

IRONWORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

Honorable Representative James Tokioka, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Legislative Management
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: IN SUPPORT OF HB59, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE
HAWAII CONSTITUTION RELATED TO RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS
FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
Hearing: Friday, February 6, 2009

Dear Chair Tokioka, and the House Committee on Legislative Management:

The Ironworkers Stabilization Fund Local 625 STRONGLY SUPPORTS the passage of HB59, which proposes to amend the Hawaii Constitution regarding the residency requirements for members of the state legislature.

Our local constitution is modeled after the U.S. Constitution that stated every voter should be represented in government. Those who are elected into office should understand the issues and problems that are in the district they are representing. During the end of the U.S. Civil War they were politicians that rushed in from other areas to become representatives and senators without the understanding of the needs of their constituents. This representation was unfair and was self-serving.

For several past elections, we have seen people move into districts that had open seats for their own gain. We believe this is unfair to the people of Hawaii and the people they represent. It is essential that the people should be represented by someone who understands and knows the needs of the community. Consequently, we believe that this bill will assist in this endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 59

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