



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
January 7, 2010

Dear *Don Funds* Local 5 members at Kaiser:

Thank you for your hard work.

I speak to you and to the Kaiser management as a proud member of The Kaiser Permanente Plan since the days of Henry Kaiser himself. I recall very well as a young graduate student at UH-Manoa seeing him at the original Kaiser Hospital where the Hawaii Prince now stands.

I was grateful then and am now for the wonderful, caring treatment Kaiser has always provided and, as important, the incredibly dedicated professionals and staff whose kindness, courtesy, competence and, yes, personal friendships have seen me through any and all health issues.

That is why I want to see the present contract challenges settled quickly and equitably.

Your dedication towards serving the health care needs of the people of Hawai'i and your tireless efforts to provide good quality patient care for our community have not gone unnoticed. Through your hard work and commitment to your profession, you have helped to ensure that Kaiser Permanente succeeds even in this down economy.

In the first nine months of this year Kaiser netted over \$1.6 billion, and yet workers in Hawai'i, each of you, have had to confront separate and unequal workplace issues that are unjustified and undeserved. You require the same respect, the same standards and the same benefits as Kaiser healthcare workers on the mainland. Your work is just as valuable in Hawai'i as work elsewhere, and you deserve to be treated fairly.

Up until now, your ability as Local 5 union members to secure reasonable and fair working conditions, a livable wage, and affordable medical benefits have enabled you to give time and attention to your families and to make our island communities strong. As a strong supporter of Local 5 and a committed member of the Kaiser Plan going back almost 50 years, I want to see that this tradition not just continue but grow. That is why I stand with you in urging Kaiser Permanente – Hawai'i to settle a fair contract now.

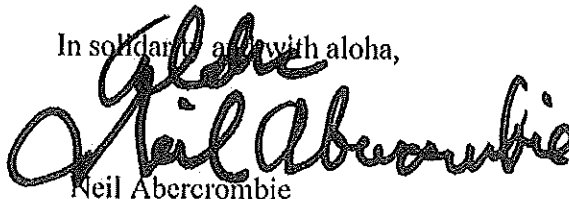
The success of your campaign will have a profound impact on our ability as a community to ensure solid middle class jobs now and in the future for the people of Hawai'i. I'm confident

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that with good will and the application of the aloha spirit, Kaiser management can bring the contract talks to a rapid conclusion.

In solidarity and with aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Abercrombie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

CC: Ms. Janet Liang, President & CEO
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