



Comments of C. Mike Kido
External Affairs
The Pacific Resource Partnership
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair

SCR 131 and SR 86 – REQUESTING A JOINT AGENCY STUDY ON THE IMPACT
OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN HAWAII

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

10:15 a.m.

Conference Room 016

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

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 SCR 131 and SR 86 – Requesting a Joint Agency Study on the Impact of Illegal Immigration in Hawaii. We support these resolutions 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.
- As it states in the April 2009 issue of The Honolulu Magazine, “Local workers are being undercut on jobs, undocumented immigrants are being underpaid and exploited. The rest of Hawaii is picking up an estimated \$9 million annual tab for social services.”
- 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 SCR 131 and SR 86.