

ALOHA FROM ERIC GILL AND ORLANDO SORIANO

In our grandparents' days, Hawaii's people were either very rich or very poor. A few big bosses controlled huge plantations, and everyone else toiled and sweated in the hot sun cutting cane or picking pineapple. Hotel workers were few, and worked 12 hour days for 15 cents an hour.

But Hawaii's workers stood strong and built effective unions. Over the generations, with unions leading the way, Hawaii's people built a better life for themselves and a better future for their children.

Today, we still work hard to make a living in Hawaii. But we have benefits, we can own a home, our children can go to college. We can hope that our children will build a better life for themselves than we have.

But the hotels want to take away our hope for the future. They are forcing increasing workload on us, making our jobs harder and more unpleasant. They are asking us to sell out future generations of hotel workers just to keep what we have. They are refusing to make a commitment to secure our jobs and protect our future.

Hotel management is trying to turn the clock back, trying to make our hotels into Hawaii's new plantations. Work harder to make less, they tell us, and give up our hope for the future. Our grandparents and our parents put their lives on the line many times to build a future for us. We owe it to their memory to do the same for future generations of Hawaii workers.

Local 5 is in the forefront of this fight, and the world is watching to see what we will do. This administration is proud to say that our members are stepping forward in the finest tradition of our ancestors. We are accepting the responsibility and the obligation. We will not let our parents and grandparents down, and we will not give up on the future of our children.

Our picket signs say "we honor the past by fighting for the future". The future of Hawaii is in our hands. Our children are looking to us as an example. We will not let them down.

RETIREEES JOIN CITY COUNCIL TAX HEARING



Over 200 Local 5 retirees attended a breakfast meeting at Kawaiaha'o church on June 5th. After the meeting, union leaders asked them for their support in the contract campaign, explaining that their help was needed to defend both active members and retirees' benefits.

After the breakfast, members and retirees crossed King Street to Honolulu Hale, where they packed a hearing room to denounce proposed tax breaks for the hotels.

Local 5 retirees should watch their mail for a letter from the union explaining how they can help to defend their benefits.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Local 5 Office 1701 Ala Wai Blvd. Honolulu, HI 96815	941-2141 1-800-585-4373 Fax: 941-2166
American Benefit Plan Health and Welfare 615 Piikoi St., Suite 601 Honolulu, HI 96814	591-8466 1-800-232-9669 Fax: 593-8661
Hotel & Travel Industry Federal Credit Union 1600 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 110 Honolulu, HI 96814	942-5115 1-800-954-4405 Fax: 942-4155
Unity House, Inc. Membership Services 444 Hobron Lane PH 4B Honolulu, HI 96815	941-5851
Local 5 Retiree Center 171 N. Pauahi St. Honolulu, HI 96813	585-6446
Waikiki Lifelong Learning Center H.A.R.I.E.T.T. 2301 Kuhio Ave., Rm. 212 Honolulu, HI 96815	924-7505 Fax: 921-0187

MAY, JUNE BUSY MONTHS FOR CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY

May and June have been full of campaign activities. Some were part of the Waikiki contract campaign, while others were aimed at protecting the interests of Local 5 members.

- May 1** Contract expires - all Hotels except Ala Moana have signed contract extension with 48 hr. cancellation notice.
- May 1** 1000 members attend historic Solidarity Day Rally in support of the contract campaign.
- May 13** 40 members accompanied by clergy delegate Sheraton GM on workload issues.
- May 14** 100 members accompanied by clergy delegate Hilton Management on workload issues.
- May 14** Members pass out contract campaign leaflets at several locations downtown and in Waikiki that talk about understaffing and poor hotel service.
- May 19** Members leaflet Sunday Brunch On The Beach.
- May 29** Cafeteria teach-In at Hilton with 50 members.
- May 30** Cafeteria teach-In meeting at Sheraton PK with 50 members.
- May 30** Cafeteria teach-In meeting at Sheraton Waikiki with 100 members.
- May 30** Clergy delegation to Sheraton management.
- June 1** Local 5 secures support at State Democratic Convention - over 400 delegates sign petition.
- June 5** Retirees Breakfast - H&W consultants tell retirees that current hotel negotiation proposals will harm retirees medical coverage.
- June 5** Members and retirees testify at City Council opposing Hilton tax breaks. City council shelves bills.
- June 12** Member delegation to Starwood honcho. He "can't" meet them - sends hotel managers.
- June 12** Clergy delegation to Hilton management - Hilton refuses to meet them.
- June 19** Over 1200 members participate in March For Justice in Waikiki
- June 28** Members give testimony to City Council opposing community impact of new Hilton time share tower.

For more information, please call the union at 941-2141.

PEARLRIDGE MEMBER WINS ARBITRATION



On January 15, 2002, Shop Steward Virginia N. Gomez, who works for MMI at Pearlridge Mall, was terminated from her maintenance position for allegedly threatening her co-worker and creating a hostile work environment. Mall

Management is one of Local 5's smaller properties, with about 40 members. Significantly, this was the first grievance ever filed at MMI.

After an investigation, BA Richard Loyd filed a grievance. Nothing was resolved at the grievance meeting, and so the grievance was sent to Local 5's Arbitration committee, who recommended the grievance for arbitration.

An Informal Arbitration was held on March 8th before Arbitrator Francis Yamashita, a former federal magistrate. On March 21, Arbitrator Yamashita handed down his decision - full back pay, seniority and benefits. The company filed an appeal with the U.S. District court to overturn the decision. An appeal of an arbitration is rare, as courts are reluctant to overrule arbitrations.

In response to the appeal, Local 5 filed a motion for summary judgement in order to dismiss the appeal. Soon after, the union received three offers from MMI to settle the case. The union rejected all three because they would have restricted Virginia's work schedule and her Steward duties. After extensive negotiations, Virginia returned to work with no restrictions on June 24th.

"It feels great to get back to Pearlridge doing my job," said Virginia. "I'm very grateful and I really appreciate everything the union has done for me."

"We're very happy for Virginia," said Eric Gill. "But more importantly, this victory sends a clear message to all our employers - no matter what property, from big hotels to small workplaces like Mall Management, we are committed to fully protecting all of our members."

CONVENTION DEMOCRATS SUPPORT OUR FIGHT

On Saturday, June 1, hundreds of delegates to the Democratic Party Convention at the Sheraton Waikiki showed support for Local 5's fight for a new contract.

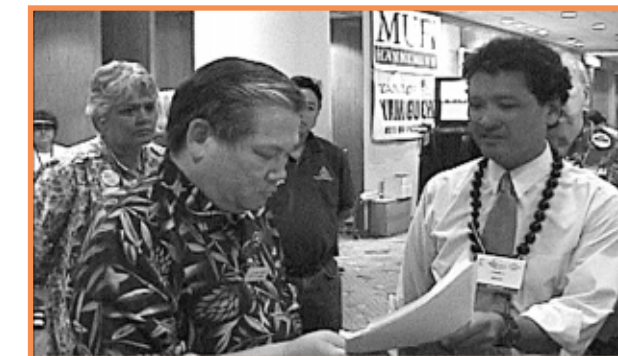
Call For a Fair Settlement in the Hotel Contract Negotiations

Hawaii's people depend on tourism, our number one industry. Hawaii's hotels have prospered from the beauty of our islands and the spirit of our people. For our state to prosper, hotel workers must also prosper. In changing economic times such as these, workers in the hotel industry need job security and a decent standard of living.

We, the undersigned elected officials, delegates and attendees participating in the Hawaii Democratic Party Convention, call on hotel management to move as quickly as possible to resolve an equitable contract with the hotel workers.

D.K. Inouye *[Signature]*

The above petition was signed by well over 400 delegates, including Sen. Dan Inouye, former Governor Waihee, gubernatorial candidates Mazie Hirono, Andy Anderson and Ed Case as well as many other party leaders. In his keynote address to the convention, Senator Inouye talked about the petition and the fact that he was going to sign it.



The petition was presented to the Sheraton Waikiki's Hotel Manager, Ward Almeida, by another key Democrat and Local 5 supporter, State Senator Ron Menor.

UNITY HOUSE 2002 GROUP CHILD CARE

6 month coverage 10/1/2002 - 3/31/2003
Award Amount \$249 (\$49 per month)
Open enrollment period July 1 - August 15, 2002
Applications available only at:
Unity House
444 Hobron Lane
Honolulu HI 96815
Ph. 945-0500 www.unityhousehawaii.org

UNION CHALLENGES HILTON TAX BREAKS

Local 5 has been successfully voicing its opposition to proposed city and state tax breaks for Hilton projects on Oahu, arguing that these big tax breaks mean that local taxpayers will have to pay more property taxes

Hilton had been lobbying the state for a \$75 million tax subsidy bill for a development at Ko Olina. The legislature passed the bill, but Local 5 and other community organizations urged Governor Cayetano to veto the bill, which he did on June 24th, declaring that construction would have to increase by 52 percent for the state to break even from the loss in tax revenue.

"At a time when we are hurting for revenues, it seems to me that before we allow tax credits or tax cuts, we need to make sure that they will generate more revenue than we lose," Cayetano said.

On Thursday, June 6th Local 5 members, retirees and others jammed the normally sedate Second Floor Honolulu Hale committee meeting room to protest excessive city tax breaks being considered for Hilton and other hotels. The strong retiree presence sent a clear message to the budget committee members.

When the dust had settled, Council had voted to shelve the proposed bills. Local 5 estimates Hilton could qualify for up to \$12 million in city tax breaks if the council passes the tax bills. However, according to the Star Bulletin, a majority of the budget committee are now uncomfortable with the tax breaks.

Local 5 also challenged Hilton's Waikiki time share development at the city's Department of Planning and Permitting hearing on June 28th. Concerned union members gave testimony about the increased traffic and the lack of adequate parking. Local 5 submitted a study that challenged Hilton's claims that a proposed additional traffic light on Ala Moana would benefit traffic flow.

Another Local 5 report criticized Hilton's management of the lagoon, noting that five times in the recent past Hilton has promised to clean it up, but has not done so.