



Randy Perreira
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HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony by
Hawai'i State AFL-CIO
April 14, 2021

S.C.R. 171 – URGING ALL LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND
PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS IN THE
STATE TO VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE AND
PROSECUTE OFFENSES COMMITTED
AGAINST ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHILE
ON THE JOB

The Hawai'i State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 74 affiliate local unions and councils with over 68,000 members across both public and private sectors. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.C.R. 171.

We acknowledge that while there are laws in place that address harassment, this resolution seeks vigorous enforcement of such laws when offenses occur against essential workers. In urging vigorous enforcement, it is apropos to define “essential workers” more specifically in order to mitigate inequal enforcement, prosecution, and overburdening Hawaii’s judicial system.

We offer the following for consideration in defining “essential workers.” The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) identifies two categories of “essential workers:” (1) Essential Healthcare Workers and (2) Essential Non-Healthcare Workers who are essential to maintain critical infrastructure and continue critical services and functions. According to ACIP, the latter category of frontline “essential workers” comprise the “subset of essential workers likely at highest risk for work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, because their work-related duties must be performed on-site and involve being in close proximity (<6 feet) to the public or to coworkers.”

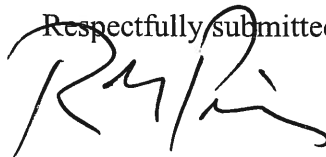
The intention of this resolution is to protect the latter category who are at a higher risk of being harassed due to their inability to avoid close proximity to the public while working. The ACIP acknowledges that a worker’s occupation and not place of work determines their level of proximity to the public. The offenses that this resolution seeks to deter stem from interactions between workers and patrons or would-be patrons who are refused service for noncompliance with government public health mandates and company policies arising from the pandemic. For this reason, whether a worker

is in the essential healthcare or essential non-healthcare category, any definition of “essential worker” for the purpose of this resolution should include factors of their occupation which specify that their work-related duties (1) must be performed on-site and (2) involve being in close proximity, which is less than six feet, to the public.

Businesses are reopening at higher capacities, residents are resuming activities, and the tourist economy is gaining momentum with an average of 20,000 visitors arriving in the state daily. These factors are elevating the work-related risk of harassment with those in the following ACIP Workforce Categories at the highest risk due to Hawaii’s tourist economy: (1) First Responders; (2) Food Service; (3) Grocery Store Workers; (4) Healthcare Personnel; (5) Public Transit Workers; (6) Shelter and Housing, namely Traveler Accommodation; and (7) Transportation and Logistics, namely Air Transportation. These ACIP Workforce Categories are comprised of workers with occupations that serve visitors from arrival to departure and residents alike. These workers continue to disproportionately bear the burden of risk for work-related exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and harassment just for doing their jobs.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony in strong support of S.C.R. 171.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Perreira', written over the typed name below.

Randy Perreira
President



Eric W. Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Monday, April 12, 2021

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SCR 171 relating to enforcing & prosecuting offenses committed against essential workers while on the job.

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 – a local labor organization representing nearly 12,000 hotel, health care and food service workers throughout Hawaii would like to offer comments in **support** of SCR 171.

As a local union representing frontline essential workers, we stand in support of ensuring that all essential workers have the ability to perform their work duties without interference. While we continue to make progress here in our community in confronting the pandemic, we know that our tourism industry is still extremely fragile. As our hospitality members slowly return to work, we have observed first hand how visitors and to a lesser extent locals continue to not observe mask and social distancing orders – particularly in Waikiki.

We believe our hotel and hospitality employers could and should do a better job of coordinating with local authorities in enforcing our state and county guidelines. We would ask the Committee to consider addressing this concern by including the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association as a key employer group that could help support this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo.

SCR-171

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 5:32:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/14/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Golojuch Jr	LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports SCR 171.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SCR-171

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 5:33:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/14/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pride at Work - Hawaii	Pride @ Work - Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Pride at Work - Hawai'i, the state-wide chapter of Pride At Work (a constituency group of the national AFL-CIO) and an affiliate of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO, fully supports SCR 171.

Mahalo nui loa,

Pride at Work - Hawai'i



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION
LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766
HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LOCAL 142

The Thirty-First Legislature
Regular Session of 2021

THE HOUSE

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Thursday, April 14, 2021; 2:00 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON SCR 171 / SR 136
URGING ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS IN
THE STATE TO VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE AND PROSECUTE OFFENSES COMMITTED
AGAINST ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHILE ON THE JOB.**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** SCR 171 / SR 136, which urges all law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys in the state to vigorously enforce and prosecute offenses committed against essential workers while on the job.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stressful time for many - particularly for essential and frontline workers who have been keeping our state safe, healthy, and operational. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, several emergency orders were released by the state and counties adding to the stress and confusion many experienced. During this time, Trump was President and refused to enact any federal policies designed to help slow the spread of COVID-19. As a result, numerous individuals felt the need to disregard the safety of workers, the public's safety and the emergency orders issued by the state and counties and often, essential and frontline workers were and continue to be harassed and even assaulted while trying to enforce the orders designed to keep everyone safe and healthy. And while President Biden has made the situation better, there are still many people who feel the need to disregard laws that protect the health and well-being of the public and workers.

SCR 171 / SR 136 helps address that situation and those who feel the need to disobey orders designed to protect workers, customers, and the public. SCR 171/ SR 136 urges all law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys in the state to vigorously enforce and prosecute offenses committed against essential workers while on the job. This will hopefully help deter unruly individuals and keep essential workers safe from harassment or abuse.

We represent thousands of essential and frontline workers who have experienced far too many unruly customers. We believe this bill will help protect our members and all essential and frontline workers.

We recommend passage of SCR 171 / SR 136.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021**

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
Representative Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 325 and via Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of SCR171 – URGING ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS IN THE STATE TO VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE AND PROSECUTE OFFENSES COMMITTED AGAINST ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHILE ON THE JOB

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW **supports** SCR171 which would urge law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys to help protect essential workers. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has seen a rapid rise in the number of essential workers, including many of our own members. Unfortunately, these workers have also experienced harassment, intimidation, verbal abuse, and even in some cases physical assaults from members of the public when trying to relay and enforce ongoing COVID-19 emergency orders.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO**





**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 50**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2021**

TIME/DATE: Tuesday, April 14, 2021, 2:00 p.m., via Videoconference

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 171 – “URGING ALL
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS IN THE STATE
TO VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE AND PROSECUTE OFFENSES COMMITTED AGAINST
ESSENTIAL WORKERS WHILE ON THE JOB.”**

**TO REPRESENTATIVES MARK NAKASHIMA, CHAIR; SCOT MATAYOSHI, VICE
CHAIR; AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 50 (IUPAT, DC50) is a union of unions that includes the Painters, Local Union 1971; the Tapers, Local Union 1944; the Glaziers, Local Union 1886; the Carpet and Soft Tile Layers, Local Union 1926 and the Specialty Workers, Local Union 1941. Together, we have approximately two thousand members, who work in the Finishing Trades as industrial and commercial painters, drywall finishers, wall coverers, glaziers, glass workers and floor covering installers. My name is Lorna Woo, Director of Government Affairs, and I want to express my thanks for this opportunity to voice our **strong support** for Senate Concurrent Resolution 171 - “Urging All Law Enforcement Officers and Prosecuting Attorneys in the State to Vigorously Enforce and Prosecute Offenses Committed Against Essential Workers While on the Job.”

Now that our island state has begun to rigorously administer COVID-19 vaccines, we are now witnessing more establishments being allowed to reopen and more tourists returning for vacation. Therefore, it is imperative that we remain vigilant, and that health and safety protocol standards are upheld and enforced. Many essential workers face challenges as they regularly interface with the public at restaurants, shopping centers, etc. They are often victims of harassment, intimidation, verbal abuse and sometimes may even experience physical assault when confronting a person not following COVID-19 directives. These incidences may likely escalate in the upcoming months when counties begin to move into the next tier. In recent interviews with tourists, many explained that they were not aware of the mask mandate because where they come from masks are not required.

Please protect and support our front-line responders, essential workers – these individuals work hard to support their families and call Hawaii home. They should not be intimidated for enforcing the law and risking their lives to protect and service the public.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express our support and we respectfully urge the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 171.

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HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 14, 2021

**S.C.R. 171 – URGING ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS IN THE STATE TO VIGOROUSLY
ENFORCE AND PROSECUTE OFFENSES COMMITTED
AGAINST ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.C.R. 171 which urges all law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys in the state to vigorously enforce and prosecute offenses committed against essential workers.

The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has fundamentally shifted the way we live in many ways. One highlight of the pandemic is the long-overdue recognition of our traditional and non-traditional essential workers who have gone above and beyond during this challenging time. Essential workers – those who work in health care, grocery and food service, hospitality, travel, and transportation – are required to have face-to-face interactions with the public and must relay and enforce government-enacted rules and orders. Oftentimes the public complies but in rare cases, we have seen essential workers harassed or physically confronted while performing their jobs. Therefore, it is appropriate and necessary that the Legislature urge law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys to enforce and prosecute these offenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. 171.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Local 480
808 Factory Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: 808 942.7778

Patrick K. Loo
President

Gwen K. Rulona
Secretary Treasurer

April 13, 2021

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session 2021

THE HOUSE
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St., Rm. 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUPPORT S.C.R. 171 - Urging All Law Enforcement Officers and Prosecuting Attorneys in the State to Vigorously Enforce and Prosecute Offenses Committed Against Essential Workers While on the Job

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, and Committee Members:

United Food & Commercial Workers 480 members are comprised and deemed by government as front-line and essential workers in this COVID-19 pandemic. With the majority of our membership stemming from the grocery industry, S.C.R 171 is without a doubt a necessity and it is our hope you will **FULLY SUPPORT S.C.R. 171** as passionately as our entire membership does.

As just one of the many voices for the working-class people of Hawai'i, our obligation to our union members and their families extends far beyond that of just their financial livelihoods. We have a moral and ethical duty to ensure their safety and general well-being in the scope of including but not limited to physical, mental, and emotional health.

While this pandemic has shown many positive aspects of human nature from compassion, respect, patience, and willingness to help one another, it also brought forth the unfortunate facets such as aggression, violence, greed, and blatant disregard for rules/policies/mandates put in place for the protection of communities. Specifically speaking, our grocery industry workers have been and continues to be subject to much brunt of senseless violent acts, threats, and offensive harassments from individuals who chose to disregard said policies/mandates set forth. For these essential workers who are risking their lives to ensure the community is fed, it is simply unacceptable for such behaviors to be bore by or against them on a daily basis and even multiple times of the day without any additional protection or recourse to ensure their safety.

It is with a heavy heart and discernment that the grocery workers are not alone in being targets; and **S.C.R. 171** implementation for all other essential worker industries will aid in curbing and hopefully alleviating these deplorable actions. Therefore, we implore you to partner and stand with us in protecting ALL essential workers and the community by supporting **S.C.R. 171**.

Respectfully,

Patrick K. Loo
President



IATSE Mixed Local 665
HAWAII'S TECHNICIANS
for
FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE AND PROJECTION
Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Date: April 13, 2021

To: The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: SCR 171: Urging All Law Enforcement Officers and Prosecuting Attorneys in the State to
Vigorously Enforce and Prosecute Offenses Committed Against Essential Workers While
on the Job

HEARING: Wednesday, April 14th, 2021, at 2:00PM
Conference Room 325, Hawaii State Capitol and Videoconference

Aloha, Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi and JHA Committee Members –

Mahalo for allowing us to testify on this bill as it directly affects the livelihood of our workers. IATSE Local 665 represents stage, convention, film and television technicians throughout the State of Hawai'i.

We stand in solidarity with local unions and workers who put themselves at risk in jobs that require that they engage the public. We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** SCR 171 for workers in tourism, food production and service, teachers, public transportation drivers, and the thousands of other individuals who deserve to have a safe work environment to protect them, their employers, their customers and their families.

Please pass SCR 171.

Respectfully,

Irish Barber
Business Representative