

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

January 27, 2011

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: SB2218 - PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE STATE OF HAWAII RELATING TO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS
FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE

Aloha kākou:

We **support** SB2218. Presently, there is no minimum residency requirement for any person to run for office from any senate or representative district. Basically, all a person has to do is to express an intention to move into that senate or representative district before filing for that office. This being the case, such a person may have absolutely no background concerning the issues that the voters of such senate or representative district are facing. We need well-informed persons from such a senate or representative district to seek office.

Keeping the above in mind, we would advocate that an individual must reside in a district for at least on year before filing and becoming a candidate for that district. Only by establishing relationships within a district and interacting with that community as a district resident can one begin to understand that community's concerns. Thus, the law as set forth in article III, section 6 of the Hawaii constitution should be amended to require that a person must be a resident of Hawaii for at least 5 years, and, a resident in the senatorial or representative district for at least 1 year before he or she can seek such office.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mel Kahele