

THE SENATE
Committee on Health
Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair
Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Friday, February 13, 2009; 3:45 p.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 587, S.B. 1139, S.B. 1673

The ILWU Local 142 wishes to express concerns and questions about S.B. 587, S.B. 1139, and S.B. 1673, all related to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. We comment on these bills as the representative of thousands of ILWU members and retirees who are consumers of services provided by Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

S.B. 587 and S.B. 1139 requires specific actions to be taken prior to any substantial reduction or elimination of direct patient care services at an HHSC facility. The bill provides that the plan for reduction or elimination of services must be presented at a community informational meeting. It appears that the regional system board and/or the corporation board will make the final decision. However, it's unclear what will be taken into consideration when the decision is made. Therefore, having a community informational meeting may simply be perfunctory and just to satisfy a requirement. S.B. 1139 provides for legislation action (with an appropriation) to stop the reduction or elimination of services.

S.B. 1673 would allow HHSC and its regional systems to transition into a new legal entity. What guarantees are there that this new legal entity will be able to do the job any better than HHSC? None. We believe we would be better off dealing with what we know that what we do not know.

The ILWU requests that the Committee consider our concerns and the potential that safety net services could be jeopardized. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these measures.