

SB 821

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

THE SENATE
Committee on Ways and Means
Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Friday, February 27, 2009; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 821, SD1
RELATING TO ELDER CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 821, SD1, which requests the Executive Office on Aging to cooperate with County Offices of Aging to develop a plan to increase voluntary contributions, procedures for managing waitlists, and policies for implementing a cash and counseling model for service delivery.

The Administration's position is that funds cannot be made available for these programs because of the "declining economic outlook and rising budget deficit." However, consider what Kupuna Care does to avoid costs.

The Kupuna Care Program allows hundreds if not thousands of seniors to live in their own homes and not require institutionalization. Services for meals-on-wheels, chore services, respite, and the like are needed to keep seniors out of nursing homes and, very likely, not needing Medicaid assistance, which would be far more costly for the State. A small investment in the Kupuna Care Program will go a long way to avoid greater expenditure of the State's funds and prevent institutionalization.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 821, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.