

Date of Hearing: March 28, 2008

Committee: House Education/Labor &
Public Employment

Department: Education

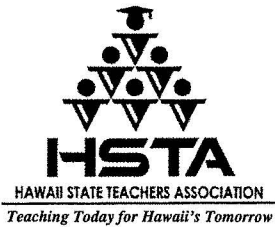
Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.C.R. 329, Requesting the Department of Education to
Provide Opportunities for Students to Learn About Hawaii Labor
History

Purpose: Requesting the Department of Education, in conjunction with the
Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) and labor
groups, to plan educational opportunities including, but not limited
to, speech and writing contests, debates, research, art and photo
contests, displays, educational scholarships, field trips, seminars,
and internships and to provide labor education learning
experiences for students appropriate to their grade level and
consistent with educational history and social science content
standards.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) does not support this
Resolution as currently written. The Department has concerns with
lines 10-16 of H.C.R. 329 which state, (in part), “. . . there are no
Department of Education approved standards-based textbooks, or
commonly used social studies curricula that focuses significant time
on the history of labor in Hawaii. . . .” This is not an accurate
statement. The Recommended Instructional Materials List, which will

include history of labor resources, is currently being finalized for Social Studies and will be available for teachers by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. In addition, the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS) III (BOE Policy #2015) course benchmarks in both U.S. History and in Modern History of Hawaii specifically include the study of labor as part of the Social Studies curricula. The Department suggests that as this Resolution is similar to H.C.R. 230, perhaps this Resolution is not necessary. Should recommended revisions in H.C.R. 230 be adopted, the Department will send a memo to all schools encouraging teachers to recognize the history of labor in Hawaii and will provide a list of resources for teachers. 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 HCPS III.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

Roger K. Takabayashi
President

Wil Okabe
Vice President

Karolyn Mossman
Secretary-Treasurer

Mike McCartney
Executive Director

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

**RE: HCR 329 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT
HAWAII LABOR HISTORY.**

March 28, 2008

**ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chairs Tokumi, Sonson, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports HCR 329, which requests the Department of Education (DOE) to provide opportunities for students to learn about Hawaii labor history.

There is a reference to Hawaii's labor history contained in the Hawaii Content Performance Standards (HCPS) III in the Grade 9 Modern Hawaiian History strand, under the topic of Plantations (1900-1970). The establishment of labor unions and contract labor are two benchmarks covered in this topic. The association believes that support from the University of Hawaii's (UH) Center for Labor Education and Research, the UH Industrial Relations Center, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and local unions will enhance the education of our children about this important topic and provide students more and better opportunities to learn about Hawaii's labor history.

We urge this committee to pass this concurrent resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

On

HCR329, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT
HAWAII LABOR HISTORY

TO

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair, Committee on Education;
Representative Alex M. Sonson, Chair, Committee on Labor and Public
Employment and Members of the committees:

We believe that everyone has a part in the education of our students. The intent of our resolution are:) to be supportive of our students, teachers and schools where possible; b) to acknowledge the accomplishments of students, teachers and schools in coordination with annual Labor Day activities; c) use Hawaii Labor history as one vehicle for student learning and pre-work force development.

We recommend an ad hoc committee of labor organizations in support of the DOE to suggest and plan events such as but not limited to: a) speech/essay contests, b) art/photography/display contests, c) internship, and d) work career orientation seminars.

In the process of doing Hawaii Labor history research for speech, art, writing activities, and visiting labor training facilities, students will learn about Hawaii Labor history and how immigrants over came socio-economic and cultural challenges to succeed in life. Students could learn the values of hard work, discipline and commitment to improving the quality of life by this research. The hope is to inspire some students to pursue excellence in their studies and beyond.

The Laborers' Union, in cooperation with several high schools, is assisting students in understanding the link with their academic studies especially in math and reading, with careers in the construction industry. Students are shown the several career and job opportunities in construction and what

skills are required for these jobs. Students become aware that mathematics and reading are critical to succeeding at work. The construction of homes and structures, handling of hazard waste material, landscaping, site preparation, energy and environmental protection measures etc. all require good math and reading skills.

There are two resolutions that serve a similar purpose, HCR 230 heard recently by the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment and this resolution, HCR 329. In a meeting with the DOE Superintendent of Education and Social Studies expert, we concluded that the following amendment would be appropriate:

Delete the third "Whereas" paragraph in its entirety. We recommend that the ad hoc committee suggest activities that complement current labor history studies in the schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Education

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D., Vice Chair

Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Rep. Alex M. Sonson, Chair

Rep. Bob Nakasone, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Friday, March 28, 2008; 2:00 p.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.C.R. 329

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.C.R. 329, which requests the Department of Education to provide opportunities for students to learn about Hawaii labor history.

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 ignored. It is as though labor unions and their contributions were non-existent in Hawaii. A generation of people know little to nothing about labor unions and fully believe the capitalist propaganda that unions are obsolete and no longer necessary.

H.C.R. 329 will help to educate school children in Hawaii about labor unions and the major role they played in bringing equality and prosperity to these islands. 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.

Furthermore, labor education in the schools should include not only the historical role of labor unions but the value of unions in Hawaii and America today. Labor unions provide workers with the only means to level the playing field at work. Without a union contract, workers are subject to the whims and discretion of employers and have very little protection at the workplace. Laws enacted to offer protection to unionized employees are only as good as their enforcement, which has been weak in recent years. Labor unions provide workers with a voice at work.

The ILWU urges adoption of H.C.R. 329. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

HAWAII BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
Gentry Pacific Design Center, Suite 215A
560 N. Nimitz Highway, #50
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 524-2249 - FAX (808) 524-6893

March 27, 2008

Honorable Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Honorable Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HCR329
REQUESTING THE D.O.E. TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR
STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT HAWAII LABOR HISTORY WEEK
Hearing: Friday, March 28, 2008 @ 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and the House Committee on Education:

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 HCR329, which requests the Department of Education to provide opportunities for students to learn about Hawaii Labor history. This very important resolution for Labor in Hawaii will begin the learning process of our students regarding the history of labor and the benefits it has provided to society and the need to protect them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of passing HCR329.

Sincerely,

William "Buzz" Hong

WBH/dg

Marine Firemen's Union

AFFILIATED WITH THE SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF N. A.
AFL-CIO

HEADQUARTERS
240 Second Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

HONOLULU BRANCH
707 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 538-6077
Fax (808) 531-3058

BRANCHES
Wilmington, California
Seattle, Washington



Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Committee on Education

March 28, 2008

Dear Chairman Takumi

On behalf of the Marine Firemen's Union a labor organization of maritime unions representing men and women working on ships servicing Hawaii's waters. I am writing to express our union'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 because we feel it is very important for the next generation of workers to understand the struggles and cost paid to achieve the benefits we all now enjoy today's work place. As noted in HCR 329, the material to these important lessons is available at the University of Hawaii.

This understanding is essential for the next generation of citizens to value what we have, and with that value, build reasonable prospect for the future and labor in Hawaii. We urge you to hear and pass HCR 329

Sincerely

Bonny S. Coloma
Port Agent

FAX 536 6511

Marine Firemen's Union

AFFILIATED WITH THE SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION OF N. A.
AFL-CIO

HEADQUARTERS
240 Secnd Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

HONOLULU BRANCH
707 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 538-6077
Fax (808) 531-3058

BRANCHES
Wilmington, California
Seattle, Washington



Alex M. Sonson, Chair
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

March 28, 2008

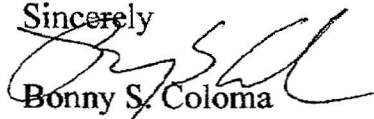
Dear Chairman Sonson,

On behalf of the Marine Firemen's Union a labor organization of maritime unions representing men and women working on ships servicing Hawaii's waters. I am writing to express our union'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 because we feel it is very important for the next generation of workers to understand the struggles and cost paid to achieve the benefits we all now enjoy today's work place. As noted in HCR 329, the material to these important lessons is available at the University of Hawaii.

This understanding is essential for the next generation of citizens to value what we have, and with that value, build reasonable prospect for the future and labor in Hawaii. We urge you to hear and pass HCR 329

Sincerely


Bonny S. Coloma
Port Agent



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Education &
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
March 28, 2008

H.C.R. 329 - RELATING TO LABOR EDUCATION

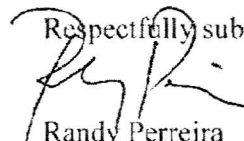
Chairman Takumi, Chairman Sonson and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.C.R. 329, which would provide labor education learning experiences for students appropriate to their grade level and consistent with educational history and social science content standards.

As many of you know, it was labor unions that improved our working conditions. Their hard fought victories paved way to the eight hour work day, increased salaries, job safety and many other improved working conditions that we take for granted today. Their bold, progressive ideas set the stage for numerous laws to protect workers and ensure job security. However, as the years passed, their hard fought victories were slowly forgotten only to be remembered by a few. As a result, the Hawaii State AFL-CIO encourages labor education as we feel it is truly imperative that students understand the struggles that unions faced and the uphill battles they fought to improve our way of life.

Currently, schools do not focus on labor history and therefore, the intent of this resolution is to ensure that their hard fought victories are not forgotten. During the annual Labor Day holiday, this resolution would encourage students to participate in various activities such as writing contests, debates, art and photo contests and many others. This resolution would also request that labor education be taught in the classroom. By teaching labor history, values in hard work, discipline, and commitment would be taught as well as the importance of developing math, speaking, and writing skills. It can also help connect academic classroom work with real work for learning purposes.

The labor movement was one of the most important times in American history, and therefore, it is ideal to pass H.C.R. 329. Let's not let an important time in American history be forgotten. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
President



The Hawaii Teamsters and Allied Workers, Local 996

1817 Hart St.
Honolulu, Hi. 96819

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Lyla Berg Vice-Chair
Committee on Education

Representative Alex Sonson Chair
Representative Bob Nakasone Vice-Chair
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Date: Mar. 28, 2008, 2pm, room 309

Re: Support HCR 329

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996, Supports HCR 329, requesting the Department of Education to provide opportunities for students to learn about Hawaii's labor history.

We believe that that if students, especially in the High School learn about Labor's History and struggles, that they would have an awareness and maybe an little appreciation for the gains made in the workforce by those that have come before them. We hope that by adding Labor education, students may realize that formal education like UH, Community College, etc., which should be encouraged, are not the only options. Organized labor offers apprenticeship programs and on the job training opportunities that may be more suitable for some students looking for career choices.

Let us work together to give all students the Hope that they can succeed.

The Hawaii Teamsters Local 996, Supports HCR329.

Thank you for opportunity to testify.

Glenn Ida
Local 996 PAC Co-Chair
295-1280



Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
ph 808.597.1441
www.apalanet.org

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
HCR329, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO
LEARN ABOUT HAWAII LABOR HISTORY

March 28, 2008
2:00 p.m., Room 309

My name is Joan Takano and I serve as chair of the Hawaii Chapter of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. Founded in 1992, APALA, AFL-CIO, is the first and only national organization of Asian Pacific American union members.

I am testifying in support of HCR329. It is critical that students today realize the importance of labor history. For example, what kinds of jobs were available a hundred years ago and who benefited from the economy at that time? How has labor and management resolved differences? Why do we have paid vacations, sick leave, minimum wage and workers compensation laws?

It's been said that if you know history, you can make history. We need to equip students with an understanding of the past so that they can meet the challenges of the future and, indeed, make their own history.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Working Together for Hawaii

888 Milliani Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991
www.hgea.org

Telephone: 808.536.2351
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

Hawaii Government Employees Association
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House
Committee on Education
And
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME Local 152
March 28, 2008

HCR 329 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT HAWAII LABOR
HISTORY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of this concurrent resolution and recommends its passage.

We believe that the public school system should provide opportunities for students to learn about Hawaii's proud labor history. The history of labor is a fundamental part of the development of our state and students should be encouraged to learn about our past in order to appreciate the present and future. Many of the benefits that are enjoyed today by employees are a direct result of the sacrifice and determination of labor in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama E. Desha
Executive Assistant