



HAWAII TEAMSTERS AND ALLIED WORKERS, LOCAL 996

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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Representative Joseph Souki, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice-chair
Committee on Transportation

Date: Apr. 9, 2008, at 9am, in room 309

Re: Support HCR27, Proposed HD1

Good morning Chair Souki, and Vice-Chair Nishimoto, members of the Transportation Committee, I am Ron Kozuma, President of the Hawaii Teamsters Local 996. I am testifying in support of HCR27, Proposed HD1.

I have a membership of over 6000 members in various industries in Hawaii and Guam. One of our companies is the Wikiwiki Tram Service at the Airport.

The management Contract was bid out recently and awarded to a new contractor. Historically the Teamsters Local 996 has represented the employees who provide the service. There have been other management companies that have taken over the operation but they have always rehired the workforce because of their special requirements to do the job. The operators need CDL Licenses, Airport Ramp and security clearances, which our members have to maintain in order to work at ASIG (Wikiwiki).

The current contractor has chosen to re-hire only a 25 out of 65 of the Wikiwiki employees, which I believe will not be a sufficient amount of Qualified and Credentialed employees to operate the Tram service adequately. Our members have suggested that they needed more operators at certain times during the day to take care of the passenger loads. Will passenger safety be compromised with the addition of the new hires that may not possess the necessary requirements or training to do the job as of the 1st of April 2008?

There are concerns about the bidding process that needs review. I've raised them with the Governor and her staff, the ombudsman, and now the Legislature to get a resolution.

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996, Supports HCR27 Proposed HD1.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

**Ron Kozuma, President
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