

**TESTIMONY**  
**SB 1316**  
**LATE**

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009

**LATE TESTIMONY**

THE SENATE

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Wednesday, February 11, 2009; 2:45 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 1316  
RELATING TO ALOHA TOWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The ILWU Local 142 opposes S.B. 1316, which repeals the chapter relating to the Aloha Tower Development Corporation (ATDC). The bill would transfer all rights, powers, functions, and duties of ATDC to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

In 2008, Act 200 was enacted to expand the authority of the Aloha Tower Development Corporation to assist in the development of a statewide harbors modernization plan. There was general recognition that improvements to the state's harbors was badly needed, especially since Hawaii depends so heavily on goods imported by ship from other parts of the U.S. and the world. While Hawaii is making strides toward sustainability, we are clearly far from being able to grow all our own food and manufacture all the goods that our population needs and desires. Ocean surface transportation is, therefore, the state's lifeline.

S.B. 1316 would transfer the "rights, powers, functions, and duties" of ATDC to DBEDT, thus charging DBEDT with the responsibility of implementing the statewide harbors modernization plan authorized in Act 200. However, our concern is that the transfer itself could further delay harbor improvements, and DBEDT will likely be hampered by procurement requirements that would limit its ability to enter into public-private partnerships and development-oriented financing options.

The ILWU's main concern is that the harbors modernization plan must be implemented as quickly as possible. Further delays will only mean more congestion at the harbors, more potential for accidents, less efficiency in moving cargo on and off the ships, and higher costs. Repealing ATDC and transferring its authority and responsibilities to DBEDT at this time may not be a prudent move.

The ILWU urges that S.B. 1316 be held. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and concerns on this matter.

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