



HAWAII WORKERS CENTER

Defending and Respecting
the workers of Hawai'i



Our vision and mission

The Hawai'i Workers Center envisions a Hawai'i in which all workers are empowered to exercise their right to organize for their social, economic and political well-being. The Hawai'i Workers Center is a resource of information, education, training and organizing. It will provide workshops on workers' rights, safety and health and protection from wage theft, labor trafficking, abuse and harassment and other workplace hazards and issues. We also provide referrals to various health, housing, immigration-related and legal resources.



Our Programs

- Organizing workers' associations based on immediate needs and concerns.
- Outreach to migrants, immigrants, low-wage workers, and victims of labor trafficking and aid in getting them legal advice and assistance.
- Kōkua Fund Emergency Mutual Aid for workers, both during the Maui Wildfires and Covid-19 pandemic.
- Organizing at the legislative level for issues such as a living wage, affordable housing, and health care.



Why the HWC?

- Hawai'i has the highest overall cost of living in the U.S. Hawai'i's workers often have to work 2 or 3 jobs to survive and live in crowded multiple family apartments or houses.
- More than a half-million workers are not in unions and lack union-scale wages, retirement benefits, job security, adequate health care, and a voice in their working conditions.
- In Hawai'i, an estimated 25,000 COFA (Compact of Free Association) migrants from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau are able to work but are not eligible for an immigrant visa—and they add to the ranks of Hawai'i's working poor.
- Of the estimated 40,000 undocumented immigrants in Hawai'i, about 40% are Filipinos and 10% Latinos. Some of these undocumented immigrants are victims of labor trafficking, wage theft, and exploitation.



(503) 967- 5377



hiworkerscenter@gmail.com



2252 Puna St.,
Honolulu, HI 96817

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