

LATE

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
Wednesday March 27, 2013; 4:45 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 886
Proposing an Amendment to Article VI, Section 3, of the Hawaii State Constitution
To Increase the Mandatory Retirement Age for State Justices and Judges**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 886, which proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory retirement age for justices and judges from 70 to 80 years of age.

This proposal attempts to mitigate the decision made by voters to set an age limit for judges. The ILWU opposed the constitutional amendment back then and believed, then and now, that no age limit should be imposed. If there is concern about the fitness of judges to make decisions that affect the lives of many, there are other means to evaluate the competence and capability of these jurists instead of an arbitrary age limit. Such an evaluation can be initiated for cause or on a periodic basis.

The issue about whether a judge or justice should serve should be about competence, judicial temperament, and fairness—not age.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 886. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.