

The House of Representatives
The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
January 29, 2008
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 309

Statement of the Hawaii Carpenters Union on H.B. 3029
Relating to Public Works

The Hawaii Carpenters Union supports H.B. 3029, to address in the statute what is currently in the Administrative Rules of Chapter 104, HRS, while narrowing the type of use of State or County land that would be affected.

Currently the administrative rules provide that prevailing wages are to be paid for construction undertaken through the use of "...land, or other resources of the State or any county...". Because there is a wide range of uses of State or county land, H.B. 3029 is needed for clarification and enforcement.

H.B. 3029 would narrow the focus to the use of State or county land to commercial, for-profit activity. It would also make clear that the law must be enforced.

In the example of the Naniloa hotel in Hilo, the benefit of using State waterfront land should not become a part of depressing area standard wages and benefits for construction work. Currently prevailing wages are not being required for construction work. That includes construction to serve State purposes that is required in the agreement for the use of the land.

Where prevailing wages are not required to "level the playing field", Hawaii contractors who contribute to skilled craft training are at a disadvantage. Hawaii contractors who lesson burdens on government and the community by providing family medical and dental insurance, and retirement income programs, not to mention decent wages, are at a disadvantage. State resources should not be used in this manner.

The fact that agreements are reached and documented prior to the use of the land and prior to any construction, provides the mechanism for the administration of the Chapter 104 provision.

Thank you for your consideration of our support for the passage of H.B. 3029



Randy Perreira
President

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The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
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Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
January 29, 2008


H.B. 3029 – RELATING TO PUBLIC WORKS

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 3029. This bill strengthens the prevailing wage requirement under Chapter 104, HRS by adding another situation where its provisions are applicable.

Under H.B. 3029, construction contracts between private persons using state or county land for commercial, profit making activity would be required to follow prevailing wage requirements of Chapter 104, HRS. The prevailing wage requirement will be included in the lease or other agreement to use state or county land, and the construction project owner must submit weekly-certified payroll to the government agency entering into the agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 3029.

Respectfully submitted,

 Randy Perreira
President