

Six-Union MLA Talks Strategy in Aloha State Pow-Wow

Leaders of the six-unions that make up the Maritime Labor Alliance converged in Honolulu this week to focus on a series of weighty maritime issues. The MLA is a cooperation between the ARA, IBU, ILA, ILWU, M.E.B.A. and the MM&P that fights to protect MLA member jurisdictions, working conditions and labor rights. M.E.B.A. was represented at the meeting by President Marshall Ainley, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo (who also serves as MLA Secretary-Treasurer) and M.E.B.A. Honolulu Rep. Luke Kaili.



Each of the affiliates gave a report at the meeting and variety of topics were tackled including MSP, the Jones Act “controversy” and developments with the Pasha-MM&P unfair labor practice complaint. They also discussed their opposition to efforts to privatize the nation’s air traffic control system, talked about incursions on public employee unions and strategized on the Maersk Line Limited (MLL/E-Ships/M-Ships) - M.E.B.A. contract negotiations. In addition, the AFL-CIO Article XX hearing and the LIBERTY PEACE manning situation were discussed. MLA has pledged support for the M.E.B.A. “in any action” the Alliance deems necessary and they noted that they consider Liberty’s “shopping of labor unions while a legitimate and longstanding collective bargaining agreement is, in effect, an affront to all true labor unions.”