

The Senate  
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2009

Committee on Labor  
Sen. Dwight Takamine, Chair  
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2009  
TIME: 2:45 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME, LOCAL 646, AFL-CIO  
ON HB 987, HD2, RELATING TO UNEMPLOYMENT**

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, state director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW currently represents approximately 8,700 blue collar, non-supervisory employees and 2,800 institutional, health, and correctional workers in the State of Hawaii and the various counties. We also represent approximately 3,000 retired members currently receiving benefits under chapter 87A.

**The UPW supports this measure** which assists unemployed persons with on-the-job training to move them into full or part-time employment, and subsidizes employers who train and hire unemployed persons provided that these subsidies do not replace current workers. This approach addresses the steady increase in our unemployment numbers and the domino effect it has on our economy: with job loss, families lose purchasing power, businesses suffer, our tax revenues decline, which exasperates our already stretched-thin safety net. We believe this program is pro-active and visionary by confronting the rising unemployment problem today while it is still manageable. For this reason, we urge the passage of this measure.