



OHANA NEWS

Local 5 Updates for Kaiser Workers
September 15, 2009

Kaiser Workers Find Support for Their Cause

On September 10, 2009 eight Local 5 members took part in a listening session with 12 community leaders, most of which have Kaiser coverage. The purpose of the session was to find ways to work together to improve health care in the state. Specifically, the workers expressed a desire to take Kaiser Permanente's care and service to a higher level through winning a say in staffing, workload and workflow process design.



Gloria Lee of Kailua Clinic talked about what it is like having to cover two doctors as a medical assistant instead of one. "I do my best to take care of the patients with a smile. It is getting harder and harder as more and more expectations are added over time. We don't want to create an environment where mistakes may happen because we are rushing to tackle the extra work. It is also important that we take care of our health and not collapse with exhaustion when we go home."

The community leaders were moved by Gloria's story and other stories they heard, such as the story of a certified nursing assistant who had to give 10 baths and watch 20 patients during his shift, and the story of the mother/baby unit licensed practical nurses who lost their jobs after the company changed the unit's model of care without giving them a chance to make the case for the current model- the one that most of the staff supported.

The community leaders were very supportive and are hoping for a settlement that includes a voice for workers. Workers should have a contractual right to have a say in staffing, workload, and work process design to assure that working conditions are reasonable. The leaders also realized that they would benefit as well if employees with improved working conditions served them. They vowed to follow our negotiation closely.

To learn more about the goals of our negotiation, go to Local5Deliver.org

For more information, call your Local 5 Kaiser representative at 941-2141 or 1-800-585-4373