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Regular Session of 2009

THE SENATE

Committee on Labor

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Thursday, April 2, 2009; 2:45 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.C.R. 131 AND S.R. 86
REQUESTING A JOINT AGENCY STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN HAWAII**

The ILWU supports the intent of S.C.R. 131 and S.R. 86 calling for a study on the impact of illegal immigration in Hawaii.

As the economic crisis hits closer and closer to home, more and more jobs are impacted--either with reduction of hours or lost altogether. When hotel workers are put on "on call" status and end up not being called in for work because visitors are not coming to Hawaii, we are concerned if work opportunity is doled out in an unfair or discriminatory manner. When construction workers are "on the bench" by the hundreds, we are concerned if those jobs are filled by non-union, undocumented workers.

We are appalled that this is precisely what is happening in the construction industry. While undocumented workers are not the sole reason for workers being on the bench, providing jobs to undocumented workers is a violation of federal law. Furthermore, when one undocumented worker has a job in construction, that means another worker fully authorized to work in the U.S. does not have a job. The impact on the livelihood and well-being of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents could be significant.

S.C.R. 131 and S.R. 86 is proposed to study the impact of illegal immigration in Hawaii. Care should be taken to ensure that immigrant workers with lawful work authorization are not targeted or discriminated against.

The ILWU supports adoption of S.C.R. 131 and S.R. 86. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.