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Re: HR 168 – Requesting a joint agency study on illegal immigration in Hawaii

Position: Support with amendment

Representative Rhoads,  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees on Agriculture,

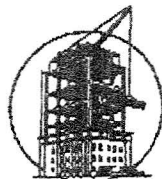
The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is the largest general agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii with over 1600 members Statewide. We understand the need to study the illegal immigration issue in Hawaii; however this issue affects many industries including agriculture.

We respectfully request that the Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture be added to the agencies involved in the study. Labor is a critical issue for agriculture and the impacts are many. This study could help broaden everyone's understanding of the labor issues in Hawaii and assist with strategic planning for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Respectfully,

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation



**LATE**

**HAWAII BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**  
 GENTRY PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER, STE. 215A • 560 N. NIMITZ HIGHWAY, #50 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817  
 (808) 524-2249 • FAX (808) 524-6893

**NOLAN MORIWAKI**  
*President*  
 Bricklayers & Ceramic Tile Setters  
 Local 1 & Plasterers/Cement  
 Masons Local 630

March 24, 2009

**JOSEPH O'DONNELL**  
*Vice President*  
 Iron Workers Local 625

Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
 Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
 Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
 Hawaii State Capital  
 415 South Beretania Street  
 Honolulu, HI 96813

**DAMIEN T. K. KIM**  
*Financial Secretary*  
 International Brotherhood of  
 Electrical Workers Local 1188

**ARTHUR TOLENTINO**  
*Treasurer*  
 Sheet Metal Workers I.A. Local 293

RE: **IN SUPPORT OF HR 168**  
**REQUESTING A JOINT AGENCY STUDY ON THE IMPACT**  
**OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN HAWAII.**  
 Hearing: Mon., March 24, 2009, 10:30 a.m., Room 309

**MALCOLM K. AHLB**  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*  
 Carpet, Linoleum, & Soft Tile  
 Local 1298

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and the House Committee on  
 Labor & Public Employment:

**REGINALD CASTANARES**  
*Trustee*  
 Plumbers & Fitters Local 675

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.

**THADDEUS TOMEI**  
 Elevator Constructors Local 128

**JOSEPH BAZEMORE**  
 Drywall, Tapers, & Finishers  
 Local 1544

The Council **SUPPORTS HR 168** requesting a joint agency study on  
 the impact of illegal immigration in Hawaii.

**RICHARD TACHERE**  
 Glaziers, Architectural Metal &  
 Glaseworkers Local Union 1889

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support  
 of **HR 168**.

**JAUGHN CHONG**  
 Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied  
 Workers United Union of Roofers  
 Local 221

Sincerely,

**MARY AYCOCK**  
 Joinermakers, Ironship Builders  
 Local 627

*W. Hong/dg*

**LYNN KINNEY**  
 District Council 50  
 Painters & Allied Trades  
 Local 1791

William "Buzz" Hong  
 Executive Director

**ALANI MAHOE**  
 Operating Engineers Local 3

WBH/dg

**EDWARD SEBRESOS**  
 International Assoc. of  
 Paint & Frost Insulators  
 Allied Workers Local 132





Testimony of C. Mike Kido  
External Affairs  
The Pacific Resource Partnership  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

HCR 207 and HR168 – REQUESTING A JOINT AGENCY STUDY ON THE IMPACT  
OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN HAWAII  
Tuesday, March 24, 2009  
10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 309

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee on Labor & Public  
Employment:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs of the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-  
management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Carpenters  
Union.

PRP strongly supports HCR 207 and HR 168 – Requesting a Joint Agency Study on the Impact  
of Illegal Immigration in Hawaii. We support this bill for the following reasons:

- On May 1, 2007, Governor Lingle signed Act 52 into law prohibiting the State and its  
counties from hiring illegal and/or undocumented workers.
- In December of the same year, 19 illegal workers were arrested at The Pinnacle  
condominium located in downtown Honolulu, and another 11 being housed at a  
warehouse in Halawa Industrial Park.
- In 2008, an additional estimated 150 and illegal or undocumented workers were arrested  
across our state. Of this number 127 of the illegal workers were employed in the  
construction industry.
- Since the occurrence of these raids, the DCCA and its licensing entities have been silent  
on this issue, and have shown no sign of taking any action against the licenses of these  
unscrupulous contractors who take part in the illegal and morally bankrupt business  
practice of hiring illegal aliens.
- In 2005, The Pew Hispanic Center produced a study that estimated the illegal immigrant  
population in Hawaii to be approximately 20-35 thousand. In January of 2009, the U.S.  
Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated the number of unemployed people in our state to be  
approximated 39,000. Therefore, companies who are hiring illegal workers in our state

are taking gainful employment away from our local workers who are struggling to keep food on their families tables, pay their bills, and keep their homes.

- Temporary project by project employment, and subcontracting practices in the construction industry provide fertile ground for violations of labor, tax, insurance and other laws. There is a growing realization across the nation that in both public and private sector construction, workers are misclassified as independent contractors, or are completely “off the books”. In this way, workers both legally authorized and not authorized to work in the U.S. are cheated, and millions of dollars in tax revenues are lost to each State and the Federal government.
- The purpose of this resolution therefore, is to ascertain the degree to which our state and local citizen’s are being impacted by the unscrupulous practice of exploiting illegal labor and to recover any and all monies illegally withheld from the State as a result of this practice, to prevent companies from hiring illegal workers in our state, and to prevent businesses that engage in the practice of hiring illegal workers from doing business in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you and we respectfully ask for your consideration on HCR 207 and HR 168.