

April 9, 2009

Senate Committee on Labor

Honorable Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair

Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

**RE: SUPPORT OF SCR 132 & SR 87– Requesting the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to Establish a Task Force to Determine the Economic Value of Construction in Hawaii**

Aloha Chairman Takamine and members of the committee,

I, Perry Artates; Executive Director of the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization fund, which is a joint Labor/Management fund made up of the Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 and its Signatory Contractors, whole heartedly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 132. I have been in the construction industry for over 30 years, and know the importance of construction in Hawaii.

The Hawaii Operating Engineers has always been known to be the first to break new ground, whether it is in the private or public sector and we are always striving to find viable solutions to meet the demands of our Construction industry. Along with the other 16 representatives that will serve on this task force, the Labor Union representative will play an essential role.

During these turbulent economic times where unemployment is on the rise and our states economic health continues to fall, changes need to be made and all matters need to be addressed concerning the various types of construction projects, i.e. CIP, federal, private, etc. By establishing a task force, we believe that the State of Hawaii will be better prepared to make decisions that will help identify smart growth projects, legislative initiatives, government budget needs, and implement policy changes that will ensure all areas of commerce to prosper.

We ask that you move this resolution out of your Committee.

Sincerely,

Perry O. Artates  
Executive Director