

LATE TESTIMONY

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

THE SENATE

Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Thursday, January 26, 2012; 2:50 p.m.

STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2194 RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

The ILWU Local 142 opposes S.B. 2194, which requires all employers to use the e-verify system to verify that an applicant is eligible to work in the U.S.

This bill appears designed to identify and probably deport anyone who does not have documented authorization to work in the U.S. Yet the federal government itself, which established the e-verify program, has not mandated e-verify for all employers. It is curious that the State would mandate its employers, presumably public and private, to use e-verify to ferret out “illegal or undocumented immigrants” in order to open up jobs to those who are legally authorized to work here. We believe this is a distasteful use of public resources.

Furthermore, state agencies do not have the capacity to enforce this law, given the downsizing and hiring freezes that have been in place due to the downturn in the economy. The real danger, however, is that enacting this law may create a slew of law violators among small employers who may be innocently unaware of changes to the law.

The ILWU urges that this bill be shelved. Thank you for considering our views.