



VOICE OF THE ILWU

HONOLULU HAWAII
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LOCAL 142

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May 2006

Overwhelming support for Del Monte workers

Hawaii Del Monte workers hoped to pass an official resolution and collect a few hundred signatures for their petition at the ILWU International Convention which was held from May 15-19, 2006, in Vancouver, Canada.

Fresh Del Monte Produce plans to permanently layoff 700 workers and shut down its Hawaii pineapple operations by the end of 2008. The company has refused to pay one penny more than the minimum required by law and the union contract. In addition, the company has refused to adjust work schedules

or allow workers time off to attend classes that will train them for new jobs. The company has also threatened to deny severance benefits to workers who find a new job and leave before the company releases them.

The resolution to support the Del Monte workers came before the

Convention delegates on May 17. Del Monte members Boyd Isnec, Darlene Palmerton, Steve Supnet, and Brandon Bajo-Daniel explained how the company got rich by transferring Hawaii pineapple technology to Costa Rica and now refuses to do anything more to help the workers who face the loss of their jobs and housing. They asked ILWU members on the Mainland and Canada to sign the petition and spread the word to family, friends, and coworkers that Fresh Del Monte pineapple will no longer be grown in Hawaii.

—continued on pages 4 & 5

ADDRESS LABEL

INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL ELECTION CANDIDATES, pages 6 & 7

(For Posting At All ILWU Union Halls and Offices From June 30, 2006 through August 14, 2006)

Vote! International Election

An election by secret ballot is being conducted by mail to determine the selection of ILWU Titled Officers, International Executive Board members, and, for Longshore Division locals only, Coast Committeemen. The mail ballot procedure is the only method being used for voting in this election. The election is being conducted pursuant to the ILWU Election Rules and Procedures adopted at the April, 1994 Convention and as subsequently amended. No later than Friday, June 30, 2006 ballot packets will have been mailed out to all ILWU members listed on the Voter Eligibility List.

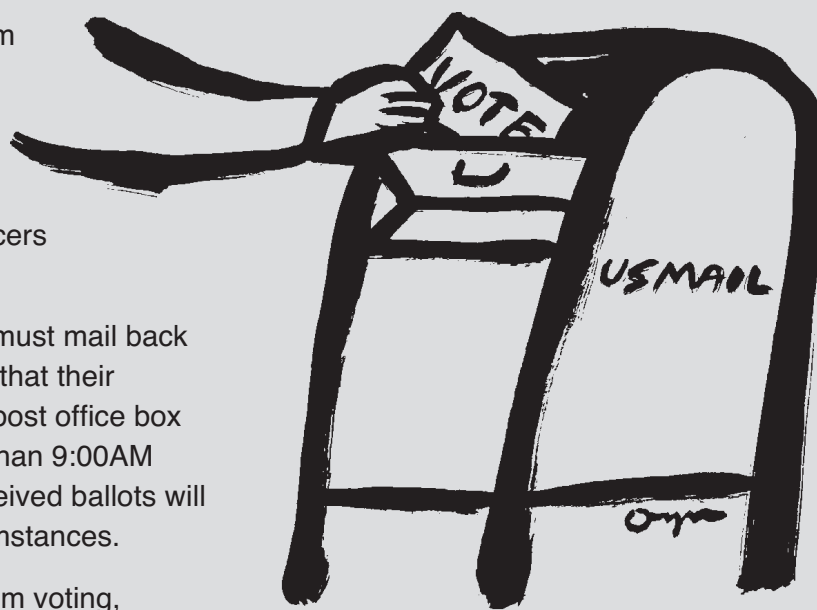
If for any reason you do not receive in the mail a ballot packet by Monday, July 10, 2006 and if you believe you are an ILWU member who is eligible to vote in this election, you can obtain a ballot packet by personally calling Election Services Corporation, the outside agency assisting in this election, at 1-800-864-1263. Since most ILWU members should receive their ballot packet from the mailing, telephone calls to Election Services Corporation will not be accepted until after July 9, 2006. A ballot

packet can only be obtained from Election Services Corporation and not from the ILWU, the ILWU Election Procedures Committee, the ILWU locals and affiliates, or any of their officers and representatives.

Please also note that all voters must mail back their ballots in sufficient time so that their ballots arrive at the designated post office box in Oakland, California, no later than 9:00AM PST, August 14, 2006. Late received ballots will not be counted under any circumstances.

To prevent ineligible persons from voting, please note that any individual who requests a ballot packet and who is not on the Voter Eligibility List will be sent a challenged ballot for voting. All challenged ballots will be subject to possible later investigation as to the voter's eligibility.

Also, the ballot packets are electronically coded to prevent anyone from having more than one ballot counted. If a voter mails in more than one ballot, the ballot with the latest postmark or receipt stamp will be counted, and the prior one(s) will be voided. However, where it is not



possible to determine the latest postmark or receipt stamp, all ballots cast by the same voter will be voided.

Any ILWU member who has a question about the election may call the ILWU Election Procedures Committee at 1-415-775-0533 to leave a voice mail message. If you call before 9:00 a.m., after 5:00 p.m. or on weekends and holidays, dial extension 150 during the answering machine message to be connected to voicemail.

Next Local Executive Board Meeting scheduled for June 22-23, 2006 • 10:00 am • King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel, Kailua-Kona

Local President's Report

Send Akaka back to Congress Akaka is the choice for working people

by Fred Galdones
Local President

Politics is vitally important to working people, but a lot of ILWU members know very little about the union's political action program. Many don't vote. And if they do vote, they may not be voting for candidates endorsed by our union.

There are some very, very important races in this upcoming election, and we need to make an extra effort to reach out to these members. This is where we need your help. We need you to talk to our new and younger members. Get them to understand the importance of political action, get them involved, and get them to vote.

We need them to vote for Daniel Akaka.

Ed Case is running to defeat Senator Akaka in the Primary Election this September 23. Case says he is doing this because Hawaii should prepare for the next generation.

There are some people who might think this is a good idea, that it is time for a change. Some of those voters may be our members. It would be a terrible mistake and a terrible loss for Hawaii and the labor movement if Akaka were to be defeated by Case. Senator Akaka has always been one of our strongest and most reliable supporters on nearly every issue important to the ILWU. Ed Case, on the other hand, has the worst record of the Hawaii delegation and opposes the ILWU on many issues.

Special election

Ed Case was elected to the US House of Representatives in 2003, when a very good friend of the ILWU, Patsy Mink, died of viral pneumonia. Case, running as a Democrat, won the special election to serve out her remaining term. In that election, the ILWU supported Matt Matsunaga.

In the regular election of 2004, Ed Case was re-elected to the US House after beating Republican Mike Gabbard. The ILWU did not support Case, because of his stand on some critical issues important to our members. In particular, Case introduced a bill in the US House of Representatives that would allow foreign shipping companies to move cargo between Hawaii and the Mainland. Right now, a law called the Jones Act only allows American ships, operating under US law, to move cargo between US ports. The main purpose of the Jones Act is to guarantee Hawaii would always have stable and secure shipping,

particularly in times of war or international conflict. We would not have this security if Hawaii had to depend on foreign owned ships.

Ed Case was not thinking about national security or what would be best for Hawaii in the long-term. He was thinking that foreign ships would compete against Matson and lead to cheaper shipping costs. He wasn't thinking of how costs would increase after Matson is driven out of business and foreign companies are in control.

Voting record

The labor movement, through the AFL-CIO, keeps voting scores on important issues that affect working families. In the last three years, Neil Abercrombie scored 100%, 93%, and 100% in support of labor issues. The 93% was the result of one vote in favor of a manufacturing tax credit that the AFL-CIO opposed.

Senator Dan Inouye scored 100%,

100% and 94%. The 94% came from Inouye's vote on one bill that favored credit card companies and made it harder for individuals to file for personal bankruptcy protection.

Senator Daniel Akaka had a perfect score of 100%, 100%, and 100%. You can't do any better than that.

Case votes against workers

How did Ed Case score? In 2003, his first year in Congress, he scored 86%. The next year, it dropped to 80%. And last year, 2005, it was a terrible 69%. In 2005, Ed Case voted five times to support business against working people. Ed Case voted to cut funds to OSHA, which protects our occupational safety and health. Ed Case voted to prevent companies from being sued in state court for wage and hour violations. Ed Case even wanted tax payers to pay the legal expenses for small businesses if they challenged OSHA enforcement rules and won.

Ed Case votes this way because this is how he thinks. Case is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 35 mostly conservative Democrats in the House of Representatives. They think the Democratic Party should become more like the Republicans. Their position on many issues put them in the middle, between the right-wing, pro-business

Republicans and the Democrats.

The Blue Dogs have divided and weakened the Democrats in the House of Representatives. On key issues, members of the Blue Dog Coalition

have voted against their own political party and sided with the Republicans over 40% of the time. This explains why Ed Case would think it's a good idea to run against a senior member of his own party.

Akaka vs Case

In the Primary Election this September 23, 2006, Hawaii voters



Fred Galdones

will have a choice between Daniel Akaka and Ed Case.

Daniel Akaka is a respected senator with 15 years of seniority and experience. Akaka has a record of supporting working people 100% of the time. Akaka took the lead in pushing for federal recognition of the Hawaiian people. Akaka has done an excellent job in representing the people of Hawaii.

Ed Case has only 3 years of experience in Washington and no seniority in the Senate. Ed Case votes against labor on many important bills. Ed Case's Blue Dog philosophy puts him on the opposite side on many of the issues we believe in.

There should be no question that Dan Akaka is the best choice for Hawaii.

We need to go out there and help Akaka win by a very large margin. A big vote for Akaka would show our thanks for the great job he is doing for Hawaii. A big vote for Akaka would send a message that Hawaii doesn't want people who think like Ed Case in Congress.

Let's use this opportunity to reach out to our younger members and our families and talk to them about supporting Akaka—to explain the issues and get them to vote for union endorsed candidates.

We have only a few months until the Primary Election on September 23. There will be a lot of work to do and not much time. So let's build a grassroots campaign and send Akaka Back to Congress. ♦

Case is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 35 mostly conservative Democrats in the House of Representatives. They think the Democratic Party should become more like the Republicans.

Akaka 100% support of Worker Issues*

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Akaka	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Inouye	94%	100%	100%	92%	100%
Neil Abercrombie	100%	93%	100%	100%	92%
Ed Case	69%	80%	86%		

*From the AFL-CIO's annual scorecards on labor issues.



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Perspectives on Politics

Create a democratic, collective organizing future

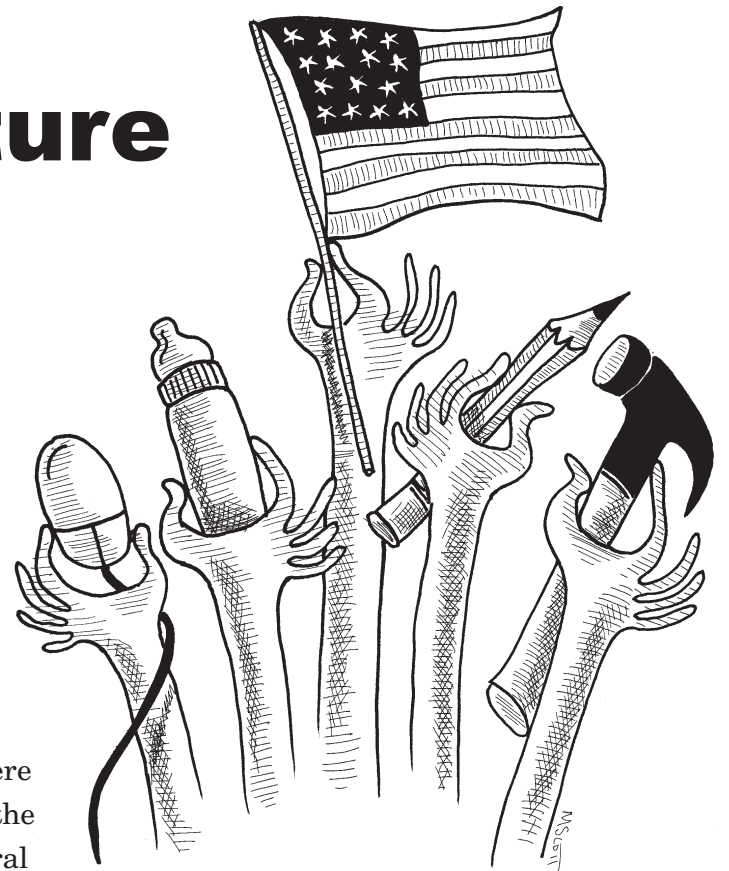
Elaine Bernard, Director
Harvard Trade Union Program

Nothing today can be achieved at the bargaining table that can't be taken away by legislatures, by congress, or by parliament. No union I think in America has gone through an experience like yours that has seen that as clearly. You win at the bargaining table, you lose in the political corridors if you don't also have a political strategy, whether it's deregulation of transportation, energy, communications, construction that we have seen over the last couple of decades, whether it's privatization of public goods, which we are seeing all the time on both sides of the border, whether it's free trade and its effect on manufacturing and outsourcing, or really even just direct political attacks on labor, such as paycheck protection, allegedly in California—really paycheck deception—homeland security, legislating the removal of bargaining rights and representation rights, or here in Canada the federal New Democratic Party putting forward a proposal to eliminate the use of scabs in labor disputes. **We can see that**

politics has a profound effect on our organizations.

We are in an environment where on both sides of the border we have very right-wing governments who are trying to reduce what is possible. They want to reduce your hopes, your aspirations. They have a vision of the future of fear — a future of fear, where people become more and more isolated, where people become scared, where people are afraid to dream again. That is the future that both the Stephen Harper federal government and the George Bush federal government in the U.S. have for working people in Canada and the U.S.

I would argue, **we have a very different future in mind.** The future we want to create is a democratic, equitable, collective organizing future that speaks for the real aspirations, not only of the people of both of our countries, but really of an international labor movement, a very different type of future. It's a future that I think is possible.



But to do that, we need an organizing strategy, we need a strategy not just organizing unions in the workplace, but, in fact, an organizing strategy that deals with political power. **And political power is where many of the decisions about the type of world we will be are made.**

—excerpted from speech to ILWU Convention
Vancouver, Canada, May 2006

ED CASE'S RECORD

2005 - Ed Case votes against workers five times

Voted to protect companies against class action lawsuits in state courts for wage and hour violations. Voted to cut funding to OSHA. Voted against enforcement by OSHA review board. Voted to require tax payers to pay legal costs for small employers who successfully challenge Osha enforcement. Voted to exempt Association Health Plans from state consumer protection rules.

2004 - Ed Case votes against workers three times

Voted to allow small business to provide inferior health plans which would pass on costs to workers with better plans. Voted for workplace enforcement by secretary of labor instead of OSHA review commission. Voted against requiring executive stock options to be treated like any other form of compensation as an expenses.

2003 - Ed Case votes against workers two times

Voted for two trade bills with Singapore and Chile that give extraordinary rights to investors and private companies to sue governments for actions that might affect their investments and profits, while providing very weak protection for labor and environmental rights.

Workers have the power of the vote

Good schools and education for our children. Guaranteed health care and prescription medication for the elderly. More time off to spend with our families. Affordable housing and better transportation. Safer jobs and protection of workers' rights. A cleaner environment.

Working people have the power to make this happen.

Your vote can make the difference in whether we have a government that tries to help workers or whether we have a government that does everything for business and nothing for working families.

The ILWU is active in politics because we want a government that will use its power and resources to help working people. Working people can help make this a reality if we register to vote and use the power of our vote wisely.

You can help by urging your fellow workers to

support the ILWU political action program. You can make sure they are registered to vote, if they are eligible. You should encourage them to apply for an absentee ballot, where you can vote by mail. This is the easiest and most convenient way to vote.

Volunteer to help

Volunteers are needed! Just a few hours of your time can make a big difference. Tell your ILWU business agent or unit officers that you are willing to help.

Or call the ILWU Political Action Coordinator on your island:

Hawaii - Brev Blas at 935-3727

Maui - Abel Kahoohanohano at 244-9191

Kauai - Ipo Kamoku-DeMello at 245-3374

Oahu - Sharon Basmayor at 949-4161

Remember these dates!

Primary Election 2006

Absentee ballot applications will be accepted from July 25, 2006 to September 16, 2006 for the Primary Election.

Register to vote for the Primary Election before August 24, 2006, 4:30pm.

You may vote in-person from September 11-21, 2006 for the Primary Election. Locations determined by your County Clerks office. Times may vary slightly at each location.

Vote on Saturday, September 23, 2006 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

General Election 2006

Absentee ballot applications will be accepted from July 25, 2006 to October 31, 2006 for the General Election.

Register to vote for the General Election before October 9, 2006, 4:30pm.

You may vote in-person from October 24, 2006 to November 4, 2006 for the General Election. Locations determined by your County Clerks office. Times may vary slightly at each location.

Vote on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ♦

ILWU members rally a Del Monte workers—contin

The petition calls for Fresh Del Monte Produce to provide extended medical coverage and severance payments to all regular and seasonal workers. In addition, the petition calls on the company to provide the funds needed to maintain and transfer the 125 plantation houses in Kunia Camp to the residents.

Overwhelming support

The Convention delegates from the Mainland and Canada responded to the resolution and petition with overwhelming support. Peter Peyton, an ILWU member from Local 63 Marine Clerks, suggested an amendment to the resolution that all ILWU locals donate funds to make a film or video about the closing of Del Monte. Peyton said the story about companies like Fresh Del Monte was very important and needs to be told to as many people as possible. He suggested asking Michael Moore to make the film. Moore's film "The Big One" exposed how companies are making record profits, then laying off workers closing factories, and moving to foreign countries to make even more profits.

Other speakers spoke in favor of making this an international issue to put pressure on Fresh Del Monte's business in Europe, South America, and Africa. More speakers pledged money from their locals and promised to collect signatures for the petition.

About \$3,000 in donations were collected and several thousand dollars were pledged. The resolution and petition were the first pieces of a long-term, public campaign to put pressure on Fresh Del Monte Produce to fulfill its moral obligations and responsibility to the workers and people of Hawaii. The campaign was off to a good start.

**Fresh Del Monte—
No longer grown in Hawaii**
"Grown in Costa Rica"—this will be on the label of Del Monte Gold®

PETITION IN SUPPORT OF DEL MONTE WORKERS AND FAIR BARGAINING

We, the undersigned, support the Hawaii workers of Fresh Del Monte Produce and call on the company to bargain fairly with ILWU Local 142, the union which represents 700 employees who will be left jobless when the company ceases its Hawaii pineapple operations in 2008. The workers are asking for enhanced benefits for medical coverage and severance payments and for financial assistance to maintain Kunia Camp, home to 125 families.

The current owners of Fresh Del Monte Produce, based in Florida and operating mainly outside of the U.S., have reaped huge profits from pineapple technology developed in Hawaii. They will continue to grow pineapple in Costa Rica, Kenya and Brazil, but not in Hawaii.

Del Monte Fresh Produce should commit resources to ensure that:

- Workers impacted by the closure can make the transition from Del Monte to other suitable jobs or retirement; and
- Kunia Camp residents can remain in their homes and preserve their lifestyle and affordable housing.

Fresh Del Monte Produce owes Del Monte workers and Hawaii at least this much.

Extra Sweet pineapple after 2008, when Fresh Del Monte Produce harvests its last Hawaiian pineapple and shuts down its Kunia Plantation on the island of Oahu in the State of Hawaii.

American consumers will probably still think Del Monte's pineapple comes from Hawaii, as Hawaii produced most of the world's pineapple between 1900 and the 1960s and is better known as the "Pineapple State." [The official nickname

for Hawaii is "the Aloha State" which was adopted by the State Legislature in 1959.] American consumers have also grown to trust the Hawaii label, knowing they are getting premium, high quality pineapple, grown in environmentally safe and sanitary conditions.

Dole Foods and Maui Land and Pineapple Company will continue to grow pineapple in Hawaii, but these companies will now be competing against Del Monte's cheaper Costa Rican pineapple.



ILWU delegates to the International Convention rally Del Monte workers (see petition, left).

Even with higher wages and costs, Hawaii has been able to compete in the world market because of advanced technology and cultivation practices. Hawaii's average yield of 33,000 pounds per acre for fresh pineapple is the highest in the world and almost double the world average of 17,000 pounds per acre. However, by using the same Hawaiian technology, Del Monte's Costa Rican plantation has steadily increased its yield to 26,000 pounds per acre with workers who are paid between \$1.00 and \$1.50 an hour, instead of the \$14 an hour average in Hawaii.

This is an example of the unfair trade and unfair competition that is hurting US workers and the American people. How can US workers compete when multinational corporations are allowed to take technology created and perfected by US workers to a low wage country and then use that technology to take their jobs away?

The trade policies pursued and enacted by President Bush and the

"Pineapple is a way of life" Statement by Darlene Palmerton

Growing up as a child in Kunia Camp was a safe haven. Kunia Elementary School was up the road from our home. The church was located across the street and next to that was Kunia Gym where we could play basketball or watch a volleyball game. Kunia Store was where we bought our groceries on credit and there was this green bus that drove around camp that sold vegetable, candy and soda.

Kunia Camp at one time was a place where neighbors grew old together, watched each other's children and you could keep your doors unlocked because everyone knows everyone living in the camp.

As I got older, I couldn't wait to start work and pick pineapple over the summer to make some money of my own. 34 years later, I'm still working for Del Monte and have raised my own children in the same environment I had grown up in.

Through the years, the pineapple fruit has been perfected in its sweetness and now grows all year round with profitable sales.

So when Del Monte managers from Costa Rica wanted to learn how to grow pineapples, they asked the old timers to show them how. With pride, the old timers showed the managers how to prep the land, plant the seed and pick the fruit. These managers thanked the old timers with a pat on the back and went back to Costa Rica to start their own pineapple plantation.

The old timers were so happy to help, thinking they helped create another pineapple plantation like Kunia Camp in a different country.

It is now 2006 and Del Monte Fresh says they don't need Kunia Plantation anymore. It costs too much to grow the fruit here. They now grow pineapple in Costa Rica and can make it as sweet growing as in Hawaii. The managers met with the workers and announced

the closure of Kunia Pineapple plantation. And they thanked the workers for their many years of service working at Del Monte. Then the managers told these workers to find another job.

Del Monte has now posted re-training programs for different kinds of occupations.

Carpenters, welders, roofers, boiler makers nurse assistant and medical assistants. Only 15% of workers signed up for these training. When I asked the workers why they did not sign up they told me. Being a pineapple worker is not just a job, it is a way of life." ♦



round

ued from page 1



ion in Vancouver sign a petition in support of

Republican majority in Congress only promote and accelerate the export of technology and American jobs by protecting the overseas profits, investments, and patents of these multinational companies, while doing little or nothing to protect and promote labor and environmental rights.

The ILWU believes the only fair and long-term solution is to raise the wages of foreign workers by negotiating trade policies that enforce labor and environmental rights and require improvements in the conditions of workers and their communities. ♦

“Tell Fresh Del Monte to be fair” Statement by Boyd Isneq

In June of 2006, I will have 29 years with Del Monte Fresh Pineapple Company, doing various jobs through those years. As of now, I hold the position of chairman for my unit (4306) and am very proud to be a member of this great union, the ILWU.

My co-workers and I worked very hard with our blood, sweat and tears to keep Del Monte going and to become successful.

Five years ago, the company sent new managers from Costa Rica, slowly getting rid of our existing managers one by one and replacing them with their own staff. As time went on, we experienced changes, like getting rid of farm equipment, eliminating various jobs, contracting jobs out, and on and on.

In these last five years, we have seen many changes take place, from good to bad, and now the worst—the closure of our plantation. The company announced on February 1, 2006 that the last planting of seeds would be at the end of February and the last harvest in

2008. So the union asked the company for their help to give us extended medical coverage and severance enhancements to help us make the transition when we are left with no jobs. But Del Monte has no compassion and their answer has always been NO.

We now know what kind of people we are working for—but we are not giving up. We are going to the end and we are going to need everybody’s help to get our message across to these people. We have a petition that we would like everyone here to sign. The petition asks for Del Monte to be fair to us, to help us with money and benefits so we can make the transition to new jobs. We helped Del Monte become successful and very profitable. They owe us this much since

they’re taking away our jobs and growing pineapple in other countries.

Please help us by signing the petition and taking the petition back to your home locals for your members to sign. We need to let Del Monte’s corporate office in Coral Gables, Florida know that many people support us and are watching them. ♦



Resolution R-24

SUPPORT DEL MONTE HAWAII WORKERS

WHEREAS: On February, 1, 2006, Fresh Del Monte Produce, which grows and packs pineapple in Hawaii, announced plans to shut down its operations in 2008, which will result in some 700 workers, most of them ILWU members, becoming jobless;

WHEREAS: In a press statement announcing the shutdown, Del Monte said: “As a result of increased planting of pineapple at lower costs in other parts of the world, the company believes that it will not be economically feasible to continue to produce pineapple in Hawaii”; but Del Monte failed to note that most of the foreign acreage is their own;

WHEREAS: Del Monte is not shutting down because they are not making money; in fact, Del Monte’s gross profits have averaged more than \$300 million each year for the last five years;

WHEREAS: Much of Del Monte’s profit is because Del Monte, a company based in Costa Rica and owned since 1996 by the Abu Ghazaleh family from United Arab Emirates, has capitalized on pineapple technology developed in Hawaii by Hawaii workers;

WHEREAS: For years, Del Monte shipped seed material for the highly successful MD-2 variety of pineapple to Costa Rica, Brazil and Kenya; now that thousands of acres of pineapple in Kenya and Brazil are ready to harvest, Del Monte has no further need for Hawaii;

WHEREAS: Despite the company’s huge profits, derived in large part from the experience and know-how of Hawaii pineapple workers, Del Monte has refused to agree with the ILWU’s proposals for enhanced severance (especially for “covered seasonal” workers who have no severance), extension of medical coverage for a few more months, and financial help for residents of Kunia Camp, home to 125 families;

WHEREAS: While Hawaii’s economy is faring much better than in years past and Hawaii’s jobless rate is the lowest in the country, transition will be difficult for these agricultural workers into a job market where many of the jobs are in tourism or require technical skills they do not possess or do not pay much more than the minimum wage and will require workers to work more than one job to support their families; Del Monte workers will need time and assistance to make the adjustment;

WHEREAS: ILWU members at Del Monte are mounting a campaign to pressure Del Monte, controlled by its corporate office in Coral Gables, Florida, to agree to the union’s modest proposals and are circulating petitions and educating the public about Del Monte;

WHEREAS: The workers believe their cause is just and want to spread the word far and wide that when Del Monte shuts down its Hawaii plantation in 2008 (or sooner), fresh pineapple with a Del Monte label will not be Hawaii-grown;

WHEREAS: Misconceptions may persist, especially if companies like Del Monte are not required to label the source of their products; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union strongly supports Hawaii Del Monte workers in their fight for the company to provide enhancements in benefits and financial assistance to help them make the transition to a “life after pineapple”; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That delegates to the 33rd Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union agree to spread the word to their family, friends, coworkers and other ILWU members that when Del Monte shuts down its pineapple operations in Hawaii in 2008 (or sooner), fresh pineapple with the Del Monte label will not be from Hawaii; and ; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That petitions supporting Del Monte Hawaii workers be circulated among ILWU locals and units for Local 142 to present to the company demonstrating broad support for ILWU members at Fresh Del Monte Produce (Hawaii).

Not to be confused with Del Monte Foods

Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc. is the company’s legal name and Del Monte Fresh Produce is the company’s commercial name.

Fresh Del Monte Produce and Del Monte Foods are two separate companies. Del Monte Foods owns the Del Monte name and has licensed the use of the brand name to companies such as Fresh Del Monte Produce or Del Monte Pacific Limited.

Fresh whole or cut pineapple are products sold by Fresh Del Monte Produce while canned pineapple is a product sold by Del Monte Foods. In general, Del Monte Foods sells canned fruits and vegetables, while Fresh Del Monte Produce sells fresh fruits and vegetables. ♦

ILWU International Election

Candidate for International President



Robert McElrath

Leadership at the International level means vision, discipline, organization, and most of all, accountability. Leadership means

knowing the goals of the rank and file, understanding the contract and representing the Union's position to the employers. Leadership at the International level means protecting all divisions of the ILWU and enforcing all of our contractual rights and benefits. It means helping to clarify the direction of the Longshore industry. With an energized, focused and united workforce, our ILWU will continue strongly into the future.

As the Vice President of the ILWU International, my job was to serve not only as Co-Chair of the Coast Labor Relations for Longshore, but to oversee the operations of the organizing department. In the last six years I cut unnecessary items from the organizing budget which increased the funds available, allowing for more aggressive organizing programs to be taken on such as Blue

Diamond, Oxbow and Kaiser Permanente Guards. Organizing inland and around our ports must continue to be a priority for our future.

Since 1934 the ILWU has had five Presidents and I have served as an Officer under three of the five. I served one year on the Coast Committee in 1993-1994, and on the Coast Committee from 1997-2000. I was then elected as International Vice President for two terms from 2000-2003, and 2003-2006

In 1993 and 1996 I negotiated the Master Longshore Agreement as Columbia River Representative, and I was Co-Chair on the 1999 and 2002 Longshore Contract negotiations. I was Chairman of the Pacific Northwest Shipboard Grain negotiations and Chairman of the in-House Grain negotiations. I also negotiated the All-Alaska Longshore Contract and the Local #5 Powell's Bookstore contract.

After 37 years on the waterfront, I offer my energy and willingness for hard work to meet the challenges of our future. I must admit, it is not always an easy path, but I consider it

a privilege to be able to spend my working life continuing the work of our founders and hard-working brothers and sisters. I am fortunate to have earned your confidence, giving me the ability to expend my daily energies on something I believe so strongly in—our ILWU.

My goal is to continue and maintain two-way communications with all the Locals. I intend to report openly and make every effort to understand each Division's concerns. I intend to work closely with the other Titled Officers, whether on the mainland or in Hawaii, and to maintain strong leadership with honesty, integrity and with an intense commitment to the ILWU.

I repeat what I have said before: I believe we must face the future as united as we were when we earned our place in Labor History. We must forge ahead with a common agenda that will allow us to prosper through the inevitable changes that will face our industries. We cannot change what happened yesterday, but united, we can change what happens tomorrow. "An injury to one is an injury to all." ♦

Candidate for International Vice President-Mainland



Joe Radisich

Brothers and Sisters of the ILWU: My name is Joe Radisich and I'm running for the position of International Vice President, Mainland of the ILWU. I am a 21-year member of the ILWU working mostly out of Local 13 with two years as a foreman in Local 94. I have served Local 13 over the past 14 years in various capacities including Executive Board, Caucus delegate, business agent and vice president.

Over the past eight years I have helped develop the Local 13 Political Action Committee and PAC fund. I have been involved in many political campaigns in Southern California and have tirelessly pushed the ILWU agenda in the political arena. I am the President of the Southern California District Council and have represented Local 13 at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor for the past eight years.

In the 2002 longshore contract negotiations I served as the coordinator of Public Relations and helped formulate a game plan to fight PMA's attacks against the ILWU. In 2005 I was appointed by the mayor of Los Angeles to serve as one of five

commissioners on the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners. I graduated from UCLA in 1991.

I am running for this position because I believe I have the experience and connections to help the ILWU move forward in the future. My overall vision for the union is to implement strategies that are proactive, strategies that will give us our best chance for achieving good contracts and increasing our ranks.

These proactive activities include increasing our political activities, organizing and running campaigns such as the union's "Saving Lives" environmental campaign.

On the political action front, more needs to be done to raise money. I will make this a major priority, as well as making sure our legislative necessities are met.

Organizing will also be a priority. Working with organizer Peter Olney, the convention and caucus have mandated a push inland to organize the warehouses that are part of the logistics chain. I believe I can be helpful calling on the strong labor and political support in Southern California. This will be a long and probably costly task because the organizing department needs more resources.

Finally, the union learned valuable lessons in the 2002 contract that PR, community relations and labor support are critical in winning contracts. This not only applies to longshore, but to all sectors of the ILWU. Championing cleaner ports is one strategy of doing this. Also, in an era of globalization, taking our fight and programs internationally will be critical.

If you think these types of programs are important and your vision for this union is to be proactive and not reactive, I would be honored to have your vote. ♦

Candidate for International Secretary-Treasurer



Willie E. Adams

It has been my privilege and high honor to have served the membership of this great union for the last three years. My work is still not complete. I like to get quiet and attack through my work and I am more committed now than ever.

My varied ILWU experience includes: Longshore Caucus delegate for seven years; three-time Convention delegate (2000, 2003 and 2006); Chairman of the Coast Jurisdiction Committee; a member of the Coast Legislative Action Committee serving in Washington, D.C.; a member of the International Executive Board and IEB Trustee; and for the last three years, International Secretary-Treasurer.

On behalf of the union, I have traveled to Australia, Brazil, France,

Holland, Germany, Belgium, South Africa, Cuba and Vietnam, carrying the proud banner and reputation of the ILWU.

I have rolled up my sleeves, and have worked with all divisions of our union. I have learned so much from all the divisions of our union. I have built some great relationships with key Senators and members of Congress in Washington, D.C. and the next three years I will work on even harder so we have even more friends and access.

I am really looking forward to our education programs the next three years, to reach even more of our members and to strike a chord with our new members so they get the fire. I really feel in the next three years organizing is going to really kick into full gear with a lot of energy, passion and bringing new members into our family.

And yes, the International has been there backing up the needs of any local or division, whenever we have been called. And yes, we have stepped up our game in organizing, political action, public relations, education and in the international arena.

I know that the next three years are going to be exciting times. The new leadership is very poised and ready for our many challenges ahead. And yes, we work within our budget, we work for our members. We will give them our best and then some. ♦

ILWU International Election

Candidate for International Vice President-Hawaii



Wesley "Wes" Furtado

Second generation Longshoreman. Dedicated over 20 years to serving our union. Rank-and-file member and a lead organizer, shop steward, unit officer, and Longshore negotiating committee member. Elected as Business Agent, then appointed as an International Representative in

Hawaii. Elected as the International Vice President of the Hawaii Region in 2000.

Years of supporting and leading many organizing campaigns that have added new members to the ranks of our union in various industries. Spokesperson for many contract negotiations, including first contracts for newly organized members and for contract renewals for existing union members. Also supported membership mobilizations for contract negotiations in different industrial groupings.

Attend Longshore caucuses, bargaining sessions, and meetings to increase understanding of new technology and industry standards. Participated in past negotiations for Hawaii Longshore and satellite unit contracts.

Participated in lobbying for support for Longshore negotiations, Agriculture industry issues, Tourism industry issues, and issues concerning General Trades in both

Washington D.C. and in Hawaii. Staff organizers are encouraged to participate in Local 142 and Division political action efforts whenever possible. Looking forward, we need to focus on important political races to strengthen our jurisdiction.

The International works with the IBU-Hawaii leadership in their negotiations to improve working conditions and benefits. We are currently working on organizing campaigns to help build IBU membership in Hawaii.

The Hawaii Region Organizing Department works along with Local 142 and Divisions. Hawaii Region organized new members into our union in the last three years. To increase the effectiveness of organizing efforts the International, Local 142, and Divisions, negotiate employer neutrality and card-check agreements to support strategic organizing.

In 2005, we negotiated the first Health & Welfare Trust Fund

agreement for our members in the Tourism industry. This Trust Fund will help control the rising cost of health care insurance premiums.

The International supports training for union members and leadership using national resources. In Hawaii, the International has supported education and training for union members pertaining to drug awareness and treatment. The International has access to resources on the national level and internationally. The International communicates directly with other National or International unions and organizations who share common interests with our union members in Longshore, Agriculture, Tourism, and General Trades groupings.

I'd like to thank my fellow union brothers and sisters for their support and the opportunity to serve as International Vice President - Hawaii. I ask for your continued vote of support so I can continue to serve the membership. ♦

Candidates for Local 142 Industrial Grouping Representative to the International Executive Board



**Sugar Industrial Grouping
Bob Zahl, Unit 2101**



**Longshore Industrial Grouping
Nate Lum, Unit 4201**



**Pineapple Industrial Grouping
Avelino Martin, Unit 4305**



**General Trades Industrial Grouping
Kenneth Ige, Unit 4412**



**Tourism Industrial Grouping
Joey Silva, Unit 3501**

Hawaii Division wins Gold Award again

HILO—Hawaii Division does it again, winning another Hawaii Island United Way (HIUW) Gold Award. The award is presented on the basis of both a high level of giving and high level of participation in the workplace. But winning the award is nothing compared to helping those in need, and the satisfaction of helping others is what Hawaii Division and the ILWU are all about.

HIUW is dedicated to building healthier communities by bringing together labor, business, and government to assist people in need. Many dedicated volunteers—including

ILWU full-time officers and members—help to make its programs a success. “We give freely and generously to the people of Hawaii County,” said Division Director

Richard Baker Jr. “It is a long-standing union practice to ‘pass the hat’ to help any sister or brother who needs help. HIUW allows us to continue that practice.”

“When we give, we know that ninety-eight cents out of every dollar stays here on our island to help our ohana,” said Wallace Ishibashi Jr., the Hawaii Division Business Agent assigned to community services.

Baker added, “We understand that we cannot solve all the social problems in our communities ourselves, but with everyone working together, we can make a positive difference. Working together in solidarity is also union practice—and we pledge to continue our support to HIUW.”

The Hawaii Division team that won the award—Richard Baker Jr., Roy Jardine, Isaac Fiesta Jr., Greg Gauthier, Richard Kaniho, Elmer Gorospe, and Wallace Ishibashi Jr.—expressed their heartfelt thanks to former HIUW President and Chief Professional Officer (CPO) Helen Hemmes for working with them and wished her well in her retirement. “We also want to welcome our new Big Island CPO Darla DeVille,” said Ishibashi.

“We know that working with Darla and with our Labor’s Community Services Liaison Steve Querobin, the ILWU and HIUW partnership will continue to grow stronger,” said Ishibashi. ♦

Filipino Centennial Celebration

ILWU takes part in Filipino Centennial Celebrations

ILWU members on Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai took part in Filipino Centennial Celebration parades held in honor of the *sakada*—contract workers who came from the Philippines to labor in the sugar and pineapple fields of Hawaii. The 100th anniversary celebration is of great importance to the ILWU, because many of the union’s founding members and great leaders were *sakada*.

The Honokaa Filipino Fiesta was held on the Big Island on April 29 at the Honokaa Recreation Complex, and included a parade through the town. In a special ceremony, Hamakua Coast *sakada* were recognized for their contributions to the community. Former ILWU Division Directors Yoshito Takamine and Eusebio Lapenia Jr. marched with ILWU parade participants, which also included current Division Director Richard Baker Jr. and full-time elected officers. The ILWU won both first and second place in the parade.

Kauai held its Barrio Fiesta on May 6-7, 2006 on the grounds of Kapiolani Community College in Lihue. The dates were chosen to coincide with popular spring festivals held in the Philippines.

Featured events included a parade through Lihue town, ethnic food and cultural activities. ILWU officers, active members and pensioners marched proudly in the parade.

On May 26 the “friendly isle” kicked off its Maui Barrio Fiesta with a huge parade through Kahului from Maui Community College to the War Memorial complex. Residents and visitors alike enjoyed two and a half days of traditional Filipino food, music and culture. Over 20 Maui Division members, pensioners and staff worked hard on the parade float, which depicted the union’s plantation roots as well as Filipino culture. Riding atop the float were pensioners John Arisumi, Fely Corpuz, Joe Adzuara, and Connie Villanueva,

who were dressed in traditional sugar plantation clothing. Also on the float were Unit 2505 - The Westin Maui members Peter Santiago, Lourdes Rivera and Alex Ajolo. Santiago performed the traditional Filipino dance *tinikling*, hopping between the poles Rivera and Ajolo clacked together to keep time.

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. (HC&S) worked with the union to make

the parade entry a success, providing a flatbed truck and driver for the float, which bore the banners “ILWU Maui Division” and “HC&S.” “We appreciate Human Resources Director Jozette Montalvo’s help in putting together a float that honors the *sakada*,” said Maui Business Agent Jerrybeth DeMello. The float, which was featured on the front page of the Maui News, won third prize. ♦



ILWU members and retirees with State Representative Mina Morita (center with lei.)



Pensioners dressed as sugar workers and Westin members performing *tinikling* rode on the Maui Division float.



Maui pensioners bundle together stalks of sugarcane to be used as decoration for a parade float.