

TESTIMONY

HB2897 HD1

LATE

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2010

THE SENATE

Committee on Labor

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Thursday, March 11, 2010; 3:00 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2897, HD1
RELATING TO CONTRACTORS**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2897, HD1, which subjects a contractor to revocation or suspension of license for knowingly or intentionally employing a person who is not eligible to work in the United States under federal law to perform work on any project or operation.

All employers should obey the law. Since the Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed in 1986, employers have been required to certify that their employees are legally authorized to work in this country. Each employee must complete and submit to the employer an I-9 form and show proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful permission to work in the U.S.

H.B. 2897 will serve to reinforce what federal law already provides for and will deny contractors their own license to work on public works project for violation of the law. We believe that any contractor who violates the law that prohibits hiring of undocumented aliens should have their licenses revoked for work on any project.

While we understand the desire for workers from other countries to come to the U.S. for work, employers who allow them to work on their projects knowing they either have no documents or their documents are not valid should be penalized for violating the law. These employers are not only exploiting foreign workers but are depriving U.S. citizens and others who have legal authorization to work the opportunity for gainful employment. The livelihoods of these employers should be affected by their actions.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2897, HD1 with the date undefected. Thank you for considering our testimony.