

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Health  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Friday, January 30, 2009; 8:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 687  
RELATING TO VETERANS**

The ILWU Local 142 opposes H.B. 687, which transfers the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home from Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to the State Office of Veterans Services.

The ILWU represents 45 workers at the State Veterans Home in Hilo, which is operated by Avalon Care Center, an organization with a wealth of experience in managing long-term care facilities, two of which are located on Oahu. The State Veterans Home opened in phases from November 2007 but is not filled to capacity as yet.

The facility is currently under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, which runs several hospitals with long-term care facilities throughout the State. HHSC has experience in hospitals and health care and understands the long-term care needs of the community.

The ILWU believes that, while the clients served by the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home may be veterans and their spouses, the Home is nonetheless a health facility that must meet specified requirements for accreditation and fulfill specified responsibilities to its clients. Because of its experience, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation may be better equipped than the Office of Veterans Services to provide the necessary oversight for this health facility.

The ILWU, therefore, urges that H.B. 687 be shelved. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and concerns.