

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2008

Committee: Senate Judiciary and Labor

Department: Education

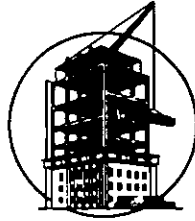
Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.C.R. 230, H.D. 1, H.S.C.R. 1599-08, Recognizing the Week of September 1, 2008 – September 7, 2008 as Hawaii Labor History Week

Purpose: Requesting the Department of Education to encourage teachers across the state to provide labor education learning experiences for students appropriate to their grade level and consistent with state educational history and social science content standards.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports this Resolution to recognize the week of September 1, 2008 to September 7, 2008 as Hawaii Labor History Week, but has some concerns as it is currently drafted. Lines 5-12 of H.C.R. 230, H.D. 1, H.S.C.R. 1599-08 which state (in part), “. . . standards-based textbooks, or commonly used social studies curricula that focus significant time on the history of labor in Hawaii . . . are not a large part of the educational criteria of the Department of Education” is not an accurate statement and should be deleted. Should this Resolution with recommended revision(s) be adopted, the Department will work with labor groups to plan and distribute a memo to all schools encouraging teachers to recognize the

history of labor in Hawaii and suggest ways this might be accomplished. In addition, the Department will provide a list of resources that teachers may use in the classroom. The Department recognizes the important role labor has played in our state's history and will support and encourage teachers to provide educational learning experiences consistent with the HCPS III.



HAWAII BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

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April 24, 2008

Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HCR230, HD1
RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1 – SEPTEMBER 7
AS HAWAII LABOR HISTORY WEEK
Hearing: Friday, April 25, 2008 @ 10:30 a.m.

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Hee and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

For the record my name is Buzz Hong, the Executive Director for the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Our Council is comprised of 16-construction unions and a membership of 26,000 statewide.

The Council SUPPORTS HCR230, HD1 which will recognize the week of September 1st through September 7th as Hawaii Labor History Week. This resolution is not only a call to celebrate labor history; it is also to provide our youth the opportunity to connect with their past, and increase their educational skills in speech, history, arts, writing, etc. with labor history as a vehicle.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of passing HCR230, HD1.

Sincerely,

William "Buzz" Hong

WBH/dg



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

April 25, 2008

H.C.R. 230, H.D. 1 – RECOGNIZING
THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 –
SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 AS HAWAII
LABOR HISTORY WEEK

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.C.R. 230, H.D. 1 which seeks to establish a Hawaii Labor History Week.

Our union represents nearly 30,000 state and county employees who fulfill vital roles that allows our island state infrastructure to operate smoothly. Many of these functions are transparent to the public or taken for granted. We are proud to be a part of the public sector labor movement of our state.

We strongly urge passage of H.C.R. 230, H.D. 1 to establish a Hawaii Labor History Week, to recognize and celebrate the many valuable accomplishments of Labor and to advance and improve rights and conditions of all working families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.C.R. 230, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

THE SENATE
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Friday, April 25, 2008; 10:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.C.R. 230
RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1 TO 7
AS HAWAII LABOR HISTORY WEEK**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.C.R. 230, HD1, which recognizes the week of September 1 to 7 as Hawaii Labor History Week.

Labor has played an important role in the development of Hawaii as a territory and a state. Contract laborers brought to Hawaii from many countries to cultivate and harvest sugar were the basis for Hawaii's unique multi-cultural society. These laborers formed unions that helped to weave the economic, social and political fabric of our islands. These unions produced leaders like Jack Hall of the ILWU, David Trask of HGEA, and many others who helped to raise the standard of living for a multitude of workers and built a better Hawaii.

Yet in our schools, both public and private, this labor history is largely ignored. It is as though labor unions and their contributions did not exist in Hawaii. A generation of people know little to nothing about labor unions and believe the capitalist propaganda that unions are obsolete and no longer necessary.

H.C.R. 230, HD1 will help to educate children about labor unions and call attention to the major role that unions played in bringing equality and prosperity to Hawaii. It was not the capitalists and managers alone who did this. Without labor, the work would not be done. Without unions, the workers would not have shared in the wealth created by their labor.

The ILWU urges adoption of H.C.R. 230, HD1 and looks forward to Hawaii Labor History Week this year and every year to come. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

Testimony from
Alfred C. Lardizabal
Director of Government and Community Relations
Laborers' Union Local 368

On

HCR230, HD1 RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1 – 7 AS HAWAII
LABOR HISTORY WEEK

Friday, April 25, 2008
10:30 a.m. Conference Room 325
State Capitol

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair: Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair and Committee members:

This resolution is more than the celebration of Hawaii Labor history; it is about recognizing students that perform excellent work, along with their teachers, through the study of Hawaii Labor history.

We would like to provide incentives for students to do well in developing their skills in writing, researching and speaking while learning about Hawaii Labor history. As an example, students could pick a specific topic on Hawaii Labor history, do the proper research, write a paper on the subject and perhaps even give a short presentation. The student with the "best" paper or presentation, or as determined by the Department of Education, would be given a small monetary award and an achievement plaque during Hawaii Labor History Week. This could be extracurricular or a special project to complement the classroom subject.

In any case, the intent is to be supportive of our students and schools in celebrating Hawaii Labor history and would provide support where reasonable and possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HCR230, HD1.