

House of Representatives
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Issac Choy, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2009
TIME: 7:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME, LOCAL 646, AFL-CIO
ON SB 688, HD1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT**

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, state director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). On behalf of the approximately 13,000 members, of which over a thousand are in the private sector, the UPW supports this measure which requires successor employers to retain incumbent employees upon divestiture of a covered establishment.

We believe passage of this bill is in the state's best interest. In this recessionary, high unemployment environment, policies should be made to ensure that jobs are retained.. The mass layoffs that accompany the sale or transfer of a business (for example the Grand Wailea and Naniloa resorts), not only cause needless disruption in the lives of the affected workers but also stresses the entire economic system: loss of income for the worker and family, less buying power to support businesses, more social services at a time when our safety net is already stretched thin. Businesses also benefit from the smooth transition of an experienced and well-trained workforce.