

# HAWAII PORTS MARITIME COUNCIL

affiliated with

Maritime Trades Department

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR and CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

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## Member Unions:

*International Brotherhood of  
Boilermakers, Iron Ship  
Builders, Blacksmiths,  
Forgers and Helpers  
Lodge 627*

*International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 1260*

*International Union of  
Elevator Constructors  
Local 126*

*Hawaii Government  
Employees Association,  
AFSCME Local 152*

*Hawaii Pilots Association,  
MM&P Pilots Division*

*Inlandboatmen's Union  
of the Pacific*

*International Longshore and  
Warehouse Union Local 142*

*Laborers' International Union  
of North America Local 368*

*Marine Engineers'  
Beneficial Association*

*Marine Firemen,  
Watertenders, Oilers & Wipers*

*Masters, Mates and Pilots,  
Offshore Division*

*Sailors' Union of the Pacific*

*Seafarers International Union*

*United Food and Commercial  
Workers International Union  
Local 480*

Alex M. Sonson, Chair  
House Committee on Labor  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 323  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## LATE TESTIMONY

March 24, 2008

Dear Chairman Sonson,

On behalf of the Hawaii Ports Maritime Council, a labor organization composed of maritime and maritime-related unions representing men and women working on Hawaii's waters and waterfront, I am writing to express our Council's **strong support** for HCR 329, "*Requesting the Department of Education to provide opportunities for students to learn about Hawaii labor history*".

We support HCR 329 as a necessary component providing for an educated citizen of Hawaii. Most of us who live in Hawaii must work for a living. It is therefore incumbent upon our educational institutions to include in our education that important component detailing the history of Hawaii's workers and their history of struggle and achievement in their workplaces. Understanding the history of workers is as important as understanding the other strands of our history (i.e. political, social and economic) as the history of Hawaii workers is inextricably intertwined with those strands.

We support HCR 329 because we feel it is very important for the next generation of workers to understand the struggles and costs paid to achieve the benefits we all now enjoy in today's work place. This understanding is essential for the next generations of citizens to value what we have, and with that value, build reasonable expectations to what we can achieve in the future.

As noted in HCR 329, the material to teach these valuable lessons is available here in Hawaii. It is shameful not to use those resources for the benefit of our society. We urge you to hear and pass HCR 329.

Sincerely,



Neil Dietz, Secretary-Treasurer

