

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. 2324, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS**

The ILWU Local 142 strongly supports S.B. 2324, SD2, HD1, which authorizes an individual who is attached to a regular employer that is not offering work to still receive unemployment insurance benefits even if that individual voluntarily or involuntarily separates from part-time employment, with or without good cause.

S.B. 2324, SD2, HD1 seeks to amend the statute related to unemployment insurance to prohibit disqualification of a partial claimant due to separation from a secondary job. This prohibition will apply only to claimants for partial unemployment benefits who are attached to a regular employer, exempt from job search and registration for work requirements, and available for work offered by the regular employer.

Claimants who are attached to a regular employer include those who have reduced work hours and those who are not offered work due to a short-term layoff. An example of short-term layoff is when the regular employer shuts down all or part of its business for renovations and plans to resume business as usual thereafter. Whether intermittent layoffs or short-term layoffs, workers are considered employees of the regular employer and may receive benefits such as medical coverage.

Unemployment benefits allow these workers to be available to the regular employer when work opportunity picks up or renovations are completed, creating a win-win situation. The regular employer is assured that workers will be available when needed and, in turn, workers have a source of income to weather the temporary unemployment period. If unemployment benefits were not available, workers may be compelled to find new full-time jobs, leaving the regular employer to begin a costly and uncertain hiring and training process.

The ILWU strongly urges passage of S.B. 2324, SD2, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



HAWAII BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO
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Local 1296

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Plumbers & Fitters Local 675

THADDEUS TOMEI
Elevator Constructors Local 126

JOSEPH BAZEMORE
Drywall, Tapers, & Finishers
Local 1944

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Glassworkers Local 1944

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Boilermakers, Ironship Builders
Local 627

LYNN KINNEY
District Council 50
Painters & Allied Trades Local 1791

EUGENE SOQUENA
Operating Engineers Local 3

DOUGLAS FULP
International Assoc. of Heat & Frost
Insulators & Allied Workers Local 132

RONAN KOZUMA
Hawaii Teamsters & Allied
Workers Local 996

PETER GANABAN
Laborers' International Union of
North America Local 388

VAUGHN CHONG
Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied
Workers United Union of Roofer
Local 221

March 25, 2010

Honorable Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Honorable Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **IN SUPPORT** OF **SB 2324 SD2 HD1**
RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

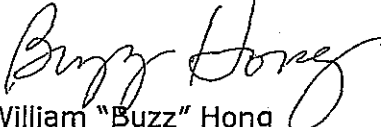
Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and the Committee on Finance

For the Record my name is Buzz Hong, the Executive Director for the Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. Our Council is comprised of 16- construction unions and a membership of 26,000 statewide.

The Council **SUPPORTS** the passage of **SB 2324 SD2 HD1** that authorizes an individual who is attached to a regular employer that is not offering work to still receive unemployment insurance benefits even if that individual voluntarily or involuntarily separates from part time employment, with or without good cause.

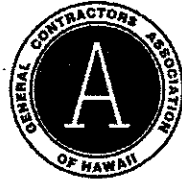
Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of **SB 2324 SD2 HD1**.

Sincerely,


William "Buzz" Hong
Executive Director

WBH/kb

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GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

March 25, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR AND
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SUBJECT: S.B. 2324, SD2 HD1 RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
BENEFITS.

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 29, 2010
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

The General Contractors Association (GCA), an organization comprised of over five hundred and seventy (570) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms, is **opposed** to the passage of S.B. 2324, SD2 HD1 Relating To Unemployment Insurance Benefits.

This bill would automatically allow benefits to an individual who, while on partial claim status, accepts a job with another employer and subsequently voluntarily or involuntarily separates from the part time employment. We are particularly opposed to language that indicates that benefits will be paid regardless of whether the employee was separated for good cause or not. This provision would not permit the employer to challenge the payment of unemployment benefits.

The GCA believes that the existing policies enforced by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations are fair and should be maintained. If this bill is passed and enacted, the result would be a greater demand on the unemployment insurance reserve fund which is already underfunded and will already require a substantial increased payment by the employer.

The GCA is **opposed** to the passage of S.B.2324, SD2 HD1 and recommends that the bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on this issue.