

ILWU organizes MidWeek and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin

KANEOHE, OAHU--On September 28, 2005 a group of workers at Oahu Publications, Inc., (doing business as Midweek and Honolulu Star-Bulletin) voted for ILWU representation by a landslide vote of 34 to 7. The workers are all full-time and regular part-time inserters, assistant foremen, foremen, production department mailers, and dispatch department drivers who work at the Kaneohe-based printing facility.

Many different parties worked together to make the drive a success. The ILWU's Oahu Division and organizing department worked hand-in-hand to contact and educate workers and secured the support of other unions already representing employees at MidWeek and Honolulu Star Bulletin—such as the Graphic Communications International Union (GCIU) and the Hawaii Newspaper Guild. ILWU members from longshore spoke with workers that they knew, giving them information about the ILWU and explaining how unionism benefits workers.

Most important, MidWeek and Star Bulletin employees educated and organized themselves, taking the time to attend union meetings, talking to each other to stay informed, and standing together. Employees also wore ILWU t-shirts to work on the day of the election.

The ILWU Local 142 also represents about 250 production, circulation and distribution workers at The Honolulu Advertiser. The ILWU is the largest private sector union in Hawaii with over 22,000 members on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, Lanai, Molokai and the Big Island.

Oahu Publications, Inc. publishes Midweek, Weekend, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, and prints several military and community newspapers in Hawaii. ♦