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The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
March 22, 2016

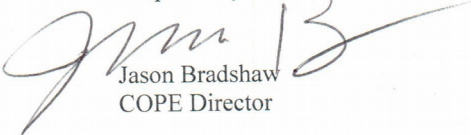
H.R. 41 – DESIGNATING APRIL 28,
2016, AS "WORKERS' MEMORIAL
DAY" IN HAWAII

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly supports H.R. 41 which designates April 28, 2016, as Workers' Memorial Day in Hawaii.

Each year, on April 28th, the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions observe Workers' Memorial Day to honor those who have died or been injured on the job and to renew the fight for safe working conditions. H.R. 41 honors those who have died or been injured in Hawaii and continues to encourage safer working conditions. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly urges the passage of H.R. 41.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Bradshaw
COPE Director

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March 21, 2016

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
and members
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813



RE: Strong Support for HCR79/HR41, Designating April 28, 2016 as “Workers’ Memorial Day” in Hawai‘i in Memory of Workers Killed, Injured, or Disabled in the Workplace.

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members:

The Hawai‘i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai‘i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Operative Plasterers’ and Cement Masons’ Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; the Laborers’ International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai‘i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai‘i’s construction industry.

We strongly support HCR79/HR41, which would designate April 28, 2016 as “Workers’ Memorial Day” in Hawai‘i in memory of workers killed, injured, or disabled in the workplace. This is a date selected by the AFL-CIO on the national level.

Worker safety is an issue that our unions take very seriously. Our unions and our signatory contractors are continuously striving to ensure that our members are working to the strictest safety standards.

However, more must be done. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 31 Hawai‘i residents died of work-related injuries in 2014, which was up from 11 work-related deaths in 2013. Sadly, nine of the fatalities in 2014 were in the construction industry.

In closing, we hope that this resolution will bring more attention to the issue of safe and healthy worksites not only in the construction industry but in all sectors of Hawai‘i’s economy.

Mahalo,

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