

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

m/s/c/u
6/7/12 pm session
Resolution # R-13

SUPPORT AGRICULTURE WORKERS

WHEREAS: Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co. is the last sugar cane plantation of Hawaii. Today, HC&S produces 4 percent of all U.S. cane sugar. This plantation is the exclusive supplier for the large light-brown turbinado sugar crystals in Sugar in the Raw brand packets commonly found in coffee shops and restaurants, nationwide. The workers at HC&S surpassed their 2011 production goal of 182,500 tons; and

WHEREAS: once there were eight companies producing pineapple on five islands. Today, there remain two on two islands – The Dole Plantation on Oahu and the Haliimaile Pineapple Company on Maui; and

WHEREAS: ML Macadamia Orchards, LP is planning to change its name to Royal Hawaiian Orchards to expand its husking plant and possibly build its own processing plant to make macadamia products in house. As ML Macadamia's contract expires with Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Corp., the company plans to stop selling raw nuts. Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Corp operates as a subsidiary of The Hershey Company and will continue with production and sales of macadamia nut products; and

WHEREAS: these operations in Hawaii continue to look at viable alternatives in stimulating their industries. Currently, these crops are the only way of employing large numbers of workers and utilizing large areas of land. These industries face stiff competition from foreign producers who are heavily subsidized by their governments and who allow abhorrent wages and working conditions for their workers; and

WHEREAS: Kauai Coffee is grown on a 3,000 acre estate owned by Massimo and Zaneti Beverage. Kauai Coffee is part of the world's largest privately owned coffee group owned coffee group. Kauai Coffee is the largest coffee plantation in the United States; and

WHEREAS: over the years, sugar, pineapple, coffee, and macadamia workers have distinguished themselves within the ILWU and union movement as disciplined, steadfast, and militant union members. Their unit organizations are among the most democratic and effective within Local 142 and serve as models for the entire union. Many of the top leaders within Local 142 have come from the ranks of sugar and other agricultural units; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: the International Longshore and Warehouse Union supports the continuation of sugar, pineapple, coffee, macadamia, and other agricultural production in Hawaii and pledges to maintain them as viable industries; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: that this Convention salute ILWU sugar, pineapple, coffee, macadamia nut, and other agriculture workers and recognizes the great contribution made by these workers to the ILWU and the union movement.