



LOCAL UNION NO. 126



OF THE

International Union of Elevator Constructors

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

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Late Testimony

February 6, 2009

***TESTIMONY NOT IN SUPPORT OF H.B.# 1130
Relating to the Boiler and Elevator Safety Law***

***To: The Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members
of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment***

***Thank you for allowing me to testify on H.B. # 1130. My name is Thad
Tomei and I represent the members of the International Union of
Elevator Constructor's Local 126.***

***While I disagree with State of Hawaii, DLIR Boiler and Elevator Branch's
proposal to modify the inspection frequency schedule via H.B. #1130
amendments, I FULLY SUPPORT the Branch's need to re-assess its
manpower and public policy objectives to insure safe and dependable
elevator and escalator operation throughout the State.***

***The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Boiler and Elevator
Branch has proposed to modify the inspection frequency schedule from
the current one year requirement to a more flexible schedule from one
to three years using these criteria:***

- 1. Age of equipment*
- 2. Type of equipment*
- 3. Maintenance and discrepancy history*

The challenge in using these criteria is at best very “subjective” in that there are no real history or records that can be used in an objective and conclusive manner.

SO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

First, adoption of the ASME A17.1-2004 with 2005 amendments will best address the maintenance and discrepancy history. Elevator safety data has shown that many accidents occur because of inadequate level of maintenance or repairs. A17.1-2000 Section 8.6 incorporates a number of new or revised requirements regarding the maintenance of elevator equipment intended to prevent unsafe operation of elevator systems and improve public safety.

A17.1-2000 Section 8.6 requires the following:

- 1. Equipment examination at required or scheduled intervals.*
- 2. All work performed by trained elevator personnel.*
- 3. Maintenance records must document any repair, adjustment, tests, service or callback done on the equipment by date and mechanic performing the work. A monthly firefighter service test must also be performed.*

Second, the Boiler and Elevator Branch has recommended creating a working/ advisory committee in which industry experts and user groups can come to a mutual understanding on how best to enact legislation that promotes “safety for the public” first and foremost.

This working/advisory committee will take the appropriate time and research to address the inspection frequency schedules of elevator the related kindred equipment.

Third, I have supported the Boiler and Elevator Branch in the past and will continue to do so. I am willing to work with the Branch in addressing any issues without having to compromise the interest of the public.

Mahalo for allowing me to present my testimony on H.B. # 1130