

International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union
Executive Board Meeting
December 2 - 3, 1958
San Francisco, California

STATEHOOD FOR HAWAII

The ILWU has long demanded statehood for Hawaii. We reiterate that demand.

The granting of statehood to Alaska was an indication that legislative log jams can be broken. Now, the composition of the new 86th Congress gives hope that the barrier so long maintained by the Dixiecrats can be broken down, and the 50th state added to the union.

The argument that a territory must be contiguous to win statehood no longer has any weight now that Alaska has become a state.

Hawaii has a population of over one-half a million people today. This exceeds the population of any other Territory at the time of admission as a state. In area, Hawaii exceeds three states - Delaware, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

In addition, Hawaii has had a constitutional form of government since 1840. The people of Hawaii are an alert, experienced electorate; they vote, and vote intelligently in Territorial and local elections.

There is really no argument left for the Eastlands and other die-hard opponents of Hawaii statehood except their fear of seeing one or two non-Caucasians sitting in the U.S. Senate. We believe such an addition would be beneficial to the Senate and to the United States as a whole.

Alaska is already anticipating increased business and expanded shipping as a result of winning statehood earlier this year. And, at this end, there are trade gains looming up for Seattle and Portland. We want an end to second class citizenship for the people of Hawaii so that they, too, can begin to share in the benefits of statehood so long denied them.