



# VOICE OF THE ILWU



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

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## Educate, activate, organize!

HONOLULU - Throughout the year, the Local holds training classes for rank-and-file stewards. These one-day training classes are attended by hundreds from all divisions. In the most recent series of classes on February 27 and March 9, 2017, rank-and-file members learned about their responsibilities as stewards, how to understand their union contract, and connect with their members to grow and strengthen the union.

-- continued on pages 4-5



“There are many different industries in the ILWU. This is a beautiful thing. We’re not a union made up of only pipefitters or something. We have a broad variety of industries. This maximizes how much we can learn from each other and have strength in diversity,” said Business Agent Wil Chang. Pictured here are members from a range of industries (L-R: Charles Chung from Unit 4526 - Pacific Beach Hotel, Jaslyn Laurito from Unit 4405 - Foodland Super Markets, Corin Kekua from Unit 4406 - Honolulu Star-Advertiser, and Herman Perreira from Unit 4412 - Servco Pacific, Inc. work on “active listening.”

## Maui Division recognition night honors outstanding units, members

WAILUKU -- Nobody puts Maui in the corner. Even with the closure of HC&S these past few months, Maui Division’s recognition night proved that the island will perpetuate its strong union roots.

On Wednesday March 15, 2017, over thirty members and pensioners gathered in the Wailuku hall for their monthly Division Executive Board meeting (DEB), and recognized the members and units that model a kind of leadership that we can all learn from.

“You would think unit stewards and unit officers were paid, considering how hard they work. But that’s far from the truth,” said Maui Division Director Steve Castro.

The rank-and-file members who step up and take leadership within the union do it for the good of all, not for individual recognition, although it is nice to be recognized at this event.



L-R: Wesley Medeiros, Unit Chairman Michael Bunyard, Unit Treasurer Lourdes Rivera, Unit Editor Seini Dennis, Unit Secretary Alex Ajolo, Business Agent Steven Lee, Maui Division Director Steve Castro.

“I don’t do it to get thanks,” said Unit Bulletin editor winner Seini Dennis of Unit 2505 - Westin Maui. “You do it to stand up for what you believe in. I saw things with management I didn’t agree with, and wanted to take a stand for the working man and woman.”

**Maui no ka `oi!**  
See page 6 for full list of winners and what they have to say...

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Need a copy of your union contract?  
Changed your address?  
Got married and changed your name?  
Have a problem with your medical plan?  
Questions about retirement?

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The next Local 142 Executive Board (LEB) meeting is scheduled to start at 9 am on June 16, 2017, in Honolulu at the ILWU building on 451 Atkinson Drive. ILWU members are welcome to attend as observers.



# News from The Dispatcher

## Trump backs attack on union

The new Trump administration announced some disturbing news in February that signaled a growing threat to union members.

### Support for anti-union law

On February 1, “right-to-work” legislation (H.R. 785) was proposed in Congress by anti-union Representatives Joe Wilson of South Carolina and Steve King of Iowa. The term “right-to-work” was coined decades ago by anti-union business owners. Union members are more likely to describe it as “right-to-freeload,” the “right-to-work-for-less” or “right-to-wreck-the-union.”

### Trump quickly supports

Trump quickly announced his support for the new legislation through Presidential Spokesman Sean Spicer, who said: “The President believes in ‘right to work.’ He wants...to do what’s in the best interest for job creators.”

To further emphasize strong support from the White House, Spicer added: “Obviously the Vice President has been a champion of this as well.”

### Pence’s involvement

The White House didn’t mention that Vice President Pence has been quietly working with a team of Trump advisors who are gathering strategy ideas to weaken unions, based on “right-to-work” laws and similar policies already enacted in many states. On February 1, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker revealed he attended a January 28 meeting with V.P. Pence and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich in Washington, D.C. Walker said he advised Pence and Gingrich “how they may take bits and pieces of what we did” with the union law and civil service reform to “apply it at the national level.” Gov. Walker and other anti-union leaders are advising Trump to begin his attacks by going after workers in public unions, something the new President already pledged to do during his campaign.

### Divide and conquer

If Trump keeps his promise to attack public union members, it may explain why the President was also holding high-profile meetings with building trade leaders on January 23, and why he met earlier with Teamster President James Hoffa. Those

unions have sometimes supported anti-union candidates who cater to narrow interests while ignoring attacks by the same politicians on the broader working class and other union members.

### How law hurts workers

“Right to work” laws are designed and funded by big business to weaken unions. They force unions into an impossible position by making them legally responsible for representing all workers in a shop, while stripping the union’s ability to collect enough fees to cover those representation costs. Strong union shops where everyone is a paying member would be outlawed under the proposed law - and replaced with “open shops” where division, disunity and financial hardship weaken the union and leave workers with lower pay, meager benefits and little say over working conditions.

### Ugly origins of “right-to-work”

“Right to work” laws were pioneered in 1936 by the Texas-based “Christian American Association,” a racist outfit funded by Southern oilmen and Northern industrialists. A top associate of the group once explained her hostility toward workers by criticizing what President Roosevelt’s wife, Eleanor, had done to help workers, especially African-Americans, because Roosevelt stood for a “\$15 a week salary for all n\*\*\*\*\* house help, Sundays off, no washing, and no cleaning upstairs,” adding, “My n\*\*\*\*\* maid wouldn’t dare sit down in the same room with me unless she sat on the floor at my feet!”

### Start in segregated South

Arkansas and Florida were the first to pass “right to work” laws in 1944, followed quickly by Texas and other Southern states that totaled 14 by 1947 when a Republican majority in Congress

passed the notorious “Taft-Hartley” law that stripped unions of powers gained under President Roosevelt, including the right to conduct effective pickets and boycotts. The anti-union law became popular in the South where segregationists warned that union shops and civil rights would lead to “race-mixing and communism.”

### Criticized by MLK

The Rev. Martin Luther King warned about the danger of “right-to-work” laws, saying in 1961: “we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone. Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights.”

**“Right to work” laws are designed and funded by big business to weaken unions. They force unions into an impossible position by making them legally responsible for representing all workers in a shop, while stripping the union’s ability to collect enough fees to cover those representation costs.**

### The “Southern strategy”

Passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965 reshuffled America’s political deck, with Southern whites switching their political loyalty from the Democratic to Republican Party, while African-Americans abandoned the Republican Party of Lincoln and Reconstruction to vote predominantly Democratic. Segregationist Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina was one of the first to change his political affiliation in 1964 – the same year that Republican Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater voted against the Civil Rights Act and lost the 1964 election, boldly campaigning for “states’ rights” to the delight of Southern segregationists.

### Racist code words

Richard Nixon won in 1968 with a “Southern strategy” that used racist code language, including talk about “welfare, less government, violent criminals and “states’ rights” to win white votes in the South – plus blue-collar votes from whites in the Midwest and Northern industrial cities. Nixon’s Chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman explained: “you have to face the fact that the whole problem is really the Blacks. The key is to devise a system that recognized this while not appearing to.” Ronald Reagan’s campaign strategist, Lee Atwater, explained how racist appeals had helped conservatives win white votes: “You start out in 1954 by saying, “N\*\*\*\*\*, n\*\*\*\*\*, n\*\*\*\*\*.” By 1968 you can’t say “n\*\*\*\*\*” — that hurts you. Backfires. So you say stuff like forced busing, states’ rights and all that stuff...”

This is how the term “right-to-work” became one of the many racist code words that white politicians used to communicate bigotry and win elections; beginning in the South, and now throughout much of the country.

### Behind the campaigns

Big business is still financing today’s

campaigns to pass “right-to-work” laws, just as they have since 1936. Some of the work is being done by the National Right To Work Committee and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), both of which have been passing laws in state legislatures with help from the Koch brothers – using the same oil fortune that funded the racist John Birch Society and other anti-union groups more than a half century ago.

### Majority of states

Corporate lobbyists and anti-union politicians have now succeeded in passing “right-to-work” laws in a majority of state legislatures. Kentucky joined the list in early January and Missouri became the 28th “right-to-work” state on February 6. Similar laws have been enacted in the former industrial union strongholds of Wisconsin and Michigan – states which also account for Donald Trump’s Electoral College victory. Efforts to pass similar laws in California, Oregon and Washington have failed – but a federal law or court decision could supersede pro-union laws at the state and local level.

### Supreme Court decisions

The Supreme Court has the power to change federal labor laws. With one unfilled vacancy that President Obama was prevented from filling, the Supreme Court deadlocked with 4-4 votes on several cases involving issues related to “right-to-work,” including the ability of unions to collect representation fees. If Trump nominates a conservative anti-union member to the Supreme Court, the new anti-union majority could change national labor laws without passing any legislation.

### Promises or betrayal?

Many promises were made by politicians during the election, claiming they wanted to help America’s working class. The coming months will reveal how sincere those promises were, and whether the ones made to the working class will be honored over the demands of big business, billionaires and Wall Street executives. Those forces have already taken control of the government’s most powerful jobs where they will make decisions felt by every worker and family in America.

### Only way for workers

“Workers and unions have never gotten anything handed to them on a silver platter, because progress only gets made by pushing the powerful to do what’s right,” said ILWU President Robert McEllrath. “That’s the way it’s always been, and that’s what we need to be doing now and in the future.”



Women’s March: ILWU and IBU members from Seattle and Tacoma marched in the January 21st Women’s March to protest the inauguration of Donald Trump. Protests occurred in every major city in the country. Approximately 4 million people attended the demonstrations nationwide.



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# Around the Union



**HONOLULU**—On January 16, 2017, more than 80 ILWU Local 142 members and officers, HOWU members, retirees and their family and friends marched in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade with other unions and community organizations for a strong showing in support of Dr. King’s enduring message of social justice. Dr. King was made an honorary member of the ILWU Local 10 in September 1967 because of his efforts on behalf of working families and the labor movement. ILWU Local 142 passed out lollipops attached to cardstock emblazoned with Dr. King’s powerful words: “I don’t feel like a stranger in the midst of the ILWU. We have been strengthened and energized by the support you have given to our struggles. We’ve learned from the labor movement the meaning of power. The struggle in the civil rights movement is to transform powerlessness into concrete power, which means the ability to affect change.”



**KAUAI** -- Unit 3515 St. Regis Princeville - Halele`a Spa workers in negotiations. L-R: Unit Secretary Rain Cruz, Business Agent Calvin Corpuz, Unit Chair Juan Pablo, Hawaii Division Director Elmer Gorospe.

*“In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right to work.’ It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote.”*

—Martin Luther King,  
speaking about right-to-work laws in 1961



On February 23, 2017, Senator Mazie Hirono held a breakfast at Unit 4526 Pacific Beach Hotel for Hawaii’s labor unions. “I want the opportunity to meet with your members, especially the pensioners. The whole time I have served I have depended on the support of people in unions.” Front row L-R: Darryl Miyashiro, Shari Yamashiro, Linda Kawahara, Senator Mazie Hirono, Moises Cadelina, Reuben Ramos. Back row L-R: Eric Ishihara, Business Agent Paris Fernandez, Business Agent Wil Chang, Raymon Aunjon, Carlito Samuel Lapitan, Antone Teixeira, Paul Aquino.

## Happy retirement, Joanne Kealoha

Joanne Kealoha: true believer. The phrase “true believer” gets thrown around often, but Joanne Kealoha has stubborn beliefs and her aim is true.

“She has a take-charge kind of attitude that some may call meddlesome,” chuckled Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura. “But she does because she believes in the union as a movement.”

As she retires from Local 142 after 31 years as Social Services Coordinator, we want to commend her vision of and commitment to justice that has guided so many of us, members and staff included, at this organization.

Kealoha majored in Sociology at UH and worked as a pineapple packer and hotel maid to put herself through school.

She earned her Masters from UCLA in Social Welfare. After working for a few years in California, she came back to Hawaii and was hired by the ILWU as Social Services Coordinator in 1986 to take the place of Ah Quon McElrath.

In her role as Social Services Coordinator, she proved that it is possible to have compassion and be ruthlessly efficient at the same time.

“We call her the Uber of ILWU,” laughed some HOWU (Hawaii Office Workers Union) staff members. “Any pensioner or member needs a ride, she’ll pick them up! There was no such thing as too ‘out of the way’ for her. She did her

job for sure, and she put in so much too in terms of off-hours dedication. Off-hours is when she really showed that commitment

to ILWU principles. Very few people will do that.”

The fight for justice never sleeps and she was tireless in her efforts to provide a better quality of life for all members, young and old even if it meant sacrificing time with family.

Her husband Peter and her two children

and three grandchildren graciously understood that her commitment to the organization meant less time with her.

Former Local President Fred Galdones said, “She worked long hours and spent

many days in the office, including the weekends...She was not shy about speaking her thoughts and aggressive in accomplishing her goals.”

This kind of tenacity is necessary for the range of responsibilities she covered: advising the union and its members, and pensioners on medical coverage, Medicaid, workers’ compensation, immigration and naturalization, life insurance, social security, family court, retirement, FMLA, substance abuse and providing personal counseling.

Working with members on such a wide range of issues

requires a personal touch; it cannot just be business as usual. When companies and even industries reached their end, she would be there to guide members through the emotional, mental and financial

upheaval.

“It takes a certain resilience to take that much sorrow in,” said Fujimura. “You need strength to take in so many sad stories. She has tremendous empathy. To process all that intake, listen to people’s problems and needs...that takes great strength to not only do that, but to continue and go on to help the next person.” said Fujimura.

“I remember when Pioneer Mill closed, and so many people had a hard time losing their jobs, facing that life outside of sugar,” reminisced former Maui Division Director William Kennison. “But she was there. Negotiations? She was there. Meetings with membership? Every single one, she was there. To help explain to employees and answer questions about social security, medical. They knew they could always go to her, and she was always happy to assist. I always felt that she is a fantastic person.”

Task master. Social justice warrior. Meddlesome (because she cares!). It takes courage to care. And Kealoha cared from the depth of her heart about the values of this union and channeled her aloha through every interaction and stand she took on behalf of the members.

Thank you so much for understanding that we are all part of the whole and that we are always better together. We will miss you being a part of our “together,” but know you won’t be too far.



“This picture is so Joanne” said Fujimura. Joanne Kealoha at this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade with two of her granddaughters.





# Educate, activate, organize!

The union's strength lies in its members. The more educated the membership, the more effective they can be within a highly democratic structure like the ILWU. The new steward classes are part of the ILWU's regular education program that focuses on providing on-going education to rank and file leaders and union members. Workers have rights and knowledge is power. Classes will be held on Hawaii, Maui, Kauai and Oahu for more members and on-the-job union leaders to get the support and training they need to empower themselves and their fellow workers at their jobs. More classes will be scheduled later this year and throughout the year.

Classes started with introductions of what unit each member came from, and how they got involved in the union. Members found out they had more in common than one would have expected, knowing the diverse range of their varied industries. Many members were motivated to be more active in the union because of their concern for their fellow workers.

"We needed proposals," said Corin Kekua of Unit 4406, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, "and I wanted to put together something that would benefit everybody and represent different departments."

"I was asked to be a steward because I'm tough and I like helping people," said Jenniedane Arguilla of Unit 4526, Pacific Beach Hotel, now known as the Alohilani Resort at Waikiki Beach.

"I didn't want any hocus pocus from management," said Virginia Recaido of Unit 4526 Pacific Beach Hotel. "They can be volatile just as the market is volatile. I started to believe in the activism of the union because I felt it was good for common people like me to find a voice. We stick together and fight for it. You think it's the union, but it's actually us, speaking up and making change. We are the union. Not the staff or the business agents."

**Value of the union contract**  
Nearly every benefit on the job comes

from the union contract.

In one of the exercises, stewards were given a sample union contract. Class instructor Michael Murata wrote down all the benefits the contract provided on the board: wage increases, overtime pay, work schedules, medical, sick leave, vacations, good working conditions and more.

The class went through each benefit individually, and whether each was a

## What is a "union steward"?

a rank-and-file member elected as the union representative of a shop, department, or group of workers

## What is a "steward"?

someone whose responsibility or job is to 'watch for' or 'look after' or 'care for the needs of' a group of people

benefit workers are entitled to by federal law. Surely there would be a federal law to guarantee and protect something like a meal break, right?

The class was surprised to find out that meal breaks, among many other benefits, were not guaranteed by law. However, because unions have historically negotiated for things like meal breaks in their contracts, such a benefit is expected, and the norm. If a company did not offer it, its absence would be too glaring, so

now most companies offer it automatically. Unions set the standard and the community benefits.

"Keep in mind," warned Murata, "management can give these, but they can also take them away because there's no law in place that requires them to give them."

"Wherever you go, there's always the fear-of-the-unknown variable. The union contract helps with that a lot," said Peter Terry of Unit 4416 - Polynesian Adventure Tours.

Many of the attendees knew and understood the value of the union contract. "I'm very grateful to ILWU," said Christy Padello of Unit 4405, Foodland Super Markets. "My son was at Don Quixote for four years. He was doing the job of a manager who was there for 15 years and never got a raise from \$12 an hour. I told my son, "What are

you doing there? How can you want to stay at a job with no benefits for you? You need something more structured like a union contract. It's such a big difference. I can't believe people stay in non-union jobs for so long. But they just don't know. They don't know any better so they just stay. They need this kind of valuable information."

**"There's no one on earth that doesn't want someone to support them. You need to have people supporting you, and you can find those people in the union." – Alan Ah Yo, Unit 4526 - Pacific Beach Hotel**



**Richard Sanico, Charles Chung, Alan Ah Yo Unit 4526 - Pacific Beach Hotel going through Exercise."**



**L-R: Ashlyn De La Cruz of Unit 4405 - Foodland, Instructor Michael Murata, Banner Fanene of Unit 4416 - Polynesian Adventure Tours, Donna Lankford, and Christy Padello of of Unit 4405, and Ivan Loughmiller of Unit 4420 - Hawaii Pacific Health doing the Communication Skills: Say What you Mean Exercise. One member looked at the picture Murata put up, and the other members had to draw it as accurately as possible based only on the verbal description that member shared. Communicating detail accurately is an important skill for a steward to have.**



**L-R: Rolani Jerome of Unit 4404 - Pepsi Beverages, Dylan Nakashima of Unit 4405 - Foodland, Jeremiah Malloe of Unit 440 Hawaii Logistics, Jason Vallejo of Foodland preparing their group presentation for the problem-solving at work exercise as Business Agent Dillon Hullinger offers guidance.**





"I first got involved with the union because I got in trouble. And I wanted to learn more 'cause I was nosy," said Angela Wegesend of Unit 4420 - Straub Clinic and Hospital. "We're not getting in trouble now," added Mariah Ganaban, also of Straub. "We're still known for our big mouths, but now it's because we use it to speak up and help everybody." L-R: Ganaban, Wegesend, Jessirae Dacuycuy of Unit 4420 - Straub.



L-R: Sam Luo and Darren Iguchi of Unit 4412 Servco Pacific work with Like Salas of Unit 4404 Pepsi Beverages Co. on a drawing exercise that aimed to improve communication skills.



Ah Yo, and Virginia Recaido of rough the "Know Your Contract

"I was asked many times to be a steward. I accepted because I wanted to make sure we were represented well. Ultimately, I wanted to stand up for what's right, and make sure management did the right thing, too. That way we can find a resolution that suits both sides."

-- Herman Perreira, Unit 4412 - Servco Pacific, Inc.



Dylan 4405 - group siness



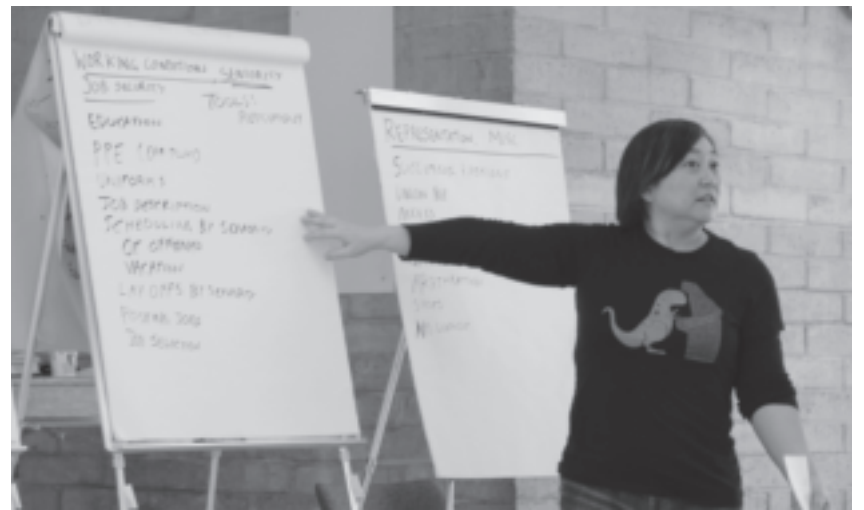
L-R: Donna Lankford, Christy Padello, Jaslyn Laurito, and Ashlyn De La Cruz of Unit 4405 - Foodland Super Markets work on an active listening exercise.

"Unions have this reputation of 'Oh, they're just gonna be trouble.' I used to think like that. But not anymore. Everybody focuses on the negative and the union gets a bad rap. But so much good comes of the union. You have a buffer against management. You have protection and strength."  
-- Donna Lankford of Unit 4405 - Foodland

# Pop Quiz!

- \_\_\_ 1. An effective union steward is able to solve problems without going through the grievance procedure. They file grievances as a last resort, when everything else fails.
- \_\_\_ 2. The company must give stewards access to personnel files and company records that could be related to a grievance.
- \_\_\_ 3. Stewards may use strong language towards management in a grievance meeting.
- \_\_\_ 4. Your supervisor says he will only deal with someone in the union with authority like the business agent. The supervisor can refuse to deal with you as a steward.
- \_\_\_ 5. Even if it's not in the contract, the union has the right to bargain over anything dealing with wages, benefits, and working conditions.

(see answers on opposite page)



## Mahalo and aloha, Eadie

The union will miss Eadie Omonaka as she retires from working at Local 142.

Omonaka was hired by previous *Voice* editor Mel Chang in 1991 as a layout assistant. She evolved her role since then in the union by taking initiative in many different roles in the union's Publicity and Education Department and beyond.

"I was always impressed by her ability to sacrifice for this organization," said Local President Donna Domingo. "She would do whatever she had to do to move the ILWU forward."

"My whole view of the union changed because of her," said Oahu Division Clerk Lisa Maehara. "I started working here thinking this was just a job. But she opened my eyes to people's struggle. I saw her overcome her own fears to make stands because that's how strong her beliefs are in all the things the union stands for: equality and rights for everyone. When I saw her attitude behind what we do in this union, this became so much more than just a job. It gave me meaning."

Omonaka's teaching style resonated with members because she understood the "why." Why do we do what we do at the union? Why do we learn the nitty gritty labor laws and grievance procedures?

The lessons she put together would stick

at a level beyond theory and facts because she could convey the information in a way that compels us to consider the bigger picture.

Nobody ever does anything because of logic; they do things because of emotion. And her deeply felt commitment to union values motivated so many people in her classes.

People in her classes or just members she helped would be inspired to take action empowered by a greater sense of vision, instead of just going through the motions: "I loved the active participation for reinforcement of themes," went comments from her class. "The class just kept flowing. There were no lulls. It was excellent and so helpful to learn all this. I can't wait to share what I learned with other members."

"The best way I can describe Eadie," said Secretary-Treasurer Guy Fujimura, "is that she has aloha for the union, and wants to make sure it continues."

Thank you, Eadie, for your aloha and passion that carried the union forward. Your dedication to educating and supporting members kept the union true to its ideals.

The members you impacted will pass on the torch of empowerment with the spark of inspiration you struck.



# Maui Division recognition night --continued from page 1

The first awards given out of the night honored Unit Bulletin Editors. "One way we keep members informed is through the unit bulletin. That's the key to all we do here: staying informed. And unit editors make it fun to be informed with recipes but at the same time informed about what goes on in the organization," said Castro.

"Our unit editors have a pulse on what goes on in the unit, and they know what parts of the contract are important. They do a great job consolidating that in one package through the bulletin," added Business Agent Jerrybeth De Mello.

### Unit editor award goes to...

**Ben Wilson** of Unit 2101 - Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Co (HC&S) won the David E. Thompson Award for Statewide Excellence, given to the best ILWU unit bulletin published statewide.

This is the third year in a row he has won the award. "He put his heart and soul into his unit," said Castro. "He loves his membership so much, even when he was laid off for six months he continued to do the bulletin."

**Seini Dennis** of Unit 2505 - The Westin Maui won the award for Best Unit Bulletin. "Management doesn't give you anything just because. Why should they when they'd rather save money...it's about the bottom line right? So you have to stand up and it's through unions, that you can really stand up and fight for what you deserve," said Dennis.

**Vanessa Baldos** of Unit 2526 - Andaz Wailea won the award for best runner-up bulletin. "When she joined her bulletin, it was surprising that she was new because she was so adept at it, and we hope to keep her," said De Mello about Baldos.

### Congratulations to these outstanding members

Recognition of Unit Chairperson: **Estrella Untalan**, Unit 2509 - Four

Seasons Resort, Lanai and **Michael Bunyard**, Unit 2505 - The Westin Maui.

Most people upon accepting their award did not speak. However, Bunyard took his chance in the spotlight to bring up his predecessor Star Medeiros who passed away in 2012.

"This is such an honor," Bunyard said. "I want to dedicate this to Star. I learned so much from her and I wish she were still here." Star Medeiros' husband Wesley continues her legacy of leadership and unionism values.

"I try to educate the younger ones about what the union does. You need to because they're the ones who will take over when we retire. It's too easy to say, 'Well the other guy knows, so I don't have to know.' But they need to learn things for themselves along the way, too," said Medeiros.

"Management doesn't give you anything just because. Why should they when they'd rather save money..it's about the bottom line, right? So you have to stand up and it's through unions, that you can really stand up and fight for what you deserve." -- Seini Dennis, winner of the Outstanding Member Award

Recognition of Unit Leadership: **Patricia Balderas** and **John Simpliciano**, both of Unit 2506 - Kaanapali Beach Hotel. Recognition of Unit

Member: **Seini Dennis**, Unit 2505 - The Westin Maui and **Ron Siliado**, Unit 2511 - Makena Golf and Beach Club.

Recognition of Retiree: **Shirley Young**, Unit 2306 - Maui Pineapple and **Eddie Espeleta**, Unit 2102 - Wailuku Agribusiness.

### Maui's outstanding units

The outstanding awards are categorized based on the number of members in a unit. The following units were recognized for their achievements in 2016:

1-100 members: **Unit 2406 - HC&D, Hawaiian Cement, Maui Blocks and Walker Industries.**

101-300 members: **Unit 2506 - Kaanapali Beach Hotel.**

301-500 members: **Unit 2509 - Four Seasons Resort, Lanai.**

501 or more members: **Unit 2505 - The Westin Maui.**



**Ben Wilson** accepting his David E. Thompson Award for best unit bulletin. Pictured from L-R: Reggie Medeiros, Former HC&S Chairman, Business Agent Roberto Andrión, Jr., Wilson HC&S Unit Editor, Conchita DeCambra HC&S Pensioners Club Chairperson, Business Agent Joseph Aquino.



L-R Mark Azcueta Unit Steward, John Simpliciano Unit 2nd Vice Chair, Wesley Medeiros Unit Vice Chair, and Patricia Balderas Unit Treasurer of Unit 2505 - Kaanapali Beach Hotel accepting the award for Outstanding Unit 101-300 members from Business Agent Jerrybeth De Mello (far right).



**Vanessa Baldos**, Runner-up for Best Unit Bulletin Unit 2526 - Andaz Wailea.



Overall Vice Chair **Clyde Amuro** and Overall Chairman **Francis Kamakaokalani** of Unit 2406 - the Concrete Companies.



**Garrett Hera** of Unit 2509 - Four Seasons Resort, Lanai. Hera came all the way from Lanai to accept the award on behalf of winner Estrella Untalan.



Unit Chair **Ricardo De La Torre** of Unit 2308 - Haliimaile Pineapple with his son Ricardo, Jr. "I am Mexican so I have a little bit of a language barrier. But there is no excuse not to come to meetings and learn more. You can't complain if you don't even know what's going on."



Outstanding Retirees **Shirley Young** of Unit 2306 - Maui Pineapple and **Eddie Espeleta** of Unit 2102 - Wailuku Agribusiness.

# ILWU Local 142 Statewide Sports Program 2017

## 64TH ANNUAL STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT

TO BE HELD ON KAUAI  
SEPTEMBER 2-3, 2017



## 32ND ANNUAL STATE SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

TO BE HELD ON  
THE BIG ISLAND  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2017



## 37TH ANNUAL STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

TO BE HELD ON  
MAUI  
DECEMBER 9, 2017



Yes, you read those numbers right.  
"64th Annual."  
"32nd Annual."  
" 37th Annual."

The ILWU Local 142 Sports Program started in 1953. It is the most longstanding program in Hawaii; not every union has a sports program this extensive (and fun!).

All members, spouses, and dependent children are welcome to play!

All units/teams interested in playing in their division tournaments should notify their respective Sports Coordinators or Statewide Coordinator Teddy Espeleta (949-4161):

HAWAII - 329-2070 (Corinna Salmo - Kona Office)

MAUI - 244-3374 (Claro Romero)

KAUAI - 245-3374 (Jesse Vaughn)

OAHU - 949-4161 (Paris Fernandez or Jose Miramontes)

HAWAII LONGSHORE - 949-4161, ext. 4799



# Who you gonna call...Your union!



by William Kennison

Who do you call if your house is on fire? You call the fire department.

Who do you call if someone steals your car or takes something from you? You call the police department.

Who do you call if someone is drowning or has a heart attack? You call 911.

Who do you call if you get in trouble with the law? You call a lawyer.

Most of you know there is someone to call if you have a problem like this.

But who do you call if you are a worker and union member - say a bartender or cook in one of our hotels, or a nurse in a hospital, or if you are a state or county worker?

Who would you call if your employer didn't pay you properly for time you worked; if you didn't get a promotion or was treated unfairly; or if your job was unsafe; or if your boss blamed you for something you didn't do?

In all of these cases, you would call your union. Get in touch with your Business Agent or any of the offices.

The union does many jobs rolled into

one. We're like Fire and Rescue because our members call us when they have a problem on the job.

We're like the Police when we go after companies who cheat their workers out of their wages.

We're like lawyers when we advise our members about their rights on the job or represent them in disputes with management.

We're like Social Workers when our members come to us for help with immigration or family problems.

We're like Teachers when we educate workers about the union and their rights.

We're like Mediators when we try to settle conflicts and disagreements between workers and management.

We're Negotiators when we talk with management about getting better benefits and higher wages.

Call us anytime and we will answer.

*(excerpted from an article written by former Maui Division Director William Kennison entitled "Who Do You Call if You're a Worker?" from the December 2004 issue of the Voice)*

Hawaii: (808) 935-3727

Maui: (808) 244-9191

Kauai: (808) 245-3374

Oahu: (808) 949-4161, ext. 4798

Hawaii Longshore: (808) 949-4161, ext. 4799



"I have two answers. My first would be an owl because they're wise. They know many hands make light work and an injury to one is an injury to all. Then an elephant. Because an elephant always remembers. History is important here. Also, it takes more than one animal to rule."

-- Susan P.K. Lake, Unit 4405 - Foodland



"The cheetah because their moves are calculated and they pounce with just the right timing. This is what we do in negotiations!"

-- Cherise Couch, Unit 4405 - Sack N Save



"I would say the union is a kind of cat. And the kind of cat depends on how big the unit is. If the numbers in the unit is small, they can be shy like a house cat. But their claws can still come out. And if the unit is bigger the union can be a bigger cat."

-- Dural Duenas, Unit 4412 - Servco Pacific, Inc.



"An eagle because they're proud. We're proud to be union."

-- Kapono Keliikoa, Unit 4405 - Foodland

# What is "Right to work"?

Sounds innocent enough, right?

It's good to have work. It's good to have rights. But in this Trump era of "alternative facts," we cannot take any policy name for granted.

Many of our existing resources and outlets that are progressive and socially-minded (i.e., Planned Parenthood) are under attack and unions are no exception. As you saw on page 2, the very existence of unions are being threatened with right to work legislation.

Trump is trying his hardest to diminish the working class and make the rich richer (see page 2). This law is nothing new. Martin Luther King, Jr. decried right to work as "a false slogan" (see page 3). As Trump and his administration try to deceive us with "false slogans," we need to commit to what is true.

Union values - an injury to one is an injury to all - ring true in their wisdom. This stands in stark contrast to the rationale behind most, if not all of Trump's policies; the rationale of doing things to benefit only a select few, the 1%.

Unfortunately, nothing is free in our society. But we have the power to choose where we put our money, and more importantly, where we place our intention. Do we invest in false slogans, or in the truth?

Yes, it is true that the union needs members' dues to function. Yes, right to work would make it so that members would not have to pay dues.

But the bigger picture, the true picture, if you will, looks more like this:

- the average worker in a right to work (RTW) state makes \$6,109 less per year than a worker in a free bargaining state.

- the poverty rate is 15.3% more in RTW states, compared to 12.8% in free bargaining states.

- 13% of people younger than age 65 in RTW states are uninsured, compared to 9.4% in free bargaining states.

- the risk of workplace death is 49% more likely in right to work states (statistics from go.afcio.org/ StopRightToWork).

These statistics speak for themselves. And they remind us of what the union offers: protection on the job, benefits and security in unpredictable times, the chance to negotiate for a better wage.

We stick together for better or worse. Times look like they might be worse for the union. But as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." As we invest in the union and all the justice it stands for, we will keep this arc going in the right direction.

# If the union were an animal, what animal would it be and why?



# Don't let unions get on the endangered species list (see p. 2).



"Dolphins. They travel together. They communicate well with each other and fend off predators together."

-- Lon Mizuno, Unit 4405 - Foodland



"Lion. If you watch a lion, they don't make any unnecessary movements. They're observant. They know when to attack and they know when to stay put. And they do it as a pack."

-- Alanna Kuhn, Unit 4526 - Pacific Beach Hotel

