

HOUSEKEEPERS BEAR BURDEN OF HOTEL BED WARS



Seventy-five Hilton housekeepers delegated the Hilton GM on February 24th, to protest their increasing workload.

Ask any hotel manager. In the hotel business, the profits are in the rooms. And the newest competition between the hotel corporations to put customers in their rooms is being played out on the backs of the housekeepers.

Starwood, Hilton, Hyatt and Marriott have all unveiled new beds and bedding to attract customers, and the rest of the industry is following suit. This means heavier mattresses, more pillows, heavier sheets, down comforters and duvet covers - all these changes mean more work for housekeepers.

The union is responding. Earlier this year, UNITE HERE! organizers from across the US and Canada met in Chicago to plan a comprehensive response to the increased daily housekeeping workload. Starting in January, Local 5 began a statewide daily card survey, asking housekeepers 'How many rooms did you do today?', 'How many checkouts?', and 'How many minutes did you take for your meal period?' And, in March, we initiated a housekeeper pain and injury survey.

"We have had a great response from our housekeepers," said Local 5 organizer Adore Udani. "They are getting hurt left and right, working without lunch breaks, and still finding it impossible to get all their work done. Housekeepers are finally saying enough!"

The 2004 Second Job Dues Refunds have been mailed out. If you have not received yours yet, please call the Dues department at 941-2141.

LOCAL 5 NEGOTIATION UPDATES



Ala Moana members discuss negotiations with Eric Gill (l to r) Gilbert Navarro, Beverage Porter, Thomas Ng - Maintenance and Joe Pedro, Maintenance.

Ala Moana Hotel Wage Reopener : Ala Moana workers have been falling behind their Waikiki counterparts for 15 years. This year's wage re-opener is our chance to catch up. After three sessions, the Employer has made only one wage offer: 35¢ for housekeeping and stewards and nothing for anyone else. This offer is an insult. It would leave Ala Moana workers even further behind their Waikiki counterparts and is a shameless attempt to pit one group of workers against another. Stay tuned.

Consolidated Theatres: Members overwhelmingly ratified new agreement in March. The new contract calls for a 20¢ an hour (3%) raise for everyone and a 90¢ an hour (12%) increase for captains. It increases the employer's contribution for medical by \$45 a month - a 33% increase. The contract also gives all employees who work 5 hours or more a 30 minute paid break. The contract is a one-year duration.

Waikoloa Beach Marriott Workers wages will be \$3 an hour behind their Sheraton Maui counterparts by January 2007, and almost \$2 an hour behind Royal Kona. The hotel is paying \$2.52 an hour for medical instead of the standard rate of \$2.93 an hour. Ten years ago, there were no Marriotts in Hawaii. Today, there are 11 Marriott hotels (managed, branded and timeshares) in Hawaii. Only three of these 11 are union. For us to have strength in bargaining with Marriott, we must make sure more Marriotts are union. Marriott should agree that the union will grow with the company.



ALA MOANA HOTEL



WAIKOLOA BEACH MARRIOTT

Local 5 is on the web at www.herelocal5.org. Get the latest news, information and back issues of this newsletter.

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BULLETIN

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 2

LOCAL 5 RETIREES LOBBY STATE LAWMAKERS



House Finance Committee Chair Kirk Caldwell speaks with Local 5 retiree Toshiko Hiraki during the Retirees' Lobbying Day wrap up, held in the Capitol Rotunda.

On February 6, 200 Local 5 retirees and members gathered at the state capitol to lobby lawmakers to support Local 5's retiree medical coverage. They were asking for support for the union's fight against Turtle Bay, whose failure to pay the correct contributions to the Local 5 Health and Welfare Trust fund is putting all Local 5 retirees' medical coverage at risk. Turtle Bay is currently \$600,000 in arrears to the trust fund.

In 41 meetings with retirees, 32 lawmakers agreed to send letters to Turtle Bay's owners, Oaktree Capital Management, asking them to pay what they owe. Additionally, 12 legislators signed a Turtle Bay boycott pledge. Meanwhile, at the Convention Center, 40 retirees waved signs protesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority giving money to Turtle Bay.

At the wrap up press conference in the Capitol Rotunda, Representatives Caldwell, Maile Shimabukuro and Rida Cabanilla pledged to support the retirees' requests. Later, Representative Caldwell introduced the visiting Local 5 retirees to the assembled State legislature, where they received a standing ovation.

LOCAL 5 MEMBERS FILE SUIT AGAINST UNITY HOUSE

On March 20, thirteen long-time Local 5 and former Unity House members filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court against Unity House. The lawsuit is intended to help restore Unity House as a membership organization. Prior to being placed in receivership, the board of Unity House, through changes in the law and allegedly fraudulent proxy voting, had taken voting rights away from members and put all authority and decision making power in the hands of just a few.

Unity House was created to serve its members, the active and retired members of Local 5 and the Teamsters Local 996. However, in recent years Unity House and its officers had spent money fighting against Local 5 and its members and had ignored requests from both unions for financial assistance. It appears that Unity House resources were wasted on bloated salaries for unproductive staff and on questionable investment decisions.

Many of the allegations in the Local 5 lawsuit are based upon charges that are contained in the federal indictments and that resulted in a court appointed receiver. Those charges allege that Unity House money was spent for personal gain and that efforts were underway to move Unity House assets to offshore banks and/or other secretive investment deals.

"This lawsuit helps to ensure that Unity House will once again be controlled by its members and will serve their needs", said Eric Gill. "The remaining assets of Unity House need to be carefully managed so that Unity House may fulfill its charter of service to the members of Local 5

If you have a child or grandchild in preschool, the next enrollment period for Unity House Child Care Awards begins July 1, 2005.



UNITY HOUSE NEWS & EVENTS

Local 5 Members' Child Care Awards (covering April 1 to June 30, 2005)

- Kayleen Asuncion
- Robert Beatty
- Kaela Cachola-Tom
- Tate Cadang
- Melia Catubig
- Justin Chen
- Kelli Conrad
- Laura Daclison
- Izrah Hogson
- Rachel Fan
- Ricky Funai
- Cheyenne Garcia
- Braxton Gray
- Sierra Hamamoto
- Tiana Hamamoto
- Zoe Hayashida
- Jason Jornacion
- Miki Kahmann
- Tyler Kahmann
- Tobias-Jesiah Keohokapu
- Austin-Kupalii Kuewa
- Breani Kunihiro
- Kailee Lacar
- Tyrel Lee
- Shaley Peralta-Mercado
- Zachariah Mone
- Milton Gainey
- Ikaika Kaneakua
- Danton Nitta
- Jhayden Oandasan-Rabago
- Nainoa Picemo
- Lei Shimabukuro
- Elija Shimabukuro
- Austin Shmabukuro
- Shana Shin
- Aylssa Stenstrom
- Michelle Takara
- Vivian Lau
- Kaimana Troche
- Raquel Valle
- Tija Lei Nagao-Vallejo
- Christopher Wong
- Kelsey Wong

New Unity House Discount Programs

You must identify yourself as a Unity House Beneficiary in order to qualify for discounts. For more information, call Unity House at 945-0500 or www.unityhousehawaii.org

Mililani Memorial Park and Mortuary Group Discount Program

Special discounts for Unity House beneficiaries, their spouses, children, parents and siblings. Plan ahead and save money on funeral plans and cemetery property. For more information, please call Patrick Souza or Lydia Tomiyasu at 677-5631.

Waikiki Resort Hotel Unity House Exclusive Discounts

Rooms starting at \$65.00 per night. \$55.00 for retirees and other beneficiaries 55 and older. For reservations, call 922-4911, or toll free 1-800-367-5116. www.waikikiresort.com

Pro-Am Golf Shop 20% Discount

Discount offered to Unity House Beneficiaries for everything in the store except sale items and golf balls.

Discount Travel Packages

Mainland and international air, room and car packages. Las Vegas, Disneyland, Canada Ski packages and more. Call Unity House at 945-0050 for more information on these travel packages.

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