



August 2008  
**HAWAII**  
**Newsletter**

## UNION PICNIC!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH**

**1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

See our picnic flyer, attached to the end of this newsletter for details.

## Contract Countdown To 02/01/09

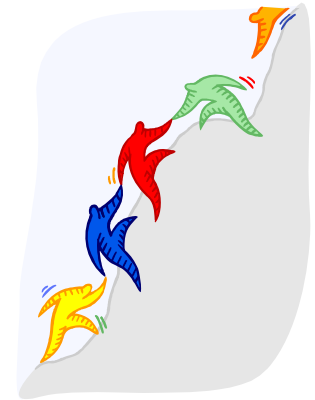


**As of August 1, 2008 there are 184 days (13 paydays) left in our Contract**

Our contract ends just 184 days from August 1st. The best way to avoid a strike is to prepare for one. The Union encourages each member to diligently save 3 months wages between now and February 1, 2009. That's 13 paydays away.

Jason is continuing to work on contract changes we need. If you would like to help out, please get in touch with Jason at 554-5436. Our General Meeting on August 7 will work on Contract Articles.

# Mahalo for your Kokua!



The USW 12-591 would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their contribution in helping their Union brothers and sisters:

Pat Koge  
Landon Iwamoto  
Sally Staley  
Trent Tokuyama

James Lankford  
Dennis Mosher  
Ray Tugade  
Judy Au

## USW Delegates Make History 2008 Convention a Success

[NEWS ARTICLES](#) | July 08, 2008

USW | [Link to article](#)

### Article Brief

The 2008 USW Constitutional Convention was historic in many ways - from forming the world's first global union and hearing from Barack Obama, to the swearing in of the International's first woman officer and voting to strengthen the union's defense against globalization.

Delegates wrapped up final business of the historic [2008 Constitutional Convention](#) and headed home filled with energy to fight for a better tomorrow for working families in the United States and Canada.

In Las Vegas, [International President Leo W. Gerard](#) praised the delegates for their commitment and attendance during the four-day event that attracted 3,178 registered delegates from local unions in the United States and Canada.

“As your president, I couldn’t be more proud of you, our members who sent you here and our friends and allies,” Gerard said. “And I couldn’t be more humbled to know that we have an awesome responsibility ahead of us.”

All told, more than 4,500 delegates and observers from the United States, Canada and elsewhere attended, including 77 international guests from more than 20 countries.

The convention officially closed with delegates standing together and singing “Solidarity Forever,” the labor movement anthem.

If we work hard toward our goals, including electing Democrat [Barack Obama](#) as the next president of the United States, Gerard said we will soon begin to see the kind of change and progress that working families need.

“At some point next year, we’ll be able to feel the world is changing and we really are on the path toward giving a better society to our kids and grandkids,” Gerard told the delegates.

“This is no longer about us. This is about the kind of future our generation wants to pass on,” he added. “We cannot fail. We cannot falter. Your kids, your community and your planet are counting on you, and I appreciate everything you do every day.”

The final day of the convention started with a few unusual moments of silence as delegates posed for a panoramic photograph of the huge convention hall.

Delegates also stood in silence later in the morning as they watched a video scroll of the names of our brothers and sisters killed on the job since the last convention three years earlier.

Rank-and-file speakers told of shop floor accidents and the lifelong impact these losses have on co-workers and family members. Heartfelt thanks were offered to our Emergency Response Team for their help with accident investigations and aid to the families of members injured or killed.

Also on the last day, Gerard announced that a fund-raising raffle for the Harley Davidson motorcycle owned by late International President George Becker raised \$350,000 to benefit the George Becker Leadership Development Fund. The winning ticket was held by Sandra Forrer of Local 1150 in Ohio.

Overall, the four-day convention was remarkable for the signing of an agreement to form the first global union and a decision by delegates to bolster the union’s Strike and Defense Fund by passing a modest dues increase.

The new union, Workers Uniting, will draw on the energies of two great unions, the USW and Unite the Union in the United Kingdom.

“This union is crucial for challenging the growing power of global capital,” Gerard said. “Globalization has given financiers license to exploit workers in developing countries at the

expense of our members in the developed world. Only global solidarity among workers can overcome this sort of global exploitation wherever it occurs.”

Delegates also created a new position of International Vice President – at Large, which was filled, for the first time in the union’s history, by Canadian union activist Carol Landry. They heard former U.S. Sen. John Edwards, our union’s first endorsed candidate for president, urge delegates to reject John McCain’s bid for a third George Bush term. And they heard Obama pledge by satellite feed to support working families.

Obama condemned the Bush administration for its blatantly anti-worker values. He was greeted with thundering applause when he said flatly: “This is the most anti- labor administration in our memory. Well, we’ve got news for them. It’s not the Department of Management; it’s the Department of Labor.”

While acknowledging McCain’s service to country, Obama contested the Republican’s recent claim to be an agent of change. “It’s not change,” Obama asserted, “when John McCain decides to stand for George Bush 95 percent of the time as he did last year.

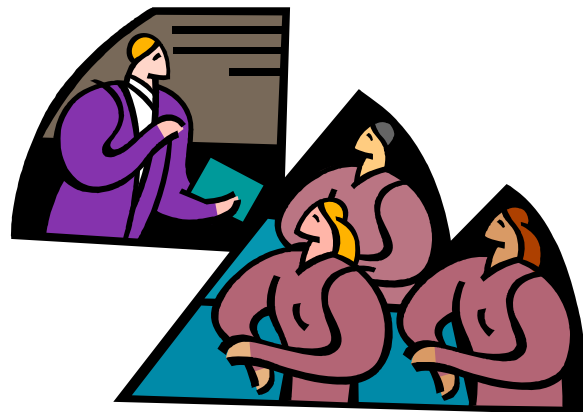
“Let me tell what change is. It is understanding the struggles of working people. It means giving the middle class a tax cut and putting a college degree within reach,” he said.

## USW International Union Training

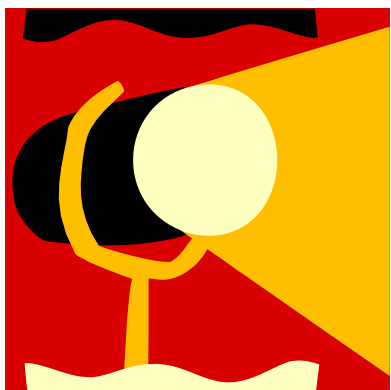
Our sister union, USW 12-369, that serves Chevron Terminals is hosting Steward/Union Officer/Political Action Committee(PAC)/Rapid Response training. Their Chair, Derek Onaga, has graciously invited us to attend. The training will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Waikiki on August 19 and 20.

Our members that will be attending are:

- Jason Sakamoto
- Trent Tokuyama
- John Koa
- Jon Kalima
- Dominic Vespoli
- Dennis Mosher
- Glen Furimizo
- Ernie Natividad



The training will be led by representatives of our International Union.



# Spotlight on ...

## Ryan Lau

Ryan Lau is our new TOP coordinator effective July 6th, 2008. Ryan had been an Outside Operator in Area 3 and he has been involved in the TOP program since its inception here in Hawaii. He is committed to the success of the TOP program to improve the protection of everyone who works in our refinery.

Ryan is a graduate of St. Louis High School, Class of 1992. He then attended St. Mary's College in California on a Soccer Scholarship. He transferred to San Diego State where is played as a mid-fielder.

From 1995-98, Ryan played for the Hawaii Tsunami, semi-pro soccer team. They were the conference champions in '95 and '96. Ryan finished up his bachelor's degree in Science (Biology) at the University of Hawaii in 1998. He also has a post graduate qualification in Education.

From 2000 to 2006, he taught 7<sup>th</sup> grade science at Kapolei Middle School. His study in the sciences gives him a firm background for his new job. In February 2006, he began his career at Tesoro.

Ryan has been married to his wife, Jennifer, for three years. They live in Mililani with their 4 month old son, Brady. He stays in shape by lifting weights and running. Ryan still plays soccer on a men's league each Sunday at Waipio. He is very proud to say that he has been the assistant coach for Kapolei High School from 2000 to the present.

In his new assignment as TOP coordinator, Ryan hopes to continue the excellent work Josh Capello started. He encourages fellow workers to get involved as Investigators. There will be a new class later this year. His main goal is to identify hazards and make Tesoro a safer workplace for all of us.





# TOPs News

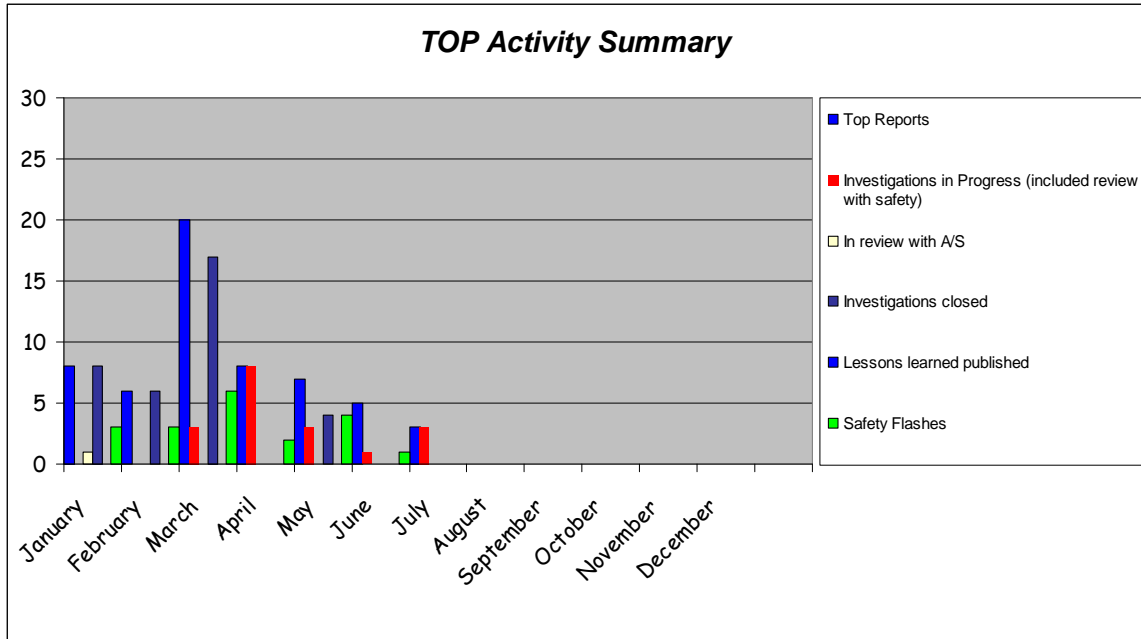
**MONTH: July**

**TOP Rate: 2.44**

**1. TOP REPORTS RECEIVED THIS MONTH:**

<b>#</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
113	6/26/08	Missing safety cables for chain valves for old diesel line valve to fractionator, CRU E-509 700# steam inlet and high pressure condensate return, D-401 HT feed, D-403 A/C bypass and D-403C inlet and HGU D-2006 to T-2001, D-2009 outlet, L/T bypass, 2141 bypass, SRU 3 eductor outlet and 2021B downstream	In-progress
114	6/26/08	Emergency Response Brigade didn't sign out after training	In-progress
115	7/04/08	While reeling salt driers, Kerosene started to come from high point vent. Operators immediately secured the valve cutting the tape causing 14 feet of tape and bobber to fall into salt.	In-progress
116	7/08/08	PSC driver drove into new load rack CARBIS cage causing cage to be damaged.	In-progress
117	7/08/08	Mechanic suffered burns on his wrist while working on P-215	In-progress
118	7/09/08	X-ray technician burned the small finger on his left hand when the exposed skin contacted the 700deg F adjacent piping while placing film.	In-progress
119	7/11/08	Summit contractor was pulling wires through the ceiling in the maintenance library when his H2S detector alarmed	In-progress
120	7/12/08	While ascending the ladder to the P1259 platform to access the bypass valve, mechanic was stung by a wasp right thru his glove on his left thumb	In-progress

## 2. TOP ACTIVITY SUMMARY:



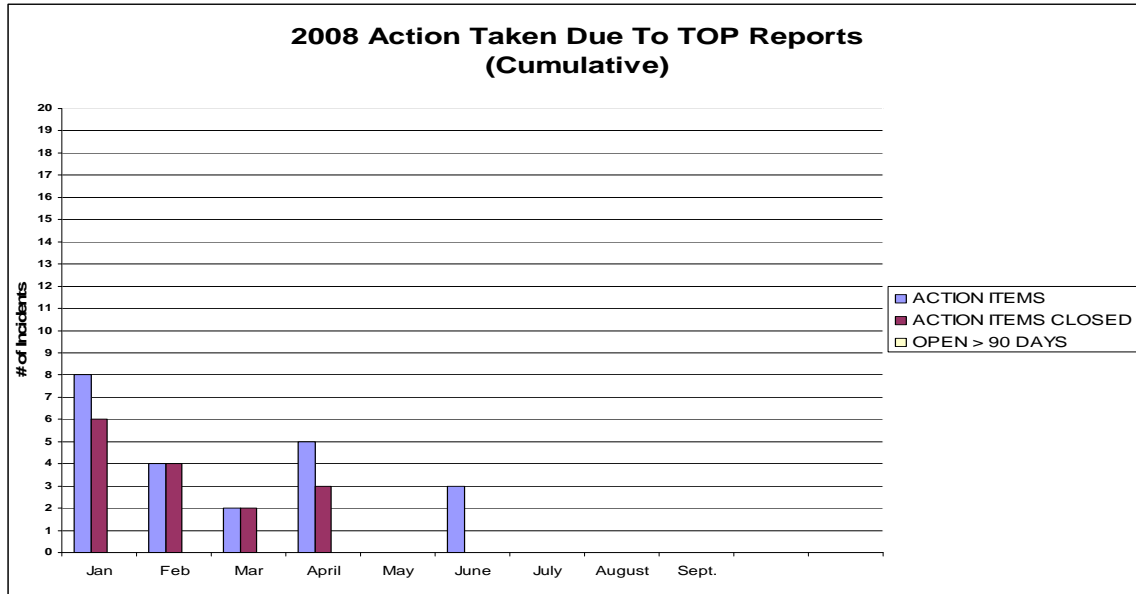
## 3. INVESTIGATIONS PAST DUE: **NONE**

#	DATE	INCIDENT DETAIL	STATUS	DUE DATE

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS PAST DUE: **NONE**

#	DATE	INCIDENT	RECOMMENDATIONS	DUE DATE	STATUS

## 5. ACTION TAKEN DUE TO TOP REPORTS (CUMULATIVE):



## TOP Investigators:

### Hourly

Dennis Bondocoy  
Josh Capello  
Ed Dilliner  
Chevis English  
Glen Furumizo  
Jason Helm  
Robert Hoffman  
John Laa  
Dale Lahr  
James Lankford  
Ryan Lau  
Harrison Luna  
Brad Markham  
Mike Simpson  
Dominic Vespoli

### Salary

Brandon Burgess  
Mike Canite  
Lance Dolera  
Dwain Elliott  
Cameron Hunt  
David Kawashima  
Josh Kaye  
Stan Kurashige  
Tom Markee  
Kendra McBride  
Bob McKaig  
Ted Metrose  
Mike Mullen  
John Purdy  
Mike Sakurada  
Jon Taketa  
Robert Walker  
Barry Whitfield

# Dennis Lawrence Retires

After more than 35 years, Dennis Lawrence retired from the I & E Shop. A reception was held on July 17 in the Weld Shop.

He started way back on November 27, 1972 as an apprentice. He was a young surfer transplant from California.

During his tenure, Dennis worked for HIRI, PRI, BHP and Tesoro, all without leaving the shop! He will always be remembered for his service on the Workers Committee.

Dennis and his wife Mary have been building their retirement home on the Big Island for the past few years. He still enjoys surfing and off-road motorcycles when he has the time.

Dominic Vespoli presented Dennis with a USW Clock on behalf of our Union. Dennis will be missed!



# Special CLEAR Class

**NAP Membership Exam Class:** 6 sessions. Prepare for the 100 question, National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) membership exam. No fee for the class but participants must have the [10th ed. of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised](#) and make application to NAP to take the test [[download application & study guide](#)]. Instructor: W. Puette, Ph.D., RP.

UHWO, CLEAR Room 403  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays  
Aug. 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28.

It is important to register in advance. Classes not sufficiently enrolled one week prior to commencement will be canceled.

You may download an Enrollment Form or call, write or e-mail CLEAR at:

CLEAR  
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu  
96-043 Ala 'Ike, Bldg. 400  
Pearl City, HI 96782-3366  
Phone: (808) 454-4774;  
FAX: (808) 454-4776  
e-mail: [clear@hawaii.edu](mailto:clear@hawaii.edu)

# Hope & Goodwill



Judy Au gave birth to her second son: Breynton J. Au, born 7-7-08, 7:56 am, 7 lbs, 5.8 oz, 20" in length. He joins older brother, Alton W.S. Au and the proud parents: Judy & Reynson Au.

Ryan Mimura's father and grandfather passed away this past month. Our condolences to him.

# Chairman's Column

by Jason Sakamoto



## **STRIKE!**

Now that I have your attention, I have been approached by many of you asking if we are going to go on strike, or how I feel about the chances. My answer has always been the same; anytime that a union and a company go to the negotiating table, there is always a chance for a strike. With that I add, if there are important issues that we cannot let go, then we must do what is essential to accomplish our goal. It is much harder to get something back than it is to keep it. For example: the company decides to do away with medical benefits for retirees. Even at today's medical rates, it's a sure thing that it'll take only a short stay at the hospital before my savings will be used up. What will I do then? Sell my house? This may sound drastic, but take a look at your HMSA or Kaiser rates the next time you get them. You'd be surprised how expensive doctor appointments, shots, and exams can be if you were to pay full price for them. If you think it can't happen to you, think again. This is our reality if we do not successfully negotiate issues such as medical benefits for retirees.

It has been said that the best way to avoid a strike is to be ready for one. If you have not been saving at least the recommended 3 months of living expenses, I remind you now to do so. Hopefully without sounding like a commercial, other ways to you can help yourself is to look into the Union Plus Mortgage Program and also signing up for a USW credit card. Both of these options offer assistance in the event of a strike or lockout.

These are hard times not only for Unions but for the oil industry as well. As if the price per barrel wasn't enough, a quote by a Labor and Industries contact says "Tesoro will be inspected sometime in the next two years". This means we will be inspected by OSHA as part of CPL 03-00-004 - Petroleum Refinery Process Safety Management National Emphasis Program. This move comes as a result of the 2005 Texas City explosion which killed 15 people and injured 170. On the heels of this forewarning, I suggest as a way to not only help Tesoro-but to help ourselves as well-I urge you to report any and all safety deficiencies promptly to the company. Doing so will in turn give the company time to remedy these deficiencies and avoid heavy fines.

On a lighter note, we will be having our Union picnic on August 9<sup>th</sup> , 2008. Join in the festivities and solidarity. Bring your family! There is going to be games and prizes for those attending. This could not have happened if not for the volunteer/volunteered people who made it happen. My gratitude goes out to James, Dennis, Ray and Judy.

I close with the reminder that as Union Brothers and Sisters, we are from time to time confronted with issues in the workplace involving another Union member. Either personal or professional, differences are commonplace; how we handle them should not be. Our objective to present a strong united front at all times is imperative in order for the company to appreciate and recognize our purpose and determination. I ask that each of you remember our resolve is only as strong as we allow and therefore; should you find yourself at an impasse with another member, notify a Union Officer before going to the company so that we can attempt to resolve the dispute without the company's involvement. It is to our advantage, financially and perceptively, to solve our problems ourselves. Please join with me in making our Local as strong as possible and to avoid further detractions in this time leading up to and throughout our contract negotiations.

In solidarity,  
1-31-09,  
Jason

Don't forget to read our Local newsletter online at [www.usw12-591.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.usw12-591.org/newsletters.htm)  
You can also read past issues of this newsletter.

Read the AFL- CIO's LabelLetter at [www.unionlabel.org](http://www.unionlabel.org) and find Union-made goods and services.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this newsletter, send your email address to [leowoitas@hotmail.com](mailto:leowoitas@hotmail.com) .



# USW Hawaii 12-591 Membership Picnic

*Look for the USW banner*

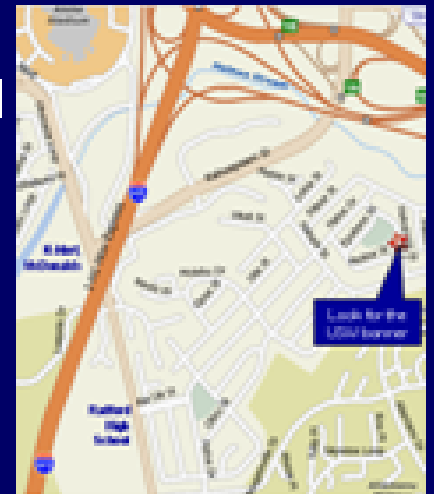
**For:** Members in good standing only

**Where:** East Foster Village Rec Ctr  
4341 Hakupapa St., Salt Lake

**Date:** August 9, 2008  
We will hold our general  
Aug mtg at this picnic

**Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 pm

**Cost:** FREE to members  
and their families



**RSVP:** By 7-28-08 to James Lankford, Ray Tugade,  
or Dennis Mosher  
Need # of attending adults & children

