



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

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February 2, 2012

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair, Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Date: Friday, February 3, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Dwight Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 2655 Relating to Labor

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

- H.B. No. 2655 seeks to establish a training program to expand workforce investment activities currently administered by the department pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
- The bill appropriates State funds in the sum of \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2012-2013 for this training program.
- Target population includes the unemployed and underemployed; veterans; persons with disabilities; non-native English speakers; homeless persons; and persons recently released from incarceration.
- Funds will be allocated to county workforce investment boards.

II. CURRENT LAW

There is no comparable State law at this time—only a tiny amount of general funds supports workforce development activities in DLIR.

III. COMMENTS ON H.B. No. 2655

The workforce development activities of the department are currently under fiscal constraints due to restrictions arising out of recent federal budget decisions. Therefore, the department appreciates the intent of this measure to augment and expand the reach of workforce investment activities. If the legislature chooses to provide general funds for workforce activities, the department requests that the allocation of those program funds include a 15% proportion for administration.

The department's supports this measure as long as its passage does not displace the funding priorities of the administration.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Friday, February 3, 2012; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2655
RELATING TO LABOR**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2655, which directs the DLIR to establish a state-funded training program to expand the workforce investment activities administered by the DLIR under the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and makes an appropriation.

The ILWU has always supported workforce training programs and has been actively involved in Workforce Investment Boards throughout the State for years. We have been keenly aware of the steady decrease in WIA funding even prior to the recession. This has meant significantly greater challenges for agencies serving unemployed persons and dislocated workers. With less funding, the focus has been more on job placement, even in jobs that may pay low wages and have no future, rather than job training that will offer skill development and a career.

H.B. 2655 will provide for a state-funded training program free from the restrictions and uncertainty of federal funding. Agencies serving the unemployed and dislocated workers will be able to prepare adult workers for new and emerging industries and help them get the education and develop marketable skills to sustain them until retirement.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2655. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this bill.