

# Hawai'i State AFL-CIO Twenty-Second Biennial Convention 2007

## Legislative Resolution #6

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CIVIL UNIONS IN HAWAI'I

WHEREAS, the labor movement has a long history of fighting for equal rights for working people, including support for equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) workers; and

WHEREAS, the national AFL-CIO has now formally recognized Pride at Work as one of its constituency groups that is charged with reaching out to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) workers across the country; and

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of Pride at Work to mobilize mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the GLBT Community around organizing for social and economic justice; and

WHEREAS, opponents of working people's interests use GLBT issues, particularly those related to relationship recognition, as a wedge issue to divide the labor movement; and WHEREAS, same-sex couples are devoted to each other, love each other, raise children and support their families; and

WHEREAS, the government's refusal to legally recognize their relationships deprives thousands of families of the most important attributes of their labor: the ability to take care of and provide for their family members; and

WHEREAS, while civil marriage is the only true equality under the law, if the government is offering civil unions as a way to provide protection, support, and respect for GLBT families, unions should support those efforts; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the Twenty-Second Biennial Convention of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO that this body supports legislation creating civil unions in Hawai'i in order to help fulfill the need for same sex couples to have the same benefits, rights and entitlements as all others in our society; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO urge its affiliates and non-affiliates to endorse such legislation in order to extend to their GLBT members and their families, the same rights, benefits and entitlements that are provided to its heterosexual members under the State's marriage laws.

*Submitted by: UHPA Executive Committee*