

Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
Regular Session of 2013



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair  
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
Thursday, February 21, 2013; 11:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2  
RELATING TO LONG TERM CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 strongly supports H.B. 2, which appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to conduct an education and awareness campaign on long-term care.

Long-term care includes a range of services to meet the medical and non-medical needs of people with chronic illness or disability who cannot care for themselves, usually for the remainder of their lives. Most of the individuals needing long-term care are elderly and in progressively declining health. They need help with activities of daily living, such as walking, bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, managing their medication, getting their meals, etc. Much of the care for these individuals is provided by family caregivers who often sacrifice their own needs to care for those of others.

Unless they have had personal experience with it, most people do not understand the huge impact caregiving can have on someone's life or the enormous cost to provide such care, particularly in an institution. As a result, most people do not plan and are not prepared for the long-term care needs of their loved ones or themselves.

H.B. 2 is intended to develop an extensive education and awareness campaign to help the general public understand long-term care and its costs and, ultimately, to advocate for a feasible, responsible program to help meet these prohibitive costs. The alternative is more family caregivers sacrificing their own health and retirement income, more care recipients institutionalized and qualifying for Medicaid assistance, and more burden on taxpayers.

An education and awareness campaign is sorely needed. The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and concerns.