



Randy Perreira
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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawai'i State AFL-CIO
March 29, 2021

S.R. 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 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.R. 136.

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. Emergency workers have statutory protection, and essential workers need at the very least deterrence from offenses committed against them while they are fulfilling their essential functions.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony in strong support of S.R. 136.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
President

SR-136

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 3:47:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports SR 136.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SR-136

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 3:49:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

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 SR 136.

Mahalo nui loa,

Pride at Work - Hawai'i



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

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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2021

TIME/DATE: Monday, March 29, 2021, 9:45 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 171 AND SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 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.”

TO SENATOR KARL R. RHOADS, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY:

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 and Senate Resolution 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.”

Now that our island state is witnessing a decline in positives COVID-19 cases, more establishments are being allowed to reopen and more tourists are 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 various establishments, such as 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 the 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 make Hawaii their 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 and Senate Resolution 136.



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikoula 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 SENATE

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Videoconference
Monday, March 29, 2021; 9:45 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.



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

March 26, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.R. 136 & S.C.R. 171 relating to Enforcement & Prosecuting Attorneys offenses committed against Essential Workers while on the job.

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee,

United Food & Commercial Workers Union 480, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** S.R. 136 & S.C.R. 171.

This pandemic has brought forth a multitude of hardships for the people of Hawaii. Mandates in which the State have imposed are changing on a rapid basis. One of the biggest mandate is the mask mandate. It is a very controversial subject and our members who are Essential Workers and working in grocery stores, have to enforce these rules and orders every day. They go to work, as hard as it is during this pandemic every day, to be in a hostile atmosphere when customers don't want to follow the ordinances.

For their own safety and the safety of the other shoppers we ask you to vigorously enforce and prosecute people who don't follow the laws of this pandemic. It is not only our member's but every person who is a Essential Worker. You have heard of all this horror stories about employees being hit, things thrown at them, mental and physical abuse, the list goes on and on. Our members protection is of utmost importance and a primary priority.

Our members provide essential services as a huge part of keeping the world in motion regardless of the pandemic. We must implement the awareness that such acts against essential workers will be of zero tolerance. Offenders are to be held accountable for their actions. We Strongly Support S.R. 136 and S.C.R. 171.

Thank you for your consideration. Mahalo!

Fraternally,

Patrick K. Loo
President

“A Union Preparing Today for the Needs of Tomorrow”

SR-136

Submitted on: 3/23/2021 3:09:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/29/2021 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is making Hawaii a Communist Police State everyone has to be treated Equal!



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

LATE

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 29, 2021

S.C.R. 171/S.R. 136 – 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 and S.R. 136 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 and S.R. 136.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



LATE

**THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021**

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Monday, March 29, 2021, 9:45 AM
Via Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of SCR171/SR136 – 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 Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

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 and SR136 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.