



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 6, 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



Eric W. Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Friday, April 2, 2021

House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness
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 Ichicyama 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.



COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, April 6, 2021

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SCR 171

IN SUPPORT

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the membership of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260. IBEW Local 1260 represents more than 3500 members throughout the Pacific, across the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and Wake Island. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of SCR 171.

Essential workers have experienced harassment, intimidation, verbal abuse, and physical assault from members of the public for merely relaying government's emergency orders to use masks and to observe social distancing in public spaces. Often these incidents occur in places such as our community grocery stores where workers are not customarily trained to confront customers or to deal with public health emergencies. Emergency workers have statutory protection, and essential workers need the protection that SCR 171 provides.

Vigorous enforcement under existing laws would provide the necessary deterrence essential workers need from offenses committed against them while they are fulfilling their essential functions.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony and strongly encourage passage of SCR 171.

Respectfully submitted,
Leroy Chincio
Business Manager and Financial Secretary
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 1260
700 Bishop Street #1600
Honolulu, HI 96813



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

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2021**

TIME/DATE: Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10:30 a.m., via Videoconference

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

**TO REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, 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 will begin to see more establishments being allowed to reopen and more tourists returning for vacation once again. 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 the state moves 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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INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

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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 Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Videoconference
Tuesday, April 6, 2021; 10:30 a.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 PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Representative Stacelynn Eli, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 10:30 AM
Conference Room 309 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 Ichiyama, Vice Chair Eli, and Members of the Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness:

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.



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

Testimony by
Hawai'i State AFL-CIO
April 6, 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.

In 2020, the pejorative slang term “Karen” spread virally as a label related to the rampant, obnoxious, angry, entitled, and often racist behavior exhibited in defiance of public health and safety rules. Emergency powers led to the identification of essential services during the pandemic, however, protection for essential workers who provide such essential services is lacking.

Essential workers whose jobs entail a high degree of face-to-face interaction, have experienced harassment, intimidation, verbal abuse, and physical assault from members of the public for merely relaying government's emergency orders to use masks and to observe social distancing in public spaces. Often these incidents occur in places such as our community grocery stores where workers are trained to service customers, and not to deal with public health emergencies.

Vigorous enforcement under existing laws would provide the necessary deterrence essential workers need from offenses committed against them while they are fulfilling their essential functions.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
President

SCR-171

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 6:43:12 AM

Testimony for PDP on 4/6/2021 10:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Urasaki | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

In support. Thank you.