

BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT

November 2, 2018

Aloha Sisters and Brothers,

Super Typhoon Yutu made landfall in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands on Thursday October 25th, making it Earth's strongest storm of 2018 and the second strongest ever to hit the United States and its territories. This historical storm intensified from a Tropical Storm to a massive Super Typhoon (which is equal to a Category 5 hurricane) in just two days and took direct aim on the CNMI. The eye of the storm passed directly over the islands of Tinian, Saipan and Rota causing catastrophic damage by flattening neighborhoods, displacing hundreds of residents, damaging buildings, businesses, infrastructure, and caused massive power, water and communication outages throughout the islands.

In 2015 Typhoon Soudelor made landfall in Saipan as a Category 2 storm, which caused major damage then, but as our members tell me it is nothing like the destruction left by Super Typhoon Yutu. It will take many months for them to recover, weeks before power and running water are restored to the area. Our members in Saipan remain positive and vigilant in these tough times, however I ask that you please remember our sisters and brothers in Saipan in your thoughts and prayers.

Last month, the Hawaii PUC approved Hawaiian Telcom's request to transfer its ownership in poles that are jointly owned to the Hawaiian Electric Companies despite our request to delay the decision while our grievance and Unfair Labor Practice against HT is settled. HT has refused to provide the all information that we have asked for and they continue to avoid our follow up requests for information. Many questions remain unanswered about the future of our members work and the jobs that are impacted by HT's decision, however the answers from HT have been vague and misleading. We are fighting to keep the work that our members perform and will continue to fight for what is right.

Local 1357 stands in solidarity with UNITE HERE Local 5 in their struggle to achieve a fair contract. One job should be enough to live in Hawaii, and with fair wages and benefits, it is achievable. Strikes are also going on in Boston, San Jose, San Francisco, Oakland, Detroit and San Diego. This is the largest number of hotel workers ever whose contracts *have expired at one time* in their union. Workers across the nation have been standing together to show that united, we have the power to change jobs and lives for the better.

On October 20th I, along with many other labor leaders joined in UNITE HERE Local 5's rally in Waikiki. Local 5's fight is not just their fight but a fight for all of us. The solidarity that the members of Local 5 displayed at the rally and at each of the picket lines was truly inspiring and motivating. Many of the surrounding hotel's employees are wearing pins to show their support

BUSINESS MANAGERS REPORT

November 2, 2018

of their fellow workers in the hospitality industry knowing full well that if Local 5 is successful, workers within the entire industry will benefit.

November 11th is Veterans Day where we honor America's veterans for their patriotism. I would like to say thank you to all of our veterans that have served and those that continue to serve our great country. November 22nd is Thanksgiving and I would like to wish all of our members a Happy Thanksgiving and have a safe holiday!

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Benevides', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Troy Benevides

Business Manager/Financial Secretary