

Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2012

LATE

THE SENATE

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Friday, March 23, 2012; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 622  
GWEN RULONA  
FOR THE HAWAII HEALTH CONNECTOR BOARD**

The ILWU Local 142 supports the confirmation of Gwen Rulona to serve on the board of the Hawaii Health Connector.

Ms. Rulona will represent consumers on the Hawaii Health Connector board. She has served as Secretary-Treasurer and Director of Education and Legislation for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 480, from 1990 to the present. In that capacity, she represents the interests of the union's members and helps to educate and advise them about multiple issues, including health plans.

Ms. Rulona is well-versed in health care issues affecting her members and the broader community. She supports the Affordable Care Act and understands the importance of the individual mandate to ensure that all Americans are covered by health insurance, which should put an end to cost-shifting while ensuring quality care in the most cost-effective manner.

Ms. Rulona will bring a much-needed consumer perspective to the Health Connector board. Her years of experience with working men and women will inform the board about what individual consumers want and what they can afford. At the same time, she is clear that Hawaii's Prepaid Health Care Act must be protected. This law, passed in 1974, is what has made Hawaii a model for the rest of the nation in providing health insurance for all.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Gwen Rulona for the board of the Hawaii Health Connector. Thank you for considering our views.