

**LATE**

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Labor and Public Employment  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 309  
Friday, January 29, 2010; 9:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2202  
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2202, which removes definitions requiring online posting of workers' availability and prohibiting all Department of Labor rules, current and future, that require posting of workers' availability online.

Through the years, the ILWU has enjoyed a cordial and collaborative relationship with the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and its divisions for Unemployment Insurance and Workforce Development. The Department has assisted ILWU members being laid off by sending staff out to provide "rapid response" sessions and to take applications in the field. However, we have a concern about a recently implemented requirement that H.B. 2202 seeks to address.

The definition of "register for work" in HRS 383 includes a requirement that the claimant post online the claimant's "name, job skills, education, training, prior employment history and work duties, preferred working conditions, occupational licenses, and other relevant occupational information to facilitate work search efforts." What is posted online is generally a resume of sorts for the claimant.

The ILWU believes this requirement to post an online resume poses a disadvantage to claimants who are not computer literate or do not have access to the Internet.

In recent months, several hundred ILWU members have lost their jobs and were forced to apply for unemployment benefits. These members were employees of Gay & Robinson and Maui Pineapple Company, both agricultural companies which shut down at the end of November and December, respectively. Most of these workers have never used a computer and do not know how to post a resume on the Department of Labor's website. Yet such a posting is required for the worker to receive unemployment benefits and, we understand, must be done within a week after application for benefits.

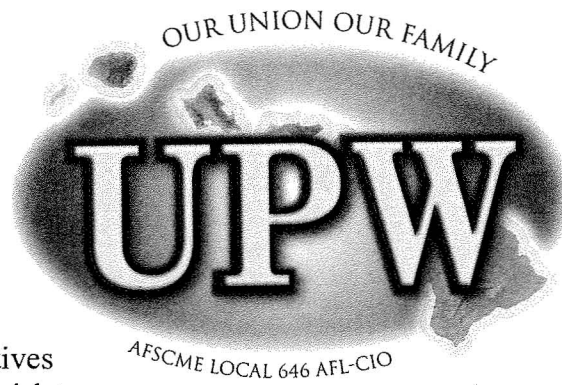
The Workforce Development Division does make itself available to claimants needing assistance with this online posting. However, the WDD is currently short-staffed and overloaded with responsibilities to assist the hundreds and thousands of workers needing assistance to find a new job. Having to accomplish this responsibility within a short timeframe poses an additional burden for a staff already stretched thin.

Unemployment insurance claimants should be registered in some fashion with the Workforce Development Division. WDD needs information on claimants to be effective in assisting them to find new employment. However, the online posting poses an unnecessary impediment to otherwise eligible claimants as well as an undue burden for WDD staff.

We do not object to requiring claimants to "register for work," but the definition should not include online posting of work availability.

The Department may also want to consider streamlining forms that applicants for unemployment insurance must complete. Currently, applicants must complete multiple forms requesting similar information. A single form that can be shared between the two divisions (UI and WDD) would be more efficient and far more user-friendly for the claimant.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2202. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



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**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, LOCAL 646, ON HB 2202,  
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**

HB 2202 prohibits Online Requirements by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

**UPW supports this measure.**

Currently, eligibility to receive unemployment benefits includes the requirement that the claimant post online the claimant's "name, job skills, education, training, prior employment history and work duties, preferred working conditions, occupational licenses, and other relevant occupational information to facilitate work search efforts" (HRS 383).

The online posting requirement assumes claimants are computer literate, have access to the internet, or will have timely assistance from the workforce Development staff to complete this requirement. The closings of Gay & Robinson and Maui Pineapple Co. and the subsequent filing of UI benefits by hundreds of agricultural workers proved to be an unnecessary burden to claimants and the over-worked Workforce Development staff.

Although this information is extremely valuable in helping claimants seek new employment, we believe streamlining the process without requiring the online requirement would be more efficient for many claimants.

For this reason we urge the passage of this measure.

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