

International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Thirty-fifth International Convention
San Diego, California
June 4 – 8, 2012

M/S/C/U
6/5/12 am

Resolution # R-10

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR PACIFIC BEACH HOTEL WORKERS

- WHEREAS: since 2002, the workers at Pacific Beach Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii have struggled for union representation; and
- WHEREAS: after two elections and Unfair Labor Charges (ULP's) filed against the company for election wrongdoing, in 2005, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) certified the ILWU Local 142 as the exclusive bargaining agent for the workers; and
- WHEREAS: yet a decade later, the workers at Pacific Beach Hotel still have no collective bargaining agreement to protect them; and
- WHEREAS: but the workers and their Union continue to fight for justice; and
- WHEREAS: numerous ULP's against the company were filed and upheld by the NLRB, two Administrative Law Judges, Federal Court, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; the company even appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to hear their case; and
- WHEREAS: despite so many legal rulings against them, Pacific Beach Hotel and its parent company, HTH Corporation, continue to waste their money on attorneys and legal fees rather than agree to a fair union contract; and
- WHEREAS: the community in Hawaii rallied around the Pacific Beach Hotel workers; a boycott was launched in 2007 and supporters, under the banner of "Justice at the Beach," have refused to stay at the hotel and have supported the boycott by not attending functions at the locally-owned hotel; supporters include labor unions and their members, community leaders, elected officials, and politicians seeking election; the national AFL-CIO has also endorsed the boycott; and
- WHEREAS: the workers and the ILWU have garnered international support for their struggle; and
- WHEREAS: in 2009, the Canadian Labour Congress, including ILWU Canadian Area, leafleted and attended a shareholders' meeting of Sun Life Financial Inc., an

investment company that made a substantial loan to the owner of Pacific Beach Hotel to keep the hotel in operation; the demonstrators called on Sun Life to use its influence on Pacific Beach Hotel to settle the contract dispute; and

WHEREAS: also in 2009, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) passed a resolution officially endorsing the boycott and pledging support for the workers, many of whom were born and raised in the Philippines; the TUCP and other Philippine trade union groups demonstrated at the Philippine headquarters of Sun Life; and

WHEREAS: most notably, Japan trade unions, including Zenkowan, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-RENGO), and Service Rengo, have provided considerable support for the workers--gathering more than 65,000 signatures on a petition urging Pacific Beach Hotel to settle their contract dispute with the ILWU, urging their members to honor the boycott of the Hotel, educating Japan travel agents about the law-breaking hotel, twice hosting representatives from the ILWU to meet with union leaders and members in Japan, and sponsoring two delegations to Hawaii, the last in February of 2012; and

WHEREAS: Labor Now, an organization of Japanese educators and trade unionists, has provided invaluable liaison support for the ILWU with trade unions in Japan; and

WHEREAS: particularly significant support has come from Zenkowan, the All-Japan Dockworkers' Union, and its president, Akinobu Itoh, as well as the International Transport Workers' Federation; Mr. Itoh himself visited Hawaii in 2008 to deliver the petition with 65,000 signatures to the hotel and was among the dignitaries turned away by hotel management, ITF participated in both delegations to Hawaii; and

WHEREAS: international support has buoyed the spirits of the workers at Pacific Beach Hotel; at a rally in February, almost 50 workers overcame their fears and intimidation by the hotel to join the picketing; the hotel stationed its usual contingent of beefy, black-shirted security forces to monitor the picketers, but

the workers stood tall and remained strong; after the picketing, they reveled with the visiting Japanese unionists, wore the hachimaki gifts bestowed on them, and waved the Zenkowan flag of solidarity; and

WHEREAS: international solidarity is often difficult to achieve because of language, distance, and customs, but labor unions throughout the world transcend these barriers and understand the universal need for justice, unity, worker rights, and fairness; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that the ILWU International and its members at Pacific Beach Hotel expresses sincere appreciation to Zenkowan, , ITF, JTUC-RENGO, Service Rengo, and more than 20 supporting unions in Japan; TUCP of the Philippines; and the Canadian Labour Congress, including the ILWU Canadian Area and Local 500, for their demonstration of international solidarity; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that all ILWU locals and their members pledge to continue the boycott of Pacific Beach Hotel until ILWU members there win justice and a fair contract.