



# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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## **AFL-CIO Calls for Boycott of HTH Corporation; 10.5 Million Members Urged to Avoid Honolulu's Pacific Beach Hotel and Pagoda Hotel & Restaurant**

**The AFL-CIO announced today that it is calling for a boycott of HTH Corporation, including the Pacific Beach Hotel and Pagoda Hotel & Restaurant in Honolulu, Hawaii.**

The AFL-CIO is the nation's largest labor federation, with 10.5 million members across the country. Following today's announcement, member unions in every state of the country will be notified to avoid patronizing the hotel.

"HTH Corporation has made a mark for itself as one of the worst employers in the country," stated AFL-CIO president John Sweeney. "They have violated federal labor law repeatedly and on a massive scale. They have treated their workers with utter disrespect. They have shown contempt for the law, for their employees, and for the community."

After going ten years without a raise, workers at the Pacific Beach Hotel organized a union in 2002, in affiliation with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). After the workers first union election, the federal government found that the hotel committed violations so serious, a re-run election was ordered. In the second election, held in 2004, workers again voted to form a union affiliated with the ILWU. Following that vote, instead of negotiating in good faith as required by law, the company engaged in multiple delay tactics, and negotiations dragged on for two years. On December 1, 2007, the hotel illegally cut off

negotiations. Over 30 of its employees, including most of the employees' negotiating committee and one worker who had previously been named Employee of the Year, were told they no longer had jobs.

Kapena Kanaiaupuni worked as a bellman at Pacific Beach Hotel for twenty-four years before being fired. "I gave the best years of my life to this hotel, working hard every day to make visitors feel welcome in Hawaii," he stated. "What does the hotel do in return? When me and my coworkers try to negotiate a contract so we can support our families at a minimal level of dignity, they fired us. Our loyalty didn't matter, our years of service didn't matter—all that mattered was that we tried to form a union. I was elected by my co-workers to represent them, and for that the company singled me out to be terminated."

Following the mass firing, a boycott of the hotel was launched by a labor-community coalition called Justice at the Beach. The coalition includes the Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii, the Alliance for Retired Americans, the Oahu Filipino Community Council, the Hawaii Government Employees Association-AFSCME, the Hawaii State Teachers' Association, the Hawaii Nurses' Association, the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council, and numerous other labor groups. In addition, many members of the state legislature and Hawaii's U.S. congressional delegation have supported the workers.

"When most people think of Waikiki Beach, they picture paradise," said Hawaii State AFL-CIO president Randy Perreira. "Unfortunately, Pacific Beach Hotel's behavior means that that picture increasingly is also going to include picket lines."

"When they fired all of us, they hoped that it would scare everyone else into giving up the push for union recognition," said Kanaiaupuni. "It did scare people—but it also made them angrier than ever. We're going to be out here on the picket lines for however long it takes to make Pacific Beach Hotel obey the law and treat its employees with respect."

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For more information on the boycott of Pacific Beach Hotel, visit:

<http://pacbeachworkers.ilwulocal142.org>