelia, who had two hits each for Kauai, with Perreira doubling twice.

Game 2: Hawaii vs Oahu

A combination of seven walks and two singles let the young Honolulu Advertiser team from Oahu take the lead over Mauna Lani 5-1 after the first inning of play.

But the tide turned, and from the third inning onward the game was dominated by the Big Island team. Hawaii's rally started with Joby Amaral's two-run double, and they quickly scored five runs on three hits and two walks. Mauna Lani scored runs in every inning but the second. Amaral, who hit three for four with a double, two home runs, three runs and four RBIs, displayed awesome hitting power and lead his team to a 13-5 win. Mauna Lani's James Kawasaki batted 1.000, going four for four with two runs and two RBIs.

Game 3: Oahu vs Kauai

The veteran Kauai team could sense another championship in the making and gave a clinic on pitching and hitting to the more inexperienced Honolulu Advertiser team. The Sons of Kauai banged out 15 hits with seven walks to completely demolish the Oahu team 17-2. The game ended after five innings when Kauai lead by more than 10 runs and

the 10-run rule was invoked. Kauai was led by Leonard Vegas, who batted three for two with two runs and two RBIs, Greg Santos, who went three for four, with two RBIs, Patrick Rita, David Planas and Darrell Borrero had two hits each.

Team Awards

The team awards for the 47th Annual ILWU Men's Fast Pitch Tournament were: First Place: Sons of Kauai; Second Place: Mauna Lani; and 3rd Place: Honolulu Advertiser

Individual Awards

Individual awards were given out

as follows: Most Valuable Player: Fred Medeiros (Kauai); Best Batting Average: James Kawasaki (Hawaii); Most Hits: James Kawasaki (Hawaii); Most Home Runs: Joby Amaral (Hawaii); Most Runs Batted In: Joby Amaral (Hawaii); Most Runs: Ronald Viquelia (Kauai).

All-tournament team members were: James Kawasaki (Hawaii), Fred Medeiros (Kauai), Ronald Viquelia (Kauai), Joby Amaral (Hawaii), Felix Cablay (Oahu), Patrick Rita (Kauai), David Perreira (Kauai), Darrell Borrero (Kauai), Ira Poindexter (Hawaii), Greg Santos (Kauai), David Planas (Kauai), Patrick Prieto (Hawaii).



"Honolulu Advertiser" represented Oahu Division in the fast-pitch tournament.



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- ★ Maunalua
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Report on the 2002 Legislature

Republicans opposed programs benefiting workers

The 2002 Legislature passed a number of good bills that bring real and substantial benefit to working families. However, a look at the voting records on five issues supported by the ILWU reveals a big difference in how Republicans and Democrats in the State Legislature look at these worker friendly programs.

The five issues were: Health Insurance Regulation; Wage and Hour Protection; Worker Retention; the Employment Training Fund; and Prepaid Health Law.

Four of these bills are described in the article on legislation important to workers on pages 2-3. The Prepaid Health issue was a proposed bill that would have increased the amount workers would be required to pay for health benefits. The ILWU urged legislators to vote against that bill.

As a group, House Republicans posted a failing score of only 6 percent in support of the five worker friendly positions. Fifteen Republican lawmakers voted the

wrong way on all five labor bills for a score of "0." Only one Republican scored 50%. Three Republicans scored between 25 and 20%.

As a group, House Democrats scored 96% right, with only one person scoring less than 80%—Representative Lei Ahu Isa scored 60%. It should be noted that Representative Ahu Isa announced she would be leaving the Democratic Party to join the Republicans. A solid majority of 27 Democratic House members voted 100 percent in support of these five labor positions.

The Senate

The Senate voted on four of the

"The Republican Party, historically in Hawaii and today, nationally and locally, has represented a conservative, often reactionary, point of view that is anti-union, anti-worker, anti-family, anti-community and anti-people."

—22nd ILWU Convention

five bills, with a similar contrast between Republicans and Democrats. The three Republicans in the Senate—Slom, Hemmings, and Hogue—opposed all four labor bills for a score of 0.

As a group, Senate Democrats had a solid average score of 83 percent. Only five individuals scored poorly at 50% or less. A strong group of 13 Senators voted 100% in support of these labor bills.

The Whole Story

Voting records don't

always tell the whole story and can be misleading when it comes to assessing an individual legislator. Was the vote in unconditional support of the bill? Did that legislator help talk to colleagues and line up other votes? Or did it take a lot of lobbying and pressuring to get that vote? Some votes are the result of playing politics where votes are traded or a position changed for some other political reason.

However, the voting records on these bills show a substantial difference in the outlook and philosophy of Republicans and Democrats.

What does the bill to amend the prepaid health law propose to do?

The Prepaid Health issue was a proposed bill (H.B. 2750) that would have increased the amount certain workers would be required to pay for health benefits. Currently, the law requires employers to provide a single coverage health plan to employees who work 20 or more hours a week for at least 4 consecutive weeks. The employee may be required to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of the plan, **but no more than 1.5 percent of the employee's monthly wage.** The 1.5 percent cap meant that in practice, employees could only be required to pay about 10 percent of the actual cost of the health plan.

The Republicans in the House of Representatives wanted to change the Prepaid Health program by removing the 1.5 percent cap, which would allow employers to require employees to pay up to 40 percent of the cost of the plan. The Republicans pushed this bill as a way to provide direct and immediate economic relief for small business, due to economic hardships after 9/11.

This change simply shifted the burden to workers, who could face an increase from paying 10 percent to paying 40 percent of the cost of their health benefits. This would be a huge and unfair increase for workers, so the ILWU urged legislators to vote against that bill.

The Democratic majority also believed the change to Prepaid Health was unfair and did nothing to address the real problem—which was the high cost of medical insurance. The Republicans, however, forced a floor vote on the bill, which was defeated by a vote of 26 to 16. Republican House member **Colleen Meyer has vowed to bring up this issue** in next year's legislative session.

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