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March 15, 2010

To: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair,  
and Members of the House Committee on Economic Revitalization,  
Business, & Military Affairs

Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2010  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 312  
State Capitol

From: Darwin L.D. Ching, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**S.B. 2323 H.D. 1 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**

**I. DLIR'S SUPPORT OF S.B. 2323 H.D.1**

The Department agrees with the current version of the bill as it essentially follows current practices. Individuals are allowed to register for work on HireNet Hawaii independently, or to be assisted by staff at the state employment office [Workforce Development Division (WDD)]. After registration is completed, the WDD will send verification to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division that an individual has complied with registration requirements, including the posting of an online job resume.

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

S.B. 2323 H.D. 1 proposes to add a new section to Chapter 383, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to require the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to allow individuals to post job availability online independently or to assist the individual by posting information online for the individual after the individual provides the necessary information on a form to the Department.

## **II. CURRENT LAW**

Currently, the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division requires, under section 383-29(a)(2), that an individual register for work at a state employment office, and under section 383-1, that "registered for work" means that the individual shall provide information to the employment office for posting on the Department's internet job-matching system, called HireNet Hawaii.

Further, registering for work at the state employment office is currently required within seven (7) calendar days after applying for unemployment benefits, and proof of registration in the form of an occupational code is required to meet eligibility requirements.

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business, & Military Affairs  
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
Tuesday, March 16, 2010; 8:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2323, HD1  
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2323, HD1, which requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to either allow individuals to post job availability online independently, or post the information online for the individual after the individual provides the necessary information on a form prescribed by the Department.

HD1 provides claimants with an option to post their job information online or to provide information for Department staff to do the posting. This amendment will assist claimants who are unfamiliar with computers and the Internet to meet UI requirements to qualify for benefits.

However, this amendment does not address the issue of overburdened Department staff, who are already stretched thin due to the large numbers of workers filing for unemployment benefits as well as shortstaffing due to furloughs and layoffs within the Department. We hope that the Department will take its own staffing limits into consideration as it implements the online posting requirements for unemployment benefit eligibility.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2323, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.