



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • www.ifpte.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Contact: Matthew Biggs
(202) 239-4880

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Gregory J. Junemann
PRESIDENT

Paul Shearon
SECRETARY-TREASURER

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

Joseph McGee
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
NORTHWESTERN

Larry Chojnacki
MIDWESTERN

Cynthia Cole
SPEEA

Ron Dicks
WESTERN

Debbie D. Logsdon
SPEEA

John G. Lowden Jr.
ATLANTIC

Lawrence V. Marrell
SPEEA

R. Kirk Miller
EASTERN FEDERAL

Mark Mitchell
WESTERN

Andrew Müller
CANADIAN

Gerald Newsome
ATLANTIC

Benjamin T. Toyama
WESTERN FEDERAL

Charlie Trembley
NORTHEASTERN

Allan Yamaguchi
NORTHWESTERN

Senators Akaka, Pryor, Introduce Enhanced Annual Leave Bill S. 3665 Applies to ALJs and Immigration Judges

WASHINGTON, DC – Yesterday Senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Mark Pryor (D-AR) jointly introduced S. 3665, a bill to enhance the annual leave for administrative law judges (ALJs), contract board of appeals judges (CBAJs), and Immigration Judges (IJs).

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) recently decided to exclude ALJs, CBAJs and IJs from the annual leave benefits for senior level federal employees simply because they were not subject to a pay for performance system. Before this decision by OPM, these groups, along with other senior executive employees, enjoyed the very same annual leave benefits of eight hours with each bi-weekly pay period, which was called for in the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act of 2004. The Akaka/Pryor bill will correct this inequity caused by OPM.

International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers President, Gregory Junemann, provided the following comment in response to the introduction of S. 3665.

“IFPTE thanks Senators Akaka and Pryor for introducing this much needed bill. OPM’s transparent attempt to hold the annual leave benefits of ALJs, IJs and CBAJs as leverage in promoting pay for performance for judges is unfortunate, to say the least. To their credit, Senators Akaka and Pryor are standing up for these important federal workers by introducing this bill to reverse the OPM policy.”

Judge Dana Marks, Vice President of The National Association of Immigration Judges (NAIJ), IFPTE Judicial Council II, also commented on the bill. “The National Association of Immigration Judges is pleased to acknowledge the leadership shown by Senators Akaka and Pryor and deeply appreciates the concern they have shown in drafting an improved leave bill which recognizes the unique needs of our specialized corps.”

Rounding out the comments was Judge Ron Bernoski, President of the Association of Administration Law Judges (AALJ), IFPTE Judicial Council I. “We commend the leadership of Senators Akaka and Pryor in sponsoring this needed reform legislation. We have members in our Corps of administrative law judges who have served a career in the armed forces of this nation and are required to start at the bottom of the the Federal government leave schedule because of the current OPM policy. This change will correct this unjust policy”.

Senator Akaka Chairs the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia. Senator Pryor is also a member of that Subcommittee.

###