



# VOICE OF THE ILWU



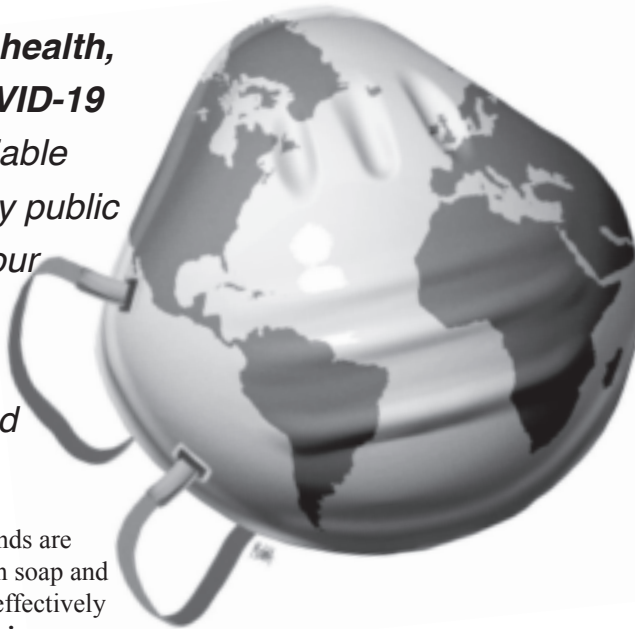
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The VOICE of the ILWU—Published by Local 142, International Longshore & Warehouse Union

March/April 2020

## Living and working safely during the COVID-19 epidemic Best Practices for ILWU members

*How can ILWU members deal with the pressing health, work, and financial concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic? First, get accurate information from reliable sources. Then follow the practices recommended by public health officials to keep yourself, family members, your workplace, and community as safe as possible. Most importantly, stay in contact with the ILWU. Your union is working hard in your best interests and helping to protect your community.*



ADDRESS LABEL

The World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Hawaii’s State Department of Health (DOH) have recommended best practices that we can follow to help slow the spread of COVID-19. If everyone works to delay infection, our local medical system will be able to handle the healthcare needs of our communities.

### Taking care at home and outside of work

- **Avoid crowds and close contact with people.** Close contact is defined as a distance of fewer than six feet for more than ten minutes.
- **Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds using soap and water.** Always wash before eating or providing care for someone who needs assistance. Wash after interacting with someone who is sick, or if you have coughed, sneezed, and blown your nose. Wash your hands after using the bathroom or having contact with animals or pets.

If you don’t have access to soap and water, use a hand sanitizer that is at

**least 60% alcohol.** If your hands are visibly dirty, always wash with soap and water—the sanitizer may not effectively clean your hands. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.**

**Cover coughs and sneezes. Cough or sneeze into a tissue and dispose of it immediately, or cough into the inside of your elbow.**

- **Stay at home if you start to feel ill. Contact your doctor by phone if you have common COVID-19 symptoms: fever, dry cough, difficulty breathing.** Stay in contact with your doctor and follow his or her instructions carefully.

**The risk of severe illness is higher for adults 65 years of age or older. Anyone with an underlying health condition** like chronic lung problems, serious heart conditions, severe obesity, or uncontrolled diabetes is also at higher risk of becoming severely ill. Those at risk should stay at home when possible to isolate themselves.

**If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19, such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure**

**in the chest, or bluish lips or face, seek medical attention immediately.** If you are taking care of someone, be aware that “new confusion or inability to arouse” is also an emergency warning sign. Call before going to the doctor or emergency room and tell whoever you speak to about the symptoms involved.

- **Disinfect frequently touched surfaces with household cleaning spray or wipes.** The CDC recommends daily cleaning; the DOH states that cleaning should be “routine.” Disinfecting can also be done using a diluted bleach solution using unexpired bleach or an alcohol solution that is at least 70 percent alcohol. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> for instructions on making a bleach solution.

- The WHO also states that the following behaviors are either not effective or can be harmful: **smoking, wearing multiple masks, and taking antibiotics.**

## On the Inside

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[www.ilwulocal142.org](http://www.ilwulocal142.org) for information, updates, and news from your union

## “My workplace closed—what do I do next?”

*You have a unique safety net as an ILWU member. The ILWU will always be here to help you, on and off the job. Whether your workplace has closed, or you cannot go to work because you are sick, or you are an essential worker who is on the front lines during the pandemic, your welfare is the ILWU’s first priority.*

Know that ILWU representatives are negotiating with employers to make sure that you have as much protection as possible during this health and economic crisis. If you have any questions about additional benefits that have been negotiated on your behalf due to the coronavirus, contact your Business Agent

(BA) directly. All BA phone contacts have been posted online to make sure you can reach your representative if you need help.

You can also call the Division office nearest you. The offices in Hilo, Wailuku, Lihue, and Honolulu will remain open for ILWU members. Front doors are closed to

the public, so please call your Division to make an appointment if you need to come down to the union hall for a face-to-face meeting.

### Get unemployment benefits

- **If your workplace has closed, file for unemployment insurance benefits immediately.** The best way to do this is to visit the Hawaii State Department of Labor Industrial Relations (DLIR) website: <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/#/>.

**Have the following information ready:** a savings or checking account into which funds can be deposited, your account number, and your bank routing number.

Prepare to provide contact information and dates of employment for all employers over the past 18 months.

The DLIR has waived the standard one-week waiting period to receive benefits. That means that you will receive unemployment benefits starting from the date you file. However, because of the significant number of workers applying for unemployment, it may take around three weeks before you receive your first payment.

If you do not have a computer, smart phone, internet access, or need help navigating the application form, contact

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All regular meetings of the ILWU Local 142 — including Local Executive Board (LEB), Division Executive Board (DEB), Unit Executive Board (UEB), and General Membership meetings — are being suspended until further notice to protect the health and welfare of union members. Contact your Division if you have any questions or concerns about any previously scheduled union meetings, classes, or events.

## Message from the Local President

# The ILWU Local 142 is here for you

By Donna Domingo, Local President

*We are in an unprecedented time and will experience some of our most challenging moments ahead.*

It became clear that our economy was going to take a severe hit as COVID-19 spread around the globe and reached the U.S. and the shores of Hawaii.

New guidelines were rapidly put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19, including stay-at-home orders by state and county governments, and quarantines applied to all passengers arriving into Hawaii. Record-high tourism quickly plummeted to record lows. Hotels and other businesses across the state closed their doors and ILWU members were temporarily laid off. Over 80,000 Hawaii workers filed for unemployment insurance benefits in March.

Life has been challenging and uncertain, but we will prevail through solidarity. The ILWU belief that “an injury to one is an injury to all” will guide us through this crisis. Our members on the docks continue to keep Hawaii’s lifeline running and operational, and our members in the hospitals are working day and night to

save lives. Our members in grocery stores ensure our state continues to eat, and our warehouse members and delivery drivers keep the supplies moving. Our agricultural workers are still growing food. We are one union working to keep Hawaii operational and healthy, and I thank you for that.

ILWU officers and staff have been working tirelessly to negotiate hazard pay, additional safety equipment, and a safer work environment. Your health and safety are our top priorities. We have negotiated with hotels that participate in the ILWU Hotel Health & Welfare plan to extend medical coverage for laid-off hotel workers. We are asking for the suspension of “no-fault” sick leave policies so members can stay at home and recover.

Your union will continue to work with Hawaii’s congressional delegation, the State Department of Labor, and employers so that ILWU members and their communities have access to essential resources.



Most important, stay safe. Remember to practice social distancing, observe proper hygiene at work and home, and stay at home if you’re sick.

Although we don’t know how long this crisis will last, the union’s goal is to make your life less stressful when possible. Local 142 union halls remain open for members, and officers and staff are available to provide the assistance you need. Always call to make an appointment before coming to the office so that we can protect your safety and make sure you don’t have a long wait before speaking with someone. Contact your Business Agent any time if you see problems at work or need help—on or off the job. **The ILWU Local 142 is here for you.**

Provide your email address and cell phone number to the ILWU so that we can contact you about important issues.

## “My workplace closed down. What do I do next?”

—continued from page 1

your BA or the Division nearest you, and your BA or Division Clerk will walk you through the form.

### Mortgage and rent issues

• **Address mortgage and rent concerns now.** Contact your bank or credit union immediately regarding mortgage assistance. If you rent, call your landlord to let them know if you cannot pay your rent.

• **The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** passed by Congress and signed by the President on March 27, 2020, provides some relief to homeowners with government-guaranteed mortgages. If you have a home loan through the Federal Housing Administration, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development’s Section 184a, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac and are unable to pay your mortgage, you are eligible to postpone your payments for up to one year.

You must submit a request to your mortgage servicer stating that you are suffering a hardship directly or indirectly related to the coronavirus. The mortgage suspension—commonly called “forbearance”—will be granted for 180 days. If you need an extension of another 180 days, you must request it.

This is *not* a forgiveness program. Be aware that the amount that isn’t paid will be due at the end of the forbearance period.

• Landlords who own properties with federally-guaranteed loans or who are

participating in federal housing programs are prohibited from evicting or charging fees for unpaid rent starting March 27 and for the next 120 days.

For help from a trained housing counselor, call (800) 569-4287 or visit [www.consumerfinance.gov/find-a-housing-counselor/](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/find-a-housing-counselor/).

### Check the status of your medical coverage

The ILWU has already negotiated extended medical coverage for many of the larger hotels that have been shut down. **If you have been laid off, contact your BA first to check the status of your medical coverage.**

If you have lost your medical plan, review the following options:

• **Check to see if you can enroll in your spouse’s medical plan.**

• **If you are 65 or older and have made Medicare contributions for over 10 years, you qualify for coverage under Medicare.** Make sure that you do *not* have coverage from your employer before applying for Medicare.

• It may be difficult for members to qualify for the **State Med-QUEST program**, which provides free comprehensive medical and prescription drug coverage **only if you meet the eligibility requirements.** However, income limits are not as strict for pregnant women and children under 19. Visit [www.med-quest.us](http://www.med-quest.us) to see if you or your

children qualify and to apply.

• **Apply for an individual plan under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov).** Again, make sure that you no longer have employer coverage first before applying.

• **You may qualify for COBRA continuation coverage.** COBRA is a federal law that requires certain companies to offer continued medical coverage to qualified workers—but the worker is responsible to pay for the full monthly premium plus two percent in administrative fees. Continuing medical coverage under COBRA is often very expensive.

### Manage your finances

**Stay on top of your finances.** If you have loans that you cannot pay, **contact the lender immediately to ask if it has a relief program that will allow you to temporarily suspend or reduce loan payments.** All four of Hawaii’s largest banks have COVID-19 assistance information on their websites—and other smaller banks and credit unions are likely to include this type of information, too.

### Taking care of your family

If you need help with food, shelter, child or elder care—and more—call 2-1-1 from anywhere in the state. 2-1-1 is the Aloha United Way’s statewide community assistance referral service. The helpline is confidential and can match you up with the government or nonprofit program you need. You can also call your BA any time if you can’t find the services you need.

## Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The federal government passed a \$2 trillion economic stimulus package on Friday, March 27, that provides help to both workers and businesses.

It includes a one-time cash payment to Americans who earn \$75,000 or less. The payment of \$1,200 per individual (and \$1,200 each for spouses who earn a combined \$150,000 or less) also includes \$500 for each child in the household. Those with incomes above \$75,000 will receive a reduced amount, and individuals who earn \$99,000 or more will not receive anything.

Income will be calculated by the information provided on your tax returns. The IRS will use your 2019 tax return. If you have not filed it yet, your 2018 tax data will be used.

As of last week, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin estimated that payments would be distributed in about three weeks.

The Act also expands eligibility for unemployment insurance and adds \$600 more per week to unemployment benefit amounts set by the states. Benefits are available for up to a total of 39 weeks.

## Do your part by staying home

State of Hawaii Governor David Ige issued a supplementary proclamation effective March 26, 2020 that mandated “stay at home or in residence” rules statewide to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Unless exempted, “all persons within the State of Hawaii are ordered to stay at home or in their place of residence . . . persons may leave their home or place of residence only for essential activities or to engage in the essential businesses and operations identified [within the proclamation].”

Hawaii’s stay at home order will remain in place until 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2020 and may be extended.

On Sunday, March 29, 2020 the federal government announced the extension of its “15 Days to Slow the Spread” guidelines until April 30. This is a turnabout by President Donald Trump, who during the previous week expressed a desire to “have the country opened up” by Easter.

# News from the Dispatcher

## ITF: US maritime unions playing essential role in COVID-19 fight

As the United States is grappling with a surge of COVID-19 cases, US maritime unions are on the frontlines aiding the government's efforts to combat the spread of the virus.

Last week, the government activated its two military hospital ships, the USNS Mercy and the USNS Comfort, which will be docked in Los Angeles and New York City.

The two 1000-bed military hospital ships will provide California and New York additional hospital capacity, and vital relief to both the state's hospitals that are reaching capacity due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

The USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort are crewed by civil service mariners who operate and navigate the ship, load and off-load the cargo, assist with the repairs to mission equipment and provide essential services to keep the ships running. These mariners are represented by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) seafarers' affiliates – the Seafarers International Union (SIU), the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA) and the Masters, Mates and Pilots (MM&P).

"The United States maritime unions have a long history of providing aide and assistance in times of need, and this is no exception. We will continue to work with the government and industry to overcome this crisis," said David Heindel, secretary-treasurer of the Seafarers International Union and ITF Seafarers Section chair.

posted online at [www.ilwu.org](http://www.ilwu.org) on March 30, 2020



ITF Dockers affiliates, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), are also aiding in the efforts. On Friday, ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94 welcomed the USNS Mercy and worked together to tie up the ship as it docked in the Port of Los Angeles.

"ILWU longshoremen, mechanics, marine clerks and foremen are heroes on the front line of the supply chain. Moving the economy, moving cargo; we are open for business. The assistance the ILWU provided in Los Angeles is just one example of how ILWU members are aiding in the efforts to stop the spread of Covid-19," said Willie Adams, ILWU president and ITF Dockers' Section vice chair.

The USNS Comfort is expected to arrive in New York City on Monday, and the ILA will welcome the vessel and provide assistance to the relief efforts.

"The dedication of ILA members to serve during this pandemic is inspirational. We share the goal to provide assistance to help other first-responders, to keep our ports open, and to ensure that the general public get the supplies they need," said ILA President Harold Daggett.

In addition to the important role the United States maritime unions are playing to assist with the USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort, seafarers and dockers unions are playing a critical role in keeping the supply chain moving. Despite the risk of infection to themselves and their families, workers are ensuring that essential medical supplies and goods are being delivered, unloaded and loaded onto vessels.

## ILWU International Vice President (Hawaii) Wesley Furtado passes

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Wesley "Wes" Furtado, ILWU International Vice President, Hawaii. Wes started on the waterfront in 1978 as a second-generation longshoreman and member of ILWU Local 142. During his time on the waterfront, he became a shop steward, longshore unit officer, and longshore negotiating committee member.

As a rank and file organizer, Wes worked on and led campaigns to organize workers in Hawaii in various industries. In August 1989, he was appointed as an International Representative. In that capacity, he organized many companies, negotiated numerous, very difficult first contracts, and successfully negotiated many contract renewals.

In 2000, Wes was elected as ILWU International Vice President, Hawaii. Once elected as a Titled Officer, he continued to carry the torch by organizing new hotels in Hawaii and providing support during longshore and hotel contract negotiations.

His most recent campaign and significant accomplishment was the creation of ILWU Local 100 where

he organized the supervisors at each of the shipping companies in Hawaii and successfully negotiated their first contracts.

Vice President Furtado was a devoted trade unionist who served the ILWU with the highest amount of honor and dedication. Wes will always be "Ohana" to the ILWU and we will forever remember and cherish the leadership, humor, and kindness that was Vice President Wesley Furtado.

Wes is survived by his wife, Marla, and his daughter and son, Levana and Kyan.

Information concerning memorial services will be released at a later date. Further, there will be an in-depth article about Wes' life and accomplishments in a future edition of The Dispatcher.



ALOHA, BROTHER WES



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Editor: Mie U. Omori; [mie.omori@ilwulocal142.org](mailto:mie.omori@ilwulocal142.org)

# SPOTLIGHT ON... HAWAII DIVISION

...43 years in a row and going strong! Hawaii Division held its first annual Recognition Awards Banquet all the way back in 1978. Though times have certainly changed since the '70s, several key things have remained the same: this is still a progressive rank-and-file union, and this union still makes it a point to acknowledge and honor the members who take initiative within their unit and make the union strong.

Division Director Elmer Gorospe started his speech to the over 150 guests in the crowd on February 8, 2020 at the Hilo Hall, "Tonight is about recognizing and acknowledging the hard work, commitment and dedication of members and their units and the pension clubs... Your help makes the ILWU one of the best unions in Hawaii. You make the ILWU proud."

### Member-driven through and through

ILWU Local 142 is member-focused and member-driven, and even the entertainment of the night reflected that.

This was the first time the banquet's entertainment was provided exclusively by ILWU members.

The program was emceed by Genesis Gacayan of Unit 1426 North Hawaii Community Hospital, Gregory Wagner, Jr. of Unit 1413 Big Island Toyota and Business Agent Tristie Licoan.

The crowd enjoyed the singing

and guitar playing of Carly Kenison from Unit 1421 Foodland. Later on in the night, people enjoyed the deejaying of Foodland member Kevin Aderinto.

ILWU members tap into a multitude of talents when they volunteer their time, communication skills and compassion to help their fellow workers. It is no surprise their talents could be shared in other ways too.

### Galvanizing speeches

Hawaii Division Director Elmer Gorospe started the night with a rousing speech that emphasized the current political climate. "Unfortunately, Hawaii is moving in the wrong direction," said Gorospe. "Our children are leaving Hawaii at a record pace. Home affordability is nearly out of reach for all of us. And the wages for the lowest income workers are simply not increasing... We are at a critical time in our state's history. What we

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Outstanding Unit with 1-29 Members (General Trades): North Hawaii Community Hospital. L-R: Business Agent Tristie Licoan, Genesis Gacayan with Hawaii Division Director Elmer Gorospe



The union relies on its pensioners as its moral guide and reliable source of help whether it is in the form of wise advice or volunteering for political action.

# MAHALO



to the ILWU Local 142 Brothers and Sisters who help us honor the values of this organization with their hard work and commitment to fairness.

"We are in a troubling time and that is why ILWU Local 142 has made legislative priorities to improve the lives of the working family a top priority. It is time that we increase the minimum wage to a living wage. It is time for all workers to be able to unionize and negotiate for better wages and working conditions. And it is time for the Legislature to focus on us instead of out-of-state big business that only cares about profits over people. But to do this we will be calling upon you to help and assist with this election cycle. Because if we get engaged, we win. And when we win, all working families win."

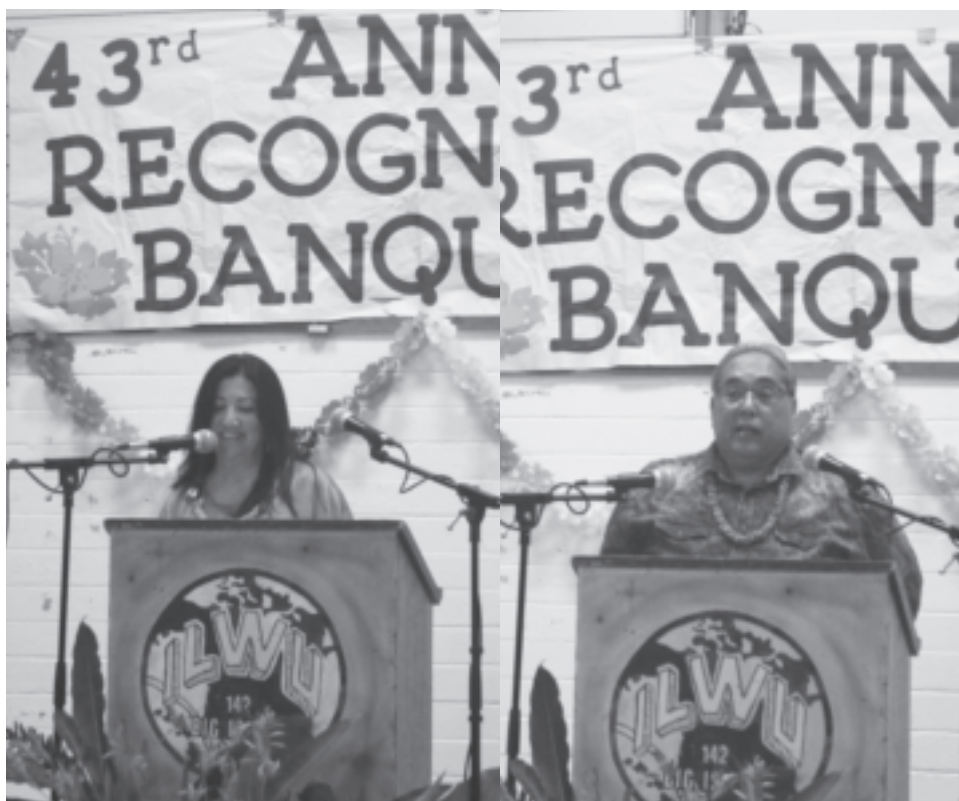
-- Hawaii Division Director Elmer Gorospe



Pictured at left is Gregory Wagner, Jr. of Unit 1413 Big Island Toyota stepping up to the emceeing duties for the night. Pictured at right is Business Agent Roselyn Molina assisting Business Agent Michael Dela Cruz with serving the pig he roasted.



Outstanding Unit with 30-99 Members (General Trades): Transcontinental Corporation. L-R: Business Agent Jennifer Yadao, Business Agent Tristie Licoan, Jerome Kaekuahiwi, Division Director Elmer Gorospe.



Local Vice President Corinna Nguyen and Local Secretary-Treasurer Brian Tanaka gave speeches that praised and thanked the membership.

# SOLIDARITY



Pictured at left is Carly Kenison of Unit 1421 Foodland entertaining the audience with her impressive singing and acoustic guitar playing. Pictured at right is Lawrene "Noelani" Rasmussen from Unit 1515 Fairmont Orchid Hawaii and Aaron Mokulehua-DelaCuesta from Unit 1416 Tropical Hawaiian Products.



Outstanding Unit with 100+ Members (Tourism): Unit 1517 Hilton Waikoloa Village. L-R: Allan Molina, Irene Matsubara, Business Agent Tristie Licoan, Business Agent Michael Dela Cruz, Lloyd Matsubara.



Outstanding Unit with 100+ Members (General Trades): Unit 1402 Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Corporation



Division Individual Memento Recognition: Sui Sin Coloma, former Division Clerk

## Around the Union

### Spotlight on Hawaii Division, cont. from page 5

do at the ballot box will determine the future for many years. We have a choice to determine the future of prosperity or the future of a status quo.”

Unions encourage workers to stand up for their rights in the work place. Similarly, getting involved in political action is a way to speak up for our concerns in our larger democracy.

#### Leadership from the ground up

Special guest Local Vice President, and “Hawaii Division’s very own” Corinna Nguyen’s speech pointed out the relationship between the Local leadership and the leadership of the members within their own units.

“Everyone here tonight, whether you’re a full-time officer, a member, a union officer, or pensioner, each and every one of you here has touched the lives of

our members in some way at some point in time,” said Nguyen. “We, as the Titled Officers, want all of you to know we value each and every one of you for without your support we could not do what we do for the members here in Hawaii Division.”

#### Building the union

Local Secretary-Treasurer Brian Tanaka’s speech emphasized the importance of education in the Local’s priority of empowering the members to make this union reflect the values of the working class.

“The Local, last year up until February, conducted 13 steward training classes, training approximately 245 stewards and officers. One day all those trained will be the leaders of this Local. As the saying goes, ‘We don’t rebuild; we reload,’ and education is very important to us.”

After the speeches laid the foundation for the night, the awards

were given out.

#### Outstanding Units

Awardees were decided based on criteria such as: how active the units were in conducting regular meetings, following up on grievances and political action.

All the efforts in these areas matter, and are worthy of acknowledgment and celebration.

Outstanding Unit General Trades (1-29 Members): Unit 1426 North Hawaii Community Hospital.

Outstanding Unit General Trades (30-99 Members): Unit 1513 Transcontinental Corporation.

Outstanding Unit General Trades (100+ Members): Unit 1402 Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Corporation.

Tourism Industry Unit Achievement Award: Unit 1517 Hilton Waikoloa Village.

#### Other awards

Pensioner Club with the Most Active Members: Papaikou Pensioner Club.

Pensioner Club with the Most New Members: Hilo Pension Club.

Division Editor’s Award & Recognition: Tristie Licoan.

Division Individual Memento Recognition: Sui Sin Coloma. “She drove 140 miles a day, 5 days a week just to come to the office to help the Division,” said Division Director Elmer Gorospe of Coloma, who recently retired.

Secretary-Treasurer Brian Tanaka accepted an award on behalf of retired Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura for his years of service. Guy would attend every banquet without fail with his wife Susan, and the Division expressed their wishes that he could make a banquet some time in the future.

#### Looking to the future

The challenges Division Director Gorospe pointed out in his speech are only going to evolve as the health crisis across the world develops.

The leadership of labor unions and its members are going to be essential to ensuring that workers’ rights are protected in the midst of so much uncertainty.

## Democracy matters at ILWU: Royal Lahaina Resort ratifies contract

LAHAINA — Union means we are one. At ILWU Local 142, being part of the union means getting on equal footing with management. Workers negotiate for fair contracts, showing management that what is in the best interest of the workers is also in the best interest of the company.

At Unit 2501 Royal Lahaina Resort on Maui, the hardworking negotiating committee made up of workers from all departments at the hotel came to an agreement with the company.

True to the democracy at the core of unionism, the negotiating committee themselves are voted in by their fellow members to ensure they reflect the concerns of the whole as best as possible.

Similarly, the contract is not ratified until the membership votes on it. Congratulations to the members at Royal Lahaina Resort for their gains in the contract and their solid teamwork.



Negotiations for Unit 2501 Royal Lahaina Resort started on October 21, 2019 and came to a tentative agreement on February 5, 2020. The contract was ratified on March 5, 2020. Pictured are Unit Treasurer Gina Cacal, Unit Chair Stephanie Smythe. Back L-R: Unit Vice Chair Ester Dumayas, negotiating committee member Jason Spradlin, Business Agent Manny Baltazar. Missing: Unit Secretary Benvon “Bula” Mahiai and Business Agent Teddy Espeleta, Unit Spokesperson.

# #unionstrong

## In Memoriam

# In warm remembrance of Michael Machado

LIHUE — ILWU Local 142 would not be anywhere without the great leaders of its past...

Even if he would not have accepted the label of “great” while he was still alive, former Kauai Division Director Michael Machado was a great man.

We are sad to share that Brother Mike passed away on February 27, 2020.

### From Catalina Island to the Hawaiian Islands

Mike became such a part of the Kauai community, that many members did not know that he was not originally from Kauai, or any of the Hawaiian islands.

Mike grew up on Catalina Island just off the coast of Los Angeles with a population of 1,500.

After graduating from the local high school, Mike moved to the “mainland” to attend Long Beach State University.

Upon getting his degree, Mike was offered an opportunity to sail to Hawaii. It was his life’s dream so he jumped at the chance to join the crew. Using skills he learned in a celestial navigation class, Mike helped sail the small vessel across the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii.

He landed in Ala Wai Harbor in 1976 and as they say, the rest is history.

### Union beginnings

He became immersed in the community of Kauai when he got his start in the ILWU in 1976 working at Princeville Development Corp.

He worked in the maintenance department with Unit Chair Misa Tamura who mentored him about the union, management, and how to work with members.

Mike was a fast study and soon he was elected to Unit Vice Chair, and then Unit Chair.

### Undeniable leadership skills

Mike’s work ethic and skills caught the attention of the Division, and he was soon brought on as an organizer and temporary Business Agent.

He was appointed as Division Representative in 1991, and was first elected as a Kauai Business Agent in 1994.

He worked under Division Directors Alfred Castillo, Robert Girald, and Clayton Dela Cruz, each of whom provided him with valuable lessons about how to make a difference in the union and keeping a resilient attitude.

When Kauai Division Director Clayton Dela Cruz retired six months before the end of his term, Mike was appointed as temporary Division Director, and then ran for,



Mike attended many events alongside the union even after retiring in 2015. Here he is at the 2018 opening day of the Legislature with the delegation from Kauai (with his camera as he was an avid photographer!).

and won the position in 2009.

### Empowering legacy

When he retired in 2015, he did so in the most “Mike” possible fashion; by taking everyone’s perspective and needs into account so the transition could be as smooth as possible.

He retired from the role, but remained active in union life, always helping wherever he could and was asked. In December 2019, he won the award for Outstanding Pensioner.

### Full circle

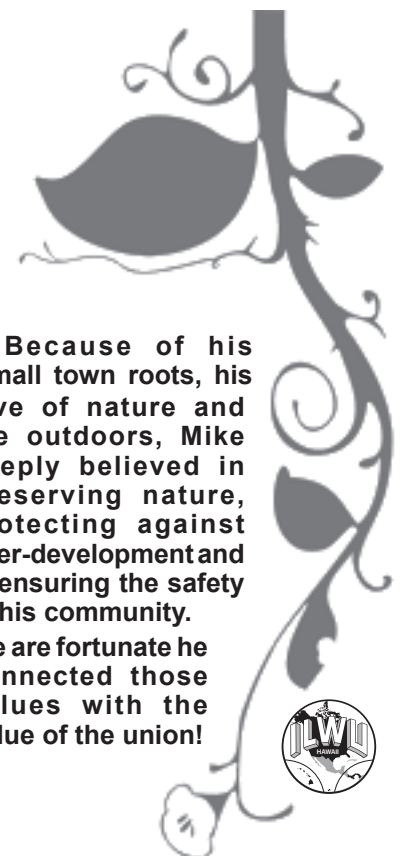
Just as he sailed into Hawaii all those years ago with nothing but a ‘34 sloop and his passion for life, we imagine his great soul sailing on peacefully to the next adventure.

Over 75 people showed up to the Kauai ILWU Hall on March 3, 2020 to honor and celebrate Mike’s life and contributions to the community.

Thank you for caring so much about the union and Hawaii’s working people. Aloha, Brother Mike, you will live on in our hearts for years to come.



Michael would always attend union functions like Kauai’s Division Executive Board meetings (he is pictured here at one on December 11, 2019). Back L-R: Division Director Calvin Corpuz, Liberty Corpuz Unit 3402 Foodland, Clayton Delacruz, Jesus Guirao, Pamela Green, former Division Director Michael Machado, Trudy Azeka Unit 3511 Grand Hyatt Kauai, Rollan Akira Yadao Unit 3504 Princeville Utilities, Division Clerk Mona Dotario-Agor. Front L-R: Business Agent Chad Pacheco, Jonarene Agbisit Unit 3401 Wilcox Memorial Hospital, Aunty Dolly DeCosta, Dianne Lopez Unit 3401, Business Agent Davin “Kai” Lopez.



...Because of his small town roots, his love of nature and the outdoors, Mike deeply believed in preserving nature, protecting against over-development and in ensuring the safety of his community. We are fortunate he connected those values with the value of the union!

# ATTENTION PENSIONERS

The 2020 Pensioners Conference that was scheduled to be from June 8-10, 2020 on Maui has been postponed. We will keep you updated, and in the meantime, please read this information to help stay safe during this time.

## If you are at higher risk due to age or a serious long-term health problem:

Secure an extra 30-days worth of prescription medications, if possible.

Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Most stores have dedicated Kupuna Hours, so call to confirm what they are by store.

Stay at home as much as possible to reduce exposure in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 outbreak in your community.

Call your doctor with presenting symptoms, such as fever, cough and shortness of breath.

Seek immediate medical attention if experiencing difficulty breathing, persistent chest pressure or pain, uncharacteristic confusion or bluish lips or face.

At-home recovery is possible if your sickness doesn't require hospitalization. Follow CDC instructions for home care (cdc.gov).



Just a reminder to fill out your Census questionnaire in the mail. Hawaii was under-counted in 2010 because of low response, and it cost us millions of federal dollars that could have gone to helping our schools, roads, and programs like food stamps and Section 8 housing. To ensure Hawaii gets our fair share of federal funding, please do your part to be counted. Go to <https://2020census.gov/en> or <https://www.hawaiicounts.org> for more information.



*\* Please try your best to fill out the forms in the mail or online. This will minimize the need to follow up in person in the wake of Covid-19.*

WHAT WILL BE SENT IN THE MAIL	
On or between	You'll receive:
<b>March 12 - 20</b>	<b>An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census (some households will also receive paper questionnaires).</b>
<b>March 16 - 24</b>	<b>A reminder letter.</b>
	<b>(If you haven't responded yet)</b>
<b>March 26 - April 3</b>	<b>A reminder postcard.</b>
<b>April 8 - 16</b>	<b>A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.</b>
<b>April 20 -27</b>	<b>A final reminder postcard before the Census Bureau follow up in person*.</b>

## If you care for kupuna or someone with a serious long-term health problem:

Know the medications taken by your loved ones and secure extra, if possible. Learn more.

Inventory medical supplies, such as oxygen, dialysis and wound care, and create a back-up plan in the event of supply-chain shortage.

Monitor food intake and incontinence. Irregularity may be an indication of ailing health.

Keep nonperishable food items on hand to minimize trips to stores.

Look out for the next issue of the VOICE for PAC candidate endorsements.

In the meantime, fill out your census and take care!