



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

**COMMITTEE ON LABOR**  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Chair  
Rep. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 30, 2025, 9:00 AM  
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on HB956 – RELATING TO IRONWORKERS**

Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

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.

UPW provides comments on HB956, which prohibits any person from disassembling, dismantling, or demolishing iron projects unless the person has completed an apprenticeship program for ironworkers approved and registered with the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. This measure also establishes penalties and requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (“DLIR”) to adopt rules.

As referenced in the bill, the definition of an “iron project”, according to Article IV of the 2021 Constitution of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, is quite comprehensive. Based on this definition, we are concerned that our Bargaining Unit-1 members will be in violation of the proposed law by performing their regularly assigned duties, if they have not met the requirements established in this bill. We humbly request that this measure be amended to exempt State and county employees.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

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**HEADQUARTERS**

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Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



January 28, 2025

Honorable, Jackson Sayama, House Committee on Labor, Chair  
Honorable, Mike Lee, House Committee on Labor, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor

**RE: HB956- Prohibits any person from disassembling, dismantling, or demolishing iron projects unless the person has completed an apprenticeship program for ironworkers approved and registered with the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. Establishes penalties. Requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to adopt rules.**

Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the House Committee on Labor,

My name is Ana Tuiasosopo. I am the District Representative and Trustee for Operating Engineers Local 3. We are the largest Construction Trades Local in the United States. I and the members of Operating Engineers Local 3 strongly oppose HB 956.

First, the Hawaii Revised Statutes 372, regarding "Apprenticeships" provides the framework, duties, and laws for the State of Hawaii's Apprenticeships, under the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. This bill adds a definition on an "Iron Worker's" scope of work. It specifically states "placing steel" is an iron workers job. That is not the case if it is done with a machine (i.e. Forklift, crane, or motorized equipment). Any machine run on a construction site falls under the scope of Operating Engineers Local 3.

Second, the definition of "Iron Project" references article IV of the 2021 Constitution of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers. This section states the Iron Worker's Craft Jurisdiction, regarding the erection and dismantling of Cranes. The erection and dismantling of cranes is also work claimed by Operating Engineers Local 3.

Lastly, no other construction trade has ever tried to codify their scope of work/jurisdiction into HRS 372. This will give an unfair advantage to one trade over the other. If this bill passes, then all trades will lobby bills to codify their scope of work/jurisdiction. Normally, jurisdictional disputes that come up on public works projects are already handled by Collective Bargain Agreements with the contractor, or via PLAs.

We humbly ask you to amend the HB956 to protect the jobs of the members of Operating Engineers Local 3 or defer HB956.

Sincerely,

  
Ana Tuiasosopo  
Hawaii District Representative, Trustee  
Hawaii Operating Engineers Local #3



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

*Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.*

**LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625**

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

**T.G. Paris**  
President Emeritus

January 30, 2025

9:00 am  
House Committee on Labor  
Conference room 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Re: Support for HB956-Relating to Ironworkers

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee and Members of House Committee on Labor:

The Iron Workers Local 625 strongly supports HB956, which relates to Ironworkers and prohibits any person from disassembling, dismantling, or demolishing iron projects without meeting specific qualifications. We propose minor housekeeping amendments to clarify the bill's intent:

- \* Line 7: Insert "for ironworkers" between "program" and "approved."
- \* Line 7: Insert "by" after "approved."
- \* Line 14: Insert "enrolled or" after "has."

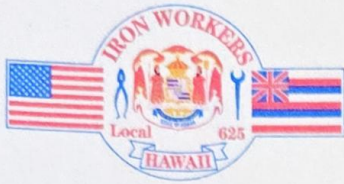
Ironworkers are highly skilled and specialized craftspeople who have undergone rigorous training and adhere to strict safety standards in all aspects of their work, including installation, maintenance, and ultimately, decommissioning of iron structures.

Improper dismantling or demolition of these projects poses significant safety risks which compromise the structural integrity of the project and surrounding areas, endangering workers and the public. Lack of adherence to safety protocols increases the risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Improper dismantling can release hazardous materials and debris, harming the environment. Allowing untrained individuals to perform these critical tasks undermines the value of the ironworkers' expertise and devalues the importance of safety in our industry.

I urge this committee to pass HB956 to safeguard the safety of workers and the public, protect property, and uphold the highest standards of professionalism in the iron working industry.

Sincerely,

Joseph V. O'Donnell  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer  
& Business Manager



# Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

T. George Paris  
Managing Director

January 30, 2025  
9:00 am

House Committee on Labor  
Conference room 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Re: Support for HB956-Relating to Ironworkers

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee and Members of House Committee on Labor:

The Ironworkers Stabilization Fund **strongly supports** HB956, which relates to Ironworkers and prohibits any person from disassembling, dismantling, or demolishing iron projects without meeting specific qualifications. We propose minor housekeeping amendments to clarify the bill's intent:

- \* Line 7: Insert "for ironworkers" between "program" and "approved."
- \* Line 7: Insert "by" after "approved."
- \* Line 14: Insert "enrolled or" after "has."

Ironworkers are highly skilled and specialized craftspeople who have undergone rigorous training and adhere to strict safety standards in all aspects of their work, including installation, maintenance, and ultimately, decommissioning of iron structures.

Improper dismantling or demolition of these projects poses significant safety risks which compromise the structural integrity of the project and surrounding areas, endangering workers and the public. Lack of adherence to safety protocols increases the risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Improper dismantling can release hazardous materials and debris, harming the environment. Allowing untrained individuals to perform these critical tasks undermines the value of the ironworkers' expertise and devalues the importance of safety in our industry.

I urge this committee to pass HB956 to safeguard the safety of workers and the public, protect property, and uphold the highest standards of professionalism in the iron working industry.

Sincerely,

T. George Paris  
Managing Director

**HB-956**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:02:54 AM

Testimony for LAB on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hawaii LECET	Hawaii Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii LECET opposes HB956.



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441  
Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Thirty-Second Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Labor

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

January 30, 2025

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB956 – RELATING TO IRONWORKERS

Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 74 affiliate labor organizations representing over 68,000 union members across Hawaii in industries including healthcare, construction, hospitality, entertainment, transportation, and government. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for the rights of working families, promoting fair wages, safe working conditions, and policies that strengthen Hawaii's workforce.

We support HB956, which requires individuals working on disassembling, dismantling, or demolishing iron projects to have completed an approved apprenticeship program for ironworkers. This measure promotes workforce competency and ensures that individuals performing these high-risk tasks have the specialized training necessary to protect public and worker safety.

Ironwork is a critical and demanding trade that supports Hawaii's infrastructure, including bridges, buildings, and energy projects. Establishing clear standards for qualifications enhances safety, preserves the integrity of these structures, and prevents unqualified individuals from engaging in hazardous work. The bill also strengthens apprenticeship programs, creating pathways for skilled labor while addressing the industry's growing need for qualified workers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Burnett".

Chris Burnett  
Director, Committee on Political Education



# HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

January 30, 2025

TO: The Honorable Jackson Sayama, Chair  
The Honorable Mike Lee, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Labor  
Hawai'i State House of Representatives  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Conference Room 309  
Honolulu, HI 96813

FROM: Mitchell Tynanes  
Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters

RE: Strong Opposition for HB956 – Relating to Ironworkers

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters (HRCC), I submit this testimony in **strong opposition of HB956**, prohibits any person from disassembling, dismantling, or demolishing iron projects unless the person has completed an apprenticeship program for ironworkers approved and registered with the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations; establishes penalties; and requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to adopt rules.

Defining occupations through legislation can invite unnecessary government intervention and could result in increased regulatory burden, requiring ongoing amendments to stay current with industry practices, which could be inefficient and cumbersome. Defining roles between labor organizations at the Legislature is highly inappropriate. A statute might not capture the nuances of what a skilled craftsperson does, leading to confusion and/or limitations on job roles.

For these reasons, we are in strong opposition to HB956. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mitchell Tynanes  
Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters

## STATE HEADQUARTERS & BUSINESS OFFICES

OAHU: 1311 Houghtailing Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96817-2712 • Ph. (808) 847-5761 Fax (808) 440-9188  
HILO OFFICE: 525 Kilauea Avenue, Room 205, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3050 • Ph. (808) 935-8575 Fax (808) 935-8576  
KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376  
MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi Street, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961  
KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

Testimony of  
Pacific Resource Partnership

Hawai'i State Legislature, House Committee on Labor  
The Honorable Chair Jackson Sayama and the Honorable Vice Chair Mike Lee  
Thursday, January 30, 2025

**Subject: Strong Opposition to HB956 – Relating to Ironworkers**

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), which represents Hawai'i's 6,000 unionized carpenters and more than 250 general contractors, we strongly oppose HB956.

While PRP fully supports efforts to ensure workplace safety and workforce development in the construction industry, this legislation creates unnecessary restrictions that will hinder Hawai'i's construction sector and increase project costs.

**An Unnecessary Regulatory Burden**

The proposed bill mandates that only individuals who have completed an ironworker apprenticeship program can disassemble, dismantle, or demolish structures classified as "iron projects." This rigid requirement fails to acknowledge the diverse skill sets of experienced construction workers and creates unnecessary workforce shortages. Many tasks related to demolition and dismantlement are safely and effectively performed by qualified workers across multiple trades, including carpenters, laborers, and operating engineers.

**Negative Impacts on Hawai'i's Construction Industry**

By restricting demolition and dismantlement work exclusively to individuals with an ironworker apprenticeship background, this bill will:

- **Limit Workforce Availability** – Hawai'i already faces a shortage of skilled construction workers. Imposing additional restrictions will exacerbate workforce shortages and delay critical projects.
- **Increase Project Costs** – Restricting demolition work to a single trade will create inefficiencies and drive up labor costs, ultimately increasing the overall price of construction.
- **Delay Housing and Infrastructure Development** – Public and private sector projects rely on a flexible and skilled workforce to meet deadlines. This bill will cause unnecessary delays in housing construction, infrastructure improvements, and renewable energy projects.





(Continued From Page 1)

**Conclusion**

This bill is an unnecessary regulatory overreach that will increase construction costs, limit workforce flexibility, and delay much-needed projects in Hawai'i. We respectfully urge this committee to reject HB956 and instead pursue policies that promote workforce development and job site safety without imposing burdensome restrictions on the construction industry.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Pacific Resource Partnership stands ready to work with lawmakers to support policies that strengthen Hawai'i's workforce while keeping construction projects on track.

Sincerely,



Andrew Pereira  
Director of Public Affairs  
Pacific Resource Partnership





LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

# LIUNA!

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR**

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Chair  
Rep. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 30, 2025, 9:00am  
Conference Room 309

**Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB956**  
Relating to Ironworkers

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Laborer's International Union Local 368 represents 5000+ members working in construction, environmental remediation, maintenance, food service, health care, clerical, and other occupations, as well as in state, local, and municipal government jobs and as mail handlers in the U.S. Postal Service across the State.

The Laborer's International Union Local 368 **opposes HB956**, which prohibits any person from disassembling, dismantling, or demolishing iron projects unless the person has completed an apprenticeship program for ironworkers approved and registered with the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Firstly, no trade union currently has their work and scope codified in Hawaii Revised Statutes. To do so will necessitate the entirety of the trades to be defined in Statute, rendering the current jurisdictional framework moot.

Secondly, this measure contains language that would put into question work historically done by Laborers and could invalidate ratified collective bargaining agreements between many parties.

It is for the aforementioned reasons that we respectfully request you defer this measure. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Peter A. Ganaban

Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer  
Laborers International Union of North America - Local 368  
1617 Palama Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**PETER A. GANABAN**  
*Business Manager/  
Secretary-Treasurer*

**ALFONSO OLIVER**  
*President*

**JOBY NORTH II**  
*Vice President*

**TONI FIGUEROA**  
*Recording Secretary*

**MARTIN ARANAYDO**  
*Executive Board*

**ORLANDO PAESTE**  
*Executive Board*

**JOSEPH YAW**  
*Executive Board*

**ESTHER AILA**  
*Auditor*

**RUSSELL NAPIHAA**  
*Auditor*

**MARK TRAVALINO**  
*Auditor*

**YUGAN HOTTENDORF**  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

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**Feel the Power**



# PLUMBERS AND FITTERS LOCAL 675 UNITED ASSOCIATION



## THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Chair  
Rep. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 30, 2025, 9:00am  
Conference Room 309

Re: **Testimony in Opposition to HB956**  
Relating to Ironworkers

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 was founded in 1919 and received its charter from the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States. Our members provide quality and reliable work on projects including, but not limited to, power plants, water treatment plants, oil refineries, hospitals, government and commercial buildings, hotels and luxury resorts, high-rise condominiums, and single-family homes in residential neighborhoods across the State.

The Plumbers & Fitters Local 675 **opposes HB956**, which prohibits any person from disassembling, dismantling, or demolishing iron projects unless the person has completed an apprenticeship program for ironworkers approved and registered with the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Firstly, no trade union currently has their work and scope codified in Hawaii Revised Statutes. To do so will necessitate the entirety of the trades to be defined in Statute, rendering the current jurisdictional framework moot.

Secondly, this measure contains language that would necessitate the hiring of additional crafts to complete ancillary work on plumbing and fitting projects. Work historically performed by plumbers and fitters. It also has the potential to invalidate ratified collective bargaining agreements.

It is for the aforementioned reasons that we respectfully request you defer this measure. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Valentino Ceria

Business Manager / Financial Secretary - Treasurer  
Plumbers and Fitters Local 675

