

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



DARWIN L.D. CHING
DIRECTOR

COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

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To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Monday, March 29, 2010

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308
State Capitol

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

S.B. 2323 H.D. 2 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, WDD will send verification to the UI Division that an individual has complied with registration requirements, including the posting of an online job resume.

II. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

S.B. 2323 H.D. 2 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 either post job-availability online independently or post the information online for the individual. The measure further provides that the proposed definition of "registered for work" under section 383-1 will not be repealed when Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, is repealed.

III. 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 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 Finance
Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Monday, March 29, 2010; 4:00 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2323, HD2
RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2323, HD2, which clarifies that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations shall 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.

Currently, workers claiming unemployment benefits are required to register for work with the Workforce Development Division and post a resume online within a week after application for benefits to maintain UI eligibility. Workers unfamiliar with computers and the Internet have had difficulties with this requirement. Although Workforce Development Division staff have provided assistance, online posting has posed an undue burden on staff who are already stretched thin due to the high volume of new claimants for unemployment benefits as well shortstaffing resulting from furloughs and layoffs within the Department.

Instead of prohibiting registration for work and online resume posting, as the bill originally stated, the current bill now requires registration for work and allows claimants the option to post their resumes online by themselves or ask Department staff for assistance. The Department has also given assurances of assistance and that no one will be denied because of their inability to use the Internet to post their resumes. With this understanding, claimants may be less intimidated by the process and will apply for unemployment benefits and register for work without undue hesitation.

The ILWU agrees that this is a fair compromise. However, this does not address the issue of overburdened Department staff. We trust that the Department will take its own staffing limits into consideration as it implements the online posting requirement for unemployment benefit eligibility.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2323, HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.