Hawaiʻi State AFL-CIO  
Twenty Sixth Biennial Convention  
2015

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General Resolution No. 1

REGARDING *FRIEDRICHs V. CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION*

WHEREAS, America's economy has drastically swung out of balance, and everyday Americans are working more hours and harder than ever before;

WHEREAS, Our work has created record wealth for an economic recovery that has benefitted everywhere but ordinary peoples' wallets;

WHEREAS, Our economic rules unfairly favor corporate CEOs and the wealthy 1% because they manipulate the rules in their favor;

WHEREAS, The voices of those who stand up for working Americans is diminishing, and now the Supreme Court case of *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* threatens to make it even worse;

WHEREAS, A decision favorable to the plaintiffs would overturn existing state and local laws that protect the rights of working people and will decimate public service workers such as police, firefighters, corrections officers, social workers, nurses, teachers and educators' rights to band together;

WHEREAS, A decision favorable to the plaintiffs would set an extremely dangerous precedent, and embolden right wing anti-union extremists determined to destroy the rights of all working people across all sectors; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the 2015 Hawaii State AFL-CIO Convention delegates, that the Hawaii State AFL-CIO and all of its affiliates will inform local unions, elected officials, progressive allies, and the general public about the potential impact of this upcoming decision, how it is part of a larger plan to destroy the labor movement, and how it further tips the scales in favor of big corporations and the wealthy few; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to each Hawaii State AFL-CIO affiliate to express our deep concern over the pending Friedrichs vs. the California Teachers Association Supreme Court ruling.

General Resolution No. 2

IN MEMORY AND RECOGNITION OF YOSHITO TAKAMINE

WHEREAS, Yoshito Takamine, a stalwart in the labor movement and the Democratic Party, passed away on October 27, 2015 at the age of 89;

WHEREAS, Yoshito was born and raised in Honokaa on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii, the eldest son of 14 children born to immigrants from Okinawa; he went to work for Honokaa Sugar Company fresh out of high school in 1944 and soon became an ILWU unit steward and eventually unit chairman;

WHEREAS, Yoshito was actively involved in the union when the ILWU led some 25,000 sugar workers on strike in 1946; better pay and working conditions were on the table, but the 79-day strike won much more for the ILWU and its members’ respect from management and the community, unity and solidarity among the union's ranks, and a better future for those working in the sugar industry;

WHEREAS, Yoshito's leadership qualities were recognized, and he was persuaded to run for ILWU Business Agent in 1950; he was reelected each term thereafter until he was elected the ILWU's Hawaii Division Director in 1971;

WHEREAS, Yoshito was not only a leader in the ILWU but a leader in his community; in 1958, Yoshito won a seat in the Territorial Legislature, representing the Hamakua District;

WHEREAS, after statehood, Yoshito continued to represent his community in the State House of Representatives until his retirement in 1984, all while continuing as the ILWU's Hawaii Division Director until he retired from that position in 1988;

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Yoshito was loyal to his family, his community, his union, and the Democratic Party; he maintained a strong belief in advocating for labor, in promoting quality public education for all children in Hawaii, in working to ensure access to health care for all, and in preserving Hawaii lands for agriculture;

WHEREAS, because of his roots in sugar, Yoshito fought valiantly to protect and preserve the sugar industry in Hawaii; he ached when, one by one, the plantations closed, yet worked tirelessly to ensure that workers laid off by the closures would have a future; he initiated the Kohala Task Force when Kohala Sugar Company closed in 1973 and set up diversified agricultural cooperatives for former sugar workers to become more effective farmers when Hamakua Sugar Company ended operations in 1994;

WHEREAS, through his leadership, Yoshito also brought together those who would craft legislation to fulfill the ideals he held; as chairman of the House Labor Committee, Yoshito was one of the architects of
the Prepaid Health Care Act and the Temporary Disability Insurance law, two pieces of legislation that continue to have a profound positive impact on workers throughout Hawai‘i;

WHEREAS, Yoshito was a man with definite ideas and ideals; he fought for, and often won, what he believed in; he was unafraid to challenge authority yet believed in organization and working for the interests of working men and women; he was a visionary and keenly political yet used his influence not for personal advancement but for the betterment of his community and working people;

WHEREAS, Yoshito will be remembered as a champion for labor in the Legislature, a legacy he passed on to his son, Dwight, who continued to carry the torch in the State House and Senate; both Takamines saw the labor movement as part of the larger movement for economic and social justice, for a democratic society;

WHEREAS, Yoshito will also be remembered and appreciated for his unwavering support for his community and his union, the ILWU; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Hawaii State AFL-CIO recognizes the contributions of Yoshito Takamine to the labor movement as a union man and a member of the Hawai‘i State Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That delegates to the 26th Biennial Convention of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO extends sincere condolences to the family of Yoshito Takamine—his wife (Kimiko), his five children (Dwight, Arlene, Melanie, Delbert and Karleen), and several grandchildren; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the four Mayors, the Senate President, the House Speaker and the Chairs of each County Council.

General Resolution No. 3

NEXT ERA ENERGY MERGER WITH 5 HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES

WHEREAS, Hawaiian Electric Industries is currently in a merger with Next Era Energy;

WHEREAS, The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 has recently supported the merger;

WHEREAS, The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers' Hawaii State Association of Electrical Workers, which consists of 1186, 1260, and 1357, supports the merger;

WHEREAS, Unions in the State of Hawai‘i make up nearly 25 percent of the work force;

WHEREAS, Next Era Energy has committed to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 to recognize the collective bargaining agreement and skilled unionized labor in the State of Hawai‘i;
WHEREAS, Unionized labor in the State of Hawai‘i supports the state's initiative on clean, renewable energy by 2045;

WHEREAS, Unionized labor in the State of Hawai‘i has always and continues to support each other in our goals to organize the unorganized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That unionized labor in the State of Hawai‘i supports the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 in its quest to continue to lead its membership; new, and be it further

RESOLVED, That unionized labor in the State of Hawai‘i supports the Hawaii State Association of Electrical Workers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That on this 12th day of November 2015 that the AFL-CIO in the State of Hawai‘i supports the merger of Next Era Energy and Hawaiian Electric Industries.