



VOICE OF THE ILWU

HONOLULU HAWAII
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LOCAL 142

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The VOICE of the ILWU—Published by Local 142, International Longshore & Warehouse Union

March/April 2010



ILWU Local 142 President Isaac Fiesta, Jr. announced the union's endorsement of Mufi Hannemann at a press conference on March 9, 2010. The ILWU's statewide Political Action Committee made the decision to endorse Hannemann after meeting with both Mufi Hannemann and Neil Abercrombie on March 2, 2010. (L-r) Secretary-Treasurer Guy K. Fujimura, Mayor Mufi Hannemann, President Isaac Fiesta Jr., Vice President Donna Domingo.

ADDRESS LABEL

ILWU endorses Mufi Hannemann for governor

ILWU Local 142 endorsed Mufi Hannemann for governor after the State Political Action Committee met with both Hannemann and Neil Abercrombie on March 2, 2010.

"It was a very difficult decision as both candidates are very good friends of the ILWU and have done a lot to help working people," Local 142 President Isaac Fiesta Jr. said. "Both candidates

would be excellent governors and have a lot to give to the people of Hawaii."

"Our Political Action Committee, which is made up of ILWU members from the four counties and the longshore industry, met with Neil and Mufi on March 2, 2010. There was a lot of discussion and debate among the members of the Committee. In the end, the ILWU Political Action Committee

decided to support Mufi Hannemann."

The ILWU also gave early endorsements to Mayor Bernard Carvalho of Kauai and Mayor Charmaine Tavares of Maui County.

The union endorsed State Senators Dwight Takamine, Les Ihara, Brian Taniguchi, and Glen Wakai. Endorsed State House of Representatives include Joseph Souki, Isaac Choy, Sylvia Luke,

Karl Rhoads, Blake Oshiro, and Roy Takumi.

The ILWU gave early support to US Senator Daniel Inouye and US House of Representative Mazie Hirono at an earlier meeting of the union's Political Action Committee in December 2009.

Most of the ILWU endorsements will be made after the July 20 deadline for candidates to file nomination papers. The union's political action committees will then interview candidates who request the union's support.

The Primary Election will be held on September 18, 2010. The last day to register to vote in the Primary Elections is August 19.

The General Election will be held on November 2, 2010. The last day to register to vote in the General Elections is October 4.

The easiest way to vote is by mail. You can request an absentee ballot for both the Primary and General Elections after July 20. You will receive a ballot by mail which you return by mail. There's no need to drive to the polling site and wait in line.



Photos by George Wataiale

Senator Daniel Inouye and State Senators Dwight Takamine, Russell Kokubun and Brian Taniguchi join Colleen Hanabusa to wave signs on April 5. Members from the Hawaii Longshore Division also participated in the sign-waving. ILWU members in the 1st Congressional District are urged to vote for Hanabusa in the special election which will be held by mail. Members should be receiving their ballots in early May.

Why Hanabusa is our best choice for Congress

Colleen Hanabusa is running in the special election to fill the vacancy left by Neil Abercrombie in the 1st Congressional District of Hawaii. Also running for the seat are Ed Case and Republican Charles Djou.

The ILWU and many labor unions are urging their members to support and vote for Colleen Hanabusa as the best and clear choice for working people of Hawaii.

Colleen Hanabusa, who is currently serving as a senator in the Hawaii State Legislature, has consistently stood on the side of workers

and their families. She comes from a working class background. She was raised by her grandparents in the housing camps of the Waianae Plantation on Oahu. Her grandfather was the plantation fisherman and her mother's father was the plantation's carpenter.

Hanabusa shares many of the same concerns and believes in the same principles as the ILWU. Hanabusa does legal for our union and our longshore division. She understands that unions are the democratic voice of workers and she would work with

unions to make life better for working families.

Hanabusa addressed the ILWU Local 142 Convention on September 17, 2009. She told the Convention delegates how the ILWU is where the labor movement really started effectively in Hawaii's history. "Your commitment to the support of fellow union members in their difficult times...that the motto which has been the foundation of the ILWU, 'An injury to one is an injury to all' really means something when we are looking at a situation like we are today."

Hanabusa congratulated the ILWU for taking the lead in improving the lives of working people. "Every benefit the working people have come to enjoy [are] tied to sacrifices which this Union has been front and center on. Even today, when you look at the legislation that's being passed, the lobbying that's being done, you folks are front and center. So I congratulate each and every one of you and I thank each and every one of you."

We need someone like Colleen Hanabusa who shares our values and will work for us in Washington D.C.

Congressional Dist. I Special Election: Vote and return your ballot before May 22.

Sluggish recovery for 2010, faster in 2011 forecast of the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization

The University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) collects and analyses economic data for the State of Hawaii. The following is their latest forecast on March 26, 2010.

Hawaii's economic recovery has begun. Employment is stabilizing, and many sectors will begin to add modest numbers of jobs as the year progresses. Visitor arrivals and spending will continue to firm along with economic conditions in our major tourism markets. Private construction is bottoming out, and the sector will begin to see more benefit from Federal and State spending programs. While growth is resuming, the pace of recovery will be slow, constrained by tepid U.S. consumer spending and the drag from the State and local fiscal conditions. As a result, unemployment will recede only gradually from current high levels.

Visitor industry in slump; slight increase in arrivals

- While the visitor industry remains in a deep slump, arrivals numbers edged up slightly over the course of 2009 and visitor spending stabilized by year end. With a mild recovery underway across the globe and more airlift planned, we expect a 2.9% gain in arrivals this year. International markets will be relatively

stronger than the domestic market. We continue to expect a very attenuated recovery over the next several years. Discounting will continue to be the norm, continuing to exert downward pressure on profits.

- Quarterly UHERO forecast reports now include forecast figures for major construction industry indicators. The sector contracted sharply in 2009, but the pace of job losses had slowed by year end and building permits flattened out. Stirrings of private sector recovery and the short-term impulse from government contracts will lead to net hiring in coming months. Overall construction spending will be 17% lower this year than in 2009, but will rise more than 4% in 2011.

- Job losses last year were severe. The stabilization of recent months sets the stage for a resumption of modest job growth in 2010. Some sectors have already seen an uptick in jobs in the final quarter of 2009; most others will begin to add jobs during the first or second quarter of this year. Because of low job counts at the end of 2009, annual figures for 2010

will still show a net decline, masking these early gains.

- The private sector job turnaround does not mean a quick rebound from the steep losses incurred over the past two years. And additional public sector job losses are likely. The aggregate non-farm job count will show a small 0.7% net loss for 2010 as a whole, and we see only a 0.9% gain in 2011. This pace of job creation will leave the unemployment rate high for an extended time period. We expect statewide unemployment to average 6.9% this year, edging down to 6.4% in 2011.

- As we had anticipated last March, Honolulu inflation decelerated to just half a percent last year, with lower oil prices and moderating shelter costs causing a sharp cooling compared with 2008. Because there will be considerable slack in the local economy for the next several years, we expect relatively low inflation to be the norm in the Islands in coming years. After energy costs cause inflation to tick up to 1.9% this year, the Honolulu CPI will show just 1.1% inflation in 2011.

- Real personal income has not seen the same sharp drop as jobs, partly because of the surge in unemployment compensation but also because labor and proprietor income did not fall dramatically. We expect income to be flat in 2010. These are very restrained rates of income

growth compared with the roughly 4% average during the 2004-2005 period.

- This report marks the first time we are releasing UHERO forecasts for Hawaii real Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Using a somewhat different methodology than that of the Federal government, UHERO estimates that Hawaii real GDP was down 0.4% in 2009 after contracting 1.3% in 2008. Real GDP will fall a slight 0.2% in 2010, before expanding by roughly 0.5% in 2011.

- While the past year has brought the anticipated business cycle turning point, there have been no developments that would warrant a substantially stronger forecast path. World growth appears sufficiently strong to support only a slow pace of Hawaii recovery for now, and there is a downside risk that premature fiscal contraction in the U.S. and Europe could further weaken global economic conditions. The biggest downside risk for Hawaii is the State budget crisis, where we are only now feeling the full impact of job losses and furloughs/pay cuts. Luckily, the revenue picture already appears healthier than what is reflected in the Council on Revenues projections, and so the drag from State and local government will ease as the recovery progresses, so the drag from State and local government will ease as the recovery progresses.

Judge orders HTH/Pacific Beach Hotel to obey law

HTH must abide by the NLRB order to rehire five fired workers and bargain with the ILWU on a contract for workers of the Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikiki.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) sought the court injunction when HTH officers continued to defy the law. Attorneys for the Honolulu NLRB Office argued that the hotel's "discharge of leading union activists and bargaining committee members has conveyed

to their employees that the Union is powerless to effectively represent them, and that the government is powerless to restrain such conduct."

Judge orders HTH Corp. to comply with NLRB

On March 8, 2010, Federal District Court Judge J. Michael Seabright ordered the company to comply with the NLRB's order. HTH has appealed the NLRB's actions, but Judge Seabright concluded it was unlikely the appeal would be upheld.

The court injunction requires HTH to:

1. Read the judge's order to all employees in the presence of an NLRB agent;
2. Reinstate fired negotiating com-

mittee members Ruben Bumanglag, Darryl Miyashiro, Virgie Reaideo, Virbina Revamonte, and Rhandy Villanueva.

3. Recognize the ILWU as the union representing their workers.

4. Immediately resume negotiations and honor all the agreements reached earlier with the union.

5. Restore conditions changed by the company without negotiating with the ILWU. Under the court order the ILWU has the right to decide what changes to keep or remove.

On April 1, ILWU Oahu Division Director Dave Mori met with HTH Vice President Mitch Minicola. However, Minicola continues to believe the company will win its appeal.

The company has sent letters

to the fired negotiating committee members workers, offering to rehire them.

The ILWU is holding membership meetings with the Pacific Beach Hotel workers and will request meetings with the company to resume collective bargaining.

Japanese supporters of the boycott have been meeting regularly in Japan and will be informed of the latest news at their next meeting on April 15.

The international boycott of the hotel will remain in place until a union contract is negotiated and approved by the hotel's workers.

Hawaii Tourism Careers website offers help for workers

Tourism is Hawaii's number one industry. Nearly 75% of jobs in Hawaii are directly or indirectly related to the tourism industry.

Hawaii attracts visitors with its beautiful beaches, warm climate, and unique culture, but many other destinations have become increasingly competitive. The question: Why should a visitor come to Hawaii when there are other places to visit?

The answer is: The aloha and skills of Hawaii's workforce that meet and exceed expectations of visitors and encourage them to return.

The tourism industry is continually seeking to recruit new workers into the industry as well as encourage incumbent workers to move up the career ladder. One tool available to the workforce is a user-friendly online website called Hawaii Tourism Careers: hitourismcareers.org. The website is a "one-stop shop" for those interested in finding a career or pursuing additional education or training in the industry.

Hawaii Tourism Careers website offers a comprehensive list of tourism-related degree and certification

programs in the state and a growing list of career options as well as short video-clips highlighting individuals in the industry who share how they have used training and education. The website also features an "Announcements" section for up-to-date information on upcoming application deadlines, events, and new job postings.

If you're interested in a career in tourism, or would like to upgrade your career options as a worker currently in the industry, please visit <http://hihtourismcareers.org>.



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The next Local 142 Executive Board (LEB) meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2010, in Honolulu at the ILWU building on 451 Atkinson Drive. The meeting starts at 9:00 A.M. ILWU members are welcome to attend as observers.

Advertiser & Star-Bulletin workers fight to keep jobs

Over 900 employees of Honolulu's two daily newspapers have no idea if they will have a job. The people who write the news became the news when they learned about their fate in a press release issued by their employers.

On Feb. 25, 2010, Gannett Company and Oahu Publications, Inc. (OPI) announced in a joint press release that The Honolulu Advertiser would be sold to OPI, a company controlled by David Black. Black's company already owns the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, which it purchased in 1991, and the Mid-Week Magazine.

Star-Bulletin up for sale

Federal anti-trust law prohibits common ownership of competing daily newspapers. This means David Black must either sell the Star-Bulletin, close one of the papers, or merge the papers.

David Black has put the Star-Bulletin up for sale and intends to merge the two newspapers if no buyer is found. Black plans to close the Star-Bulletin's Kaneohe operation and move to the Advertiser's Kapolei plant.

Three offers have been made to buy the Star-Bulletin, but industry insiders suspect Black has no intention of selling the Star-Bulletin and is only going through the motions to satisfy federal regulators.

On March 9, Gannett informed their 600 employees at the Advertiser they would be terminated between April 12 and April 30 when the newspaper is sold. On March 19, Star-Bulletin employees were told about one-half of the employees or 150 workers may lose their jobs around May 19 if the newspapers are merged.

OPI has contracted a management service company to operate the Advertiser during the transition after Gannett leaves.

The ILWU and the other unions representing the workers of both newspapers are doing everything they can to prevent any layoffs and keep both newspapers operating. A democratic society needs a well-informed public, and two papers would help to keep the news more balanced. A single newspaper, owned by one corporation, gives that corporation undue influence over the public and threatens our democracy.

U.S. laws weak on worker protection

The owners of both newspapers

made their decisions without talking to their employees.

Such action by management would be illegal in the European Community where workers have the right to information about their employer's financial condition. Employers must also consult with their workers on matters that affect employment.

European workers would have been informed well in advance of any decision and would have the right to negotiate with their employer to find alternatives to prevent and limit layoffs or closures.

The intent of the European law

is to maintain fairness in economic relations between employers and employees, to provide some security for employees, and to guard against exploitation.

In the U.S., employers are only required to give workers 60 day's notice of a layoff or closure. The intent of the U.S. law is to give workers time to prepare for their job loss and not so workers can challenge their employer's decisions.

If their workers are unionized, U.S. employers have a duty to negotiate with the unions on how the layoff or closure will be carried out.

Hawaii Printing Trades Council

Six different unions represent workers of the Honolulu Advertiser and two unions represent Star-Bulletin workers. This is a carry-over from the days when workers joined separate unions based on their skill or craft.

At the Advertiser, the six unions organized the Hawaii Printing Trades Council to coordinate their contract negotiations with the company and to maintain solidarity among the unions.

The Newspaper Guild (merged with the Communications Workers of America) represents the largest group of reporters, writers, and customer services. The Teamsters Graphic Communications Conference represents the workers who do the page layout and design of the paper. The Honolulu Typographical Union represents the typesetters. The Hawaii Printing & Graphic Communications Union represents the workers who operate the printing presses. The International Association of Machinist represents the mechanics who maintain the machinery.

The ILWU represents the second largest group of workers who handle the newspaper after it is printed. They assemble, sort, bundle the paper; load the delivery trucks; drive the trucks; and manage the small army of part-time people who sell the paper on the street or deliver the paper to home subscribers.

A number of other industries continue to operate with different unions. Hospitals for example, have separate unions for registered nurses, pharmacy and clerical workers, x-ray and imaging technicians, food workers and housekeepers. Airlines have separate unions for pilots, flight attendants, and ground support workers.

The maritime industry has separate unions for masters, mates and pilots; for sailors; radio operators; cooks and stewards.

Construction workers belong to unions based on crafts—carpenters, operating engineers, ironworkers, bricklayers, electrical workers, and so on.

Organizing into separate craft-based unions can be a disadvantage for workers. New technology may combine jobs done by different crafts, and unions can find themselves fighting each other for work. Management can make a cheaper deal with the weakest union and use this to undermine the other unions.

One union

The ILWU is based on industrial unionism, which aims to organize all workers of a company or industry into the same union. This allows workers to achieve the highest level of unity and prevents the employer from playing one group of workers against another group.

European Charter gives workers right to information & consultation

The right to information and consultation are basic workers' rights recognised at the national, European Community and international levels.

They involve in particular the right to be informed and consulted on their employer's economic and financial position; on decisions likely to have an effect on employment within the company; and the right to recognition of the 'works council'.

This right is based on the promotion and implementation of 'social dialogue' as set out in Articles 138 and 139 of the European Charter.

The justification for rights to

information and consultation is the importance of maintaining fairness in economic relations between employer and employee. In particular the sharing of information provides a degree of security for employees as well as an important check against exploitation.

Similarly, a modern forward-looking business does not keep its workers in the dark about important decisions affecting them. It is not acceptable, for instance, for workers to learn from the media for the first time that they are going to lose their jobs.

Shipping volume jumps 32%

A Bloomberg survey in February 2010 reported a huge 32 percent jump in shipping charters in December 2009. As orders for their products return to normal levels, manufacturing companies are replenishing their supply of raw materials.

Demand for coal and iron-ore are so strong that ships must wait in long lines to pick up their cargo. At the Port of Newcastle in Australia, as many as 55 ships are waiting to load coal, compared with 17 a year ago. Similar lines are forming at the iron-ore ports of Tubarao in Brazil and Qingdao in China.

Last year, shipping was so slow

that the South Korean Port of Busan had to find space to store 31,000 empty containers. Today, the containers are full and waiting to be shipped to the US and Europe, but there aren't enough ships to carry the increasing loads.

One of the reasons for the shortage of ships is the growing number of last minute rush orders. US retailers had cut their inventories to the lowest level in two years and are now placing rush orders to restock.

With little advance notice, container ships must be moved to ports where they are needed, which can take several days.



A dozen of these floating cranes in the middle of Victoria Harbor off the Island of Hong Kong transfer shipping containers from freighters to barges. Mid-stream operations where cargo is moved between two ships at sea avoids the high fees charged by the Hong Kong container port but can be dangerous and risky.

Photo by Mel Chang

Meet Your Local Titled Officers



**Local President
Isaac Fiesta, Jr.**

companies asking for cuts in wages and benefits.

Our membership adopted a 1/2 percent increase in Local union dues. As your president, I will look at areas in the Local to cut costs of operation. As you know, the increase in dues will be used to get through this financial crisis and to continue to operate so our membership will be fully represented. This increase will not be used to give union officers any wage increases.

The other area that needs to be strengthened is our Organizing program. This is the life blood of our union. I have taken over the assignment of organizing for Local 142 and will work with International Vice President Hawaii Wesley Furtado and the five Divisions to step up the Local Organizing program. I am asking all of our membership to get involved so we can build this union.

There are other goals that I have for the next three years, and I will be working with the Local Executive Committee and Local Executive Board to achieve them. These goals are as follows: mobilize for better contracts; build the units; continue to educate unit officers and Full-Time Officers so we can represent our members better; improve teamwork within Local 142; continue to improve our Health and Welfare Fund and VEBA program; and work together to get through this financial crisis.

Political Action is another important area. This year is an election year for our Governor and Lieutenant Governor. The Local Political Action Committee has endorsed



**Local Vice President
Donna Domingo**

The ILWU has been in the forefront in improving Wages, Benefits, and Working Conditions for working people.

The programs of the ILWU include Organizing, Negotiations, Servicing Members, and Political Action.

Your involvement and participation is important to preserve the quality of life that we all strive for. The heartbeat of the ILWU is its members.

We are a rank and file Union, with procedures that allow every member to vote for their leaders and to approve their union contract.

I'm proud to be a ILWU member. "An injury to one is an Injury to all."

Mufi Hannemann for Governor and Colleen Hanabusa for the First Congressional House District. Other early endorsements are listed on Page 1. We are asking our membership to support all endorsed candidates.



**Local Sec.-Treasurer
Guy Fujimura**

The ILWU has been recognized historically as the single, most effective organization in bringing economic, social and political progress to Hawaii. Before the Union, Hawaii was considered a semi-feudal society dominated economically by five major inter-locked companies, known as the "Big Five", that controlled everything. The Republican Party dominated politics and ran the Territorial government. The working class was considered "second class."

The ILWU was in the forefront of challenging this status quo by organizing the workers on the docks, plantations and other industries. Workers won better pay and working conditions and the racial barriers that the employers used to divide them were broken down. Yes, the ILWU, our members and their families fought to improve conditions on the job, but they also raised the standard for the whole community. The ILWU fought for "bread and butter" issues, but also fought for justice and dignity and against discrimination.

The Union went on to also become politically active, so that gains made in the contract, would not be taken away through legislation. The Union wanted better worker benefit and protection laws, better schools, especially in the rural communities, access to health care and social services, and more opportunity for advancement for our children and their children, especially in higher education.

As we face this triennium, we have the goals of keeping our union safe and economically sound and to better service and protect our members and their families through difficult economic times. We believe that we need to leverage our ability to do this through effective political action. More importantly, we continue to recognize that the ILWU is at its best and most helpful to our members and their families when we provide the leadership in the continuing struggle of workers "...to receive a fair and just return for their labor...", "...to be treated in a decent and respectful manner by the employer", "to organize the unorganized...", "to assist other unions whenever possible in their resistance to attacks...", and "to fight all violations of democracy, whether they be racial, religious or political..."; "we reject racial, religious, sex or political discrimination by anyone;" (from the ILWU DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES).

The Local Convention completed its work in September of 2009 and adopted programs that will guide us for the next three years. My goal is to carry out the work of the Convention and the Constitution and Bylaws of Local 142.

There are four areas I would like to address that the Convention adopted. One is the Longshore Division. Now, our brothers and sisters of the waterfront have their own division that will operate with full autonomy within the Local 142 and governed exclusively by its Longshore Division membership, as per Article XXXVII of the Constitution and Bylaws of Local 142.

The other area is the financial budget that the Convention adopted. As you know, the nation and our state are going through a steep economic downturn that has led to closures of companies represented by the ILWU, the loss of hours for workers, and

Meet Your Kauai Division Officers



**Division Director
Michael Machado**

Thank you to all who supported me, and continue to support me, in the recent changes for the Kauai Division. As we all move forward during these economic times there are, and will be, many challenging issues to face. By pulling together as one, we all can get through these difficult times stronger and better than ever.

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**Business Agent
Pam Green**

Here Comes 2010...
People say it will get worse, people say that will get better...the test will be to Stick Together!
Mahalo for the opportunity to serve as your Business Agent,
Pamela Green



**Division Clerk
MelissaLynn Ragasa**

What I want to accomplish in my term of office: Strengthening and unification of my units would be instrumental for their successful future. Getting the units to be independently strong and knowledgeable would be beneficial, so that solidarity rules supreme. The crux of our existence is to strongly support the political endeavors that ensure our longevity and success, with the democratic process that has always been our strong point. The futurity of our existence is determined by the strength of our members.

Meet Your Oahu Division Officers



**Oahu Division Director
Dave Mori**

In the last three years our Union continued to achieve great accomplishments. We received national recognition for spearheading two landmark decisions—the passage of the “card-check” bill, which allows Hawaii agriculture workers a fairer way to join a union and get a first contract, and the favorable ruling on 15 unfair labor practice charges against Pacific Beach Hotel, in which a federal judge ordered the reinstatement of union supporters with back pay, and the reimbursement of negotiation costs to the Union. But much more work lies ahead of us if we are to continue bettering our members’ standard of living and our children’s future. We need to be ever more aggressive in organizing, and in repealing bad laws that prevent us from organizing. More volunteers are needed in political action to help elect politicians who will stand up for the average worker and not cower to the pressures of big business or special interest groups. Our Union was built on the hard work of its members. Without your help we could not have accomplished so much. For all of you who have supported me in the past, thank you very much—you truly made a difference.



**Business Agent
Shane Ambrose**

Over the next three years I want to continue working with the members and the rest of the Full Time Officers and Staff to better serve you.

With the new changes in assignments, new challenges and opportunities will arise that will surely test our resolve. With your involvement I am confident that despite the recent economic challenges our solidarity will ensure that our Union continues to endure.

As we enter this critical triennium it is important that we all pull together to do our part to organize the unorganized to ensure that future generations have the rights we hold dear today. I urge all members and their families to educate their friends and neighbors that we all have a voice and that we all can make a difference.



**Business Agent
Karl Lindo**

My goal for the next three years is to continue representing and protecting our members rights on the job. I also believe in educating the rank and file leadership and members on the importance of being involved in the union. This simply means members exercising their union rights, policing the contract, and participating in union programs. With member participation and involvement, we can make a difference together in providing workers with good jobs, protecting important benefits, and being respected on the job.

The past three years have been tough for all of our members, many have lost jobs or wages and benefits have been affected due to the economy.

As a Business Agent, having the support of unit leadership and members is what enables us to do our job more effectively. Your support makes the union strong.



**Business Agent
Larry Ruiz**

I have three basic goals for this term: to strengthen the union by getting more members to be active participants in union programs, to strengthen our contracts through negotiations and a strong steward system, and to strengthen labor’s position in politics through our Political Action Program. The first is important because the ILWU is a highly democratic union, and democracy does not work without participation. If more members play an active role in the union—even a small one—the overall function of the union will improve. The second goal is based on the fact that our union contracts are a huge factor in the quality of life of our families. We need to fight for the improvements we need and fight against takeaways. Finally, even with a strong contract, we would be lost without laws that protect the rights of working people. Even the right to belong to a union is determined by law. If we do not elect lawmakers who understand and support working families, our whole community will suffer.



**Business Agent
Brian Tanaka**

We must follow the union program, which includes strengthening existing units, training and bringing along new leadership, organizing new members, and keeping our union and collective bargaining agreements strong.

We have already begun work to increase our members in the growing health care industry. We are accreting members where we can, and also negotiating the best possible contracts for all ILWU healthcare workers.

I am also encouraging rank-and-file participation in the education programs of the union, including getting leadership and steward training. Part of our education program includes the production of a Business Agent report that can be shared by all units that do not have their own news bulletins.

There is a place for every member in the ILWU—working side by side to make our jobs and lives better.



**Business Agent
Michael Yamaguchi**

I am thankful to the Oahu rank and file who had the confidence to elect me as a business agent for the next three years. I promise to work hard and represent you to the best of my ability. Organizing workers who have no union representation needs to be a priority of the ILWU. We need new members to build union density so we can negotiate from a position of strength. The union must also continue to obtain political clout which the ILWU is well known for. I would like to mobilize existing units, motivate members and build a strong architecture of leaders. We need to educate the rank and file, and enforce our collective bargaining agreements. Your full-time officers and union representatives are not the union. WE ARE ALL THE UNION. Without the efforts of everyone, the ILWU cannot succeed.



**Division Clerk
Lisa Maehara**

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**VEBA Retiree Benefit Plan
On Oahu: 441-8600 or
Neighbor Islands Toll Free:
(888) 256-3578**

Health & Welfare Plan

- HMA Office
866-377-3977
- Akamai Line
866-331-5913
- Catalyst RX
888-869-4600
- Kaiser
800-966-5955

Meet Your Maui Division Officers



**Maui Division Director
William Kennison**

The past three years have been the most trying of my 30 years as a full-time officer of the ILWU Local 142, having served as a Division Representative, Business Agent and presently as the Maui Division Director.

With the help of the Business Agents and Unit Leadership we will continue to strive forward and support our members in improving and maintaining benefits in our Collective Bargaining Agreements. One of our main goals is to improve and to get more Companies that we represent into the Hotel and General Health and Welfare Trust Funds. With the rising cost of medical it is the only way we can help our members' control the medical premiums cost and well as maintain their benefits.

Our goals are to ensure that in the long run, we save our members jobs so we all have a bright future to look forward to.



**Business Agent
Abel Kahoochanohano, Jr.**

My goal as a business agent is to build my Unit's leadership structure by sending the stewards and officers to more training classes. A Unit is not operating properly if it is not built from the ground up.

The members of this Union have every right to have their voices heard, and the way to do it is provide good education and leadership so we may achieve maximum success.

My job as a business agent is to advise these Unit leaders and support the members by making sure their concerns with the Company are addressed in a timely manner.

I have been a ILWU member for 36 years, a steward for 24, a Unit officer for 6 and a business agent for 6.

**Maui Division
Clerks' photos
on page 8**



**Business Agent
Roberto Andrion**

Throughout history the ILWU was always in the forefront fighting to improve work conditions, wages, and benefits by organizing the unorganized workers, thus, setting a higher standard of living for others industries to follow.

I chose to run for office because I strongly believe that the union (ILWU) provides us with the ability to preserve and constantly improve those benefits we enjoy today. It is my goal to continue expanding the membership through organizing, maintain the benefits that we have, and improve those benefits for a brighter & better tomorrow.

For any one goal to be accomplished it needs the support of many wonderful and caring ILWU members. One person cannot do it alone; however, as a group we can make a major difference in the years to come. I ask for everyone to actively volunteer and support our Union activities and Political Action Committee programs so that we can build upon what of our forefathers started.

"LET'S WORK TOGETHER, Our future and children's future is in our hands"



**Business Agent
Claro Romero**

My goal as a Business Agent is to continue providing better service to all members. I know that some members feel that they are not getting the representation that they should be getting on the job. I want to change their minds by always being supportive to all, and especially the members.

I am particularly concerned about members who may be immigrants and speak English as a second language, such as the many Filipino workers who are employed in ILWU units. I will continue to do the best I can, and look forward to serving and seeing you all.

Mahalo!!! Salamat!!! Thank You!!!
Mabuhay to all of you...



**Business Agent
Steve Castro**

Aloha, my name is Stephen (Steve) Castro Sr. and I'd like to thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Business Agent. It has certainly been a challenging and rewarding experience for me these last few years.

My goal for this term will be to get our members more involved by taking an active part in their units. This is not about one person, it's about all of us—and working together, all things are possible.

I will continue to do my best to serve and represent you to the best of my ability.



**Business Agent
Delbert DeRego**

The past three years has been the most trying time I have ever experienced, since becoming a Full Time Officer of the Maui Division in 1995, which was due to the unprecedented economic conditions of recent past that has affected all of us.

This next term we will continue to work diligently to preserve jobs, work opportunity and assurance of worker dignity in all our industries.

Strive to promote active participation, education, leadership development and solidarity of our members will be driving force in our ability to continue to negotiate improvements. We shall continue to uphold, restore, and reset the standard that has kept ILWU Local 142 in the forefront of Hawaii's Labor History through our membership participation in the work place, community and political arena. In the long run, our goal is to grow and to ensure that we save our members jobs so we all have a bright future.

I am proud to be an ILWU member and committed to serve the membership to the best of my ability.

**ILWU 142
Maui Division**



**Business Agent
Jerrybeth De Mello**

2010 year of the Tiger

The past two years (2008 and 2009) have been the most devastating times I have seen since 9/11, in terms of reductions in workforce, furloughs, company shut downs, and layoffs. The unemployment line at the State building seems endless, and we begin to wonder, "what next?"

As an elected Full-time Officer of Maui Division since 1992, I have seen dramatic changes in the economy since those boom years, when the tourism industry offered great work opportunities.

Although we are dealing with difficult circumstances, we need to keep a positive outlook and continue to uphold the principles that have made our union—ILWU Local 142—a leader in Hawaii's labor community, in our workplaces, and in the political arena. We must strive to promote active participation and education for ILWU members in order to develop solidarity within our union. This solidarity will be the driving force in all the endeavors we undertake.

With solidarity, we will be better able to negotiate good contracts as we move forward. This is the year of the TIGER— so let's get aggressive (in a positive way) and take control of our work lives, and prosper!



**Business Agent
Teddy Espeleta**

My name is Teddy B. Espeleta. I am serving my third term as Maui Division Business Agent. In my third term, I hope to continue to accomplish educating our members about the importance of being part of the ILWU and to continue to fight for the rights of our members.

**896 Lower Main St.
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Meet Your Hawaii Division Officers



**Hawaii Division Director
Richard Baker, Jr.**

As the Hawaii Division Director for the past six (6) years, Richard Baker, Jr. has led the Hawaii Division Team to achieve its goals in the areas of organizing, mobilizing, negotiations of good and fair contracts, and building future leadership at the unit level.

When I look back as a worker in sugar at the Hilo Coast Processing Company (H.C.P.C.) as a unit leader, then as a business agent and currently as your Hawaii Division Director, we must not lose focus of the reason why we serve our members. We need to be strong as union leaders, set new goals and priorities, lead our rank-and-file, and protect their rights as our fathers struggled so hard to achieve, which we must now continue to struggle to maintain our rights and benefits as rank-and-file members.

The Hawaii Division Team is here for you—just call us—WE WILL BE THERE!

“An Injury to One Is An Injury To All.”



**Business Agent
George Martin**

Aloha Brothers & Sisters,
Thanks to All who voted for me.

This is my second term as your “TEAM MEMBER” of Hawaii Division.

I look forward to doing ALL I can to serve, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, the members of ILWU. I work for you!

Who knows what the further holds for us, but, whatever it is, as long as WE stick together WE should prevail!

It's a privilege and honor to be part of the GREATEST RANK AND FILE UNION! GET INVOLVED, GET ACTIVE AND STAY IN TUNE, MAHALO!



**Business Agent
Greg Gauthier**

I would like to say a sincere mahalo to all of our members and their families for supporting the cause of workplace justice through their efforts. I am especially grateful to our unit officers who give so selflessly to act as mentors, friends, teammates, therapists, and advisors, not only to their fellow workers, but to all of us.

Sometimes as Business Agents, we are so very busy filing grievances, negotiating contracts, working on political action issues to better living standards for working people, or just listening to our members vent, that we forget to remind all working people why Unionism makes perfect sense for them as individuals. As working class people, most of us do not have our own attorney like some of these big time corporate CEOs. As individuals, we would be laughed off the premises of the company if we went to the manager on our own and told them that we demand a 3 percent wage increase each year for the next 4 years, a ten percent pension increase, full family medical coverage with the most minimum co-share possible, and we want it all in writing. However, as a group of workers, we have the power to leverage ourselves to make just those very demands without being laughed off the premises. Some of our members may never have a grievance their whole career. They may wonder why they are even paying dues if they never get into any trouble. Of course, the security of knowing that you cannot be terminated at will, and that you have legal recourse through the grievance procedure is very valuable to all Union members. But, perhaps the greatest benefit for all Union members is knowing that when it comes to wages and benefits, Union members make upwards of 20 to 30 percent more than non-union members in the same or similar job classifications nationwide. In order to maintain that advantage, you must get involved, join your unit officers, and take part in this very blessed and moral struggle for equality and justice. All of our individual futures depend on our collective efforts through the ILWU. If you and I don't do it, who will?

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Clerks' photos
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**Business Agent
Elmer Gorospe**

I would like take this opportunity to say “Thank you” to all of the members of the Hawaii Division for their support. As our Union faces many challenges, I am committed to serve the rank and file to the best of my ability, to assist all members and to continue to protect workers rights. Over the next three years, some of my goals will be to work hand-in-hand with rank-and-file members at each of the units I serve; mentor upcoming leaders; and make sure the terms of our contracts are upheld. I have always believed in the critical importance of political action. Grass-roots organizing for politics is one of the greatest weapons unions have to improve our chance of getting a fair shake in Congress and at the State Legislature. I hope to be able to recruit more active members into our political action program, because our numbers are our strength.



**Business Agent
Corinna Salmo**

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have placed their trust and faith in me. As you must know, we are now experiencing one of the worst economic times there has ever been. We see it every day of our lives, in our places of work, with our families, friends, our union members, our communities, our County, State and Federal Governments and the world in general. Within our workplace we see many challenges and issues that we have never experienced before, but we must face each of those challenges head on until they are defeated. The task ahead of us as a Labor Union will be challenging, but if we band together, compromise and work together as one, we can overcome these adversities and obstacles that may come our way.

With all this said, my hope and dream is to unite our members together in accord and to continue to



**Business Agent
Wallace Ishibashi**

Mahalo for your vote of confidence and trust. I will continue to pledge my friendship and knowledge to help you in any way possible. During this term in office we will be faced with some major negotiations, together we will settle for the best package possible. Providing more training opportunities for unit members interested to learn and provide additional training for our senior Unit officers to better represent their members are some of our goals.

“United Together” we can make a huge difference as the driving force of Hawaii Division and Local 142. Get involved, be proactive, your participation determines our success.

preserve the path our leaders before us strived so diligently to provide. Both leaders and members in the past worked together as a team and as a result, were successful in defeating the many obstacles that stood in their way. They were able to do this by not only speaking the words of our motto—“An injury to one is an injury to all”—but actually living it.

This is truly what I hope to accomplish in my second term, to continue to preserve and unite our organization. Let us therefore continue on with the same pride, commitment and unity so future generations may be able to proudly follow in our footsteps.

ILWU 142 Hawaii Division

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Tsunami or not, Big Island holds annual awards night

By Greg Gauthier, Hawaii Division Business Agent

HILO—Not even the “tsunami that wasn’t” could stop Hawaii Division from enjoying the 33rd Annual Hawaii Division Awards Banquet at the Harry Kamoku Hall in Hilo on the evening of February 27, 2010.

While most of the state—and possibly the country were tuned to their television sets to see what kind of damage might occur on the Hilo bay front from a pending tsunami that was generated from an earthquake in Chile—Moses Moke and his fellow seniors from the Hilo pension club were busy decorating the Hall for the evenings festivities.

Thankfully, the island of Hawaii received the “all clear” signal at about 2:00 p.m. on what otherwise might have been considered another

sunny gorgeous day in Hilo. In any case, the ILWU Hall in Hilo is far above the danger zone and would have served as an evacuation center had a tidal wave hit the island.

The awards banquet kicked off at 5:30 p.m. with pupus and fellowship. The outdoor “ballroom” at Kamoku Hall was just about full of members, pensioners, dignitaries, and politicians when Hawaii Division Director, Richard Baker Jr, kicked off the banquet with a rousing welcome and expressions of gratitude to the

membership.

After dinner, but before the awards were given out, President Isaac Fiesta Jr. gave a memorable speech about the current state of the Union and the importance of solidarity during trying times. After his speech, Brothers Isaac and Richard Baker presented awards to those units, editors, and individuals who have gone above and beyond their normal duties in the past year or years in order to better the lives of working men and women on the island of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Division Awards Banquet is an annual awards ceremony held in February of each year. The ticket price is usually a nominal fee that, in most cases is picked up by the units for their members to attend. “If you are an ILWU member, and haven’t had a chance to come,

go to your next Unit Executive Board meeting and let your officers know that you would like to come out next time, we love seeing new faces,” said Richard Baker Jr.

Those units honored as outstanding units for the past year were: Kamaaina Motors - Unit 1413; Yamada Diversified Corp. - Unit 1412; and The Fairmont Orchid, Hawaii - Unit 1515 and ML Macadamia Orchards, LP, Ka’u - Unit 1401.

Those editors receiving awards included: Best Editor of 2008—Theresa Cabulizan of the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows - Unit 1516 and Best Editor of 2009—Starr Pascual of Sack & Save (Downtown Hilo) - Unit 1421.

Those individuals honored for their many years of service to Hawaii Division members included retirees Federico Galdones and Eli T. Miura.



Local President Isaac Fiesta Jr. with Christopher Raymond, representing Unit 1413 - Kamaaina Motors, and Business Agent George Martin.



Unit 1401 - MLMO, LP Ka’u members and supporters: (L-r) Prosecuting Attorney Jay Kimura, Mark Aurelio, President Isaac Fiesta Jr., Juanita Pedra, Desiree Salmo, Lena Davis-Natividad, Victoria Mattos, Business Agent Elmer Gorospe, Representative Cliff Tsuji.



Aurelio Mina representing Unit 1412 - Yamada Diversified Corp. with Business Agent Wallace Ishibashi Jr.

Maui Division



Maui Division Clerk
Joycelyn Victorino



Maui Division Sr. Clerk
Joyce Naruse



Hawaii Division Clerk
Ann Chong



Hawaii Division Sr. Clerk
Sui Sin Coloma

Hawaii Division

Meet Your Hawaii Longshore Division Officers



Division Director
Nate Lum



Business Agent
Tyrone Tahara



Business Agent
Dennis Morton



Executive Secretary
Lynette Mau

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Hawaii Longshore
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Thank you to all who supported me and have given me the opportunity to serve as your Business Agent for the new Hawaii Longshore Division. My goals in this three-year term are first and foremost to service the membership, and the handling of

grievances and disputes with Division employers and the day-to-day administration of the Longshore Division collective bargaining agreements.