

# LATE

#The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011

THE SENATE  
Committee on Transportation and International Affairs  
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair  
Suzanne Will Espero, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 224  
Monday, February 7, 2011; 1:20 p.m.

## **STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 98 RELATING TO WATER CARRIERS**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 98, which requires public hearings before the Public Utilities Commission approves a water carrier's application for certificate of public convenience and necessity. The bill further requires that specific findings supported by evidence in the record exist before approval is granted.

Transportation between the islands is vital to the health and well-being of the residents of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii, Molokai and Lanai. Without adequate transportation provided at a reasonable cost, the residents of those islands will face a shortage of goods and/or very high prices.

Thus it is imperative that the public be heard when any changes are being proposed to transportation by water carriers. At the same time, the PUC must be mindful that increasing competition alone is not always best. A good example is what happened to Aloha Airlines when a competitor airline came to Hawaii and reduced prices. While prices may have been artificially lower for a time, we lost a trusted airline carrier and hundreds of jobs that, more than two years later, continue to impact the state's economy.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 98. Thank you for considering our testimony.