

North Shore, Honolulu, HI.....Today employees of Turtle Bay Resort carried a petition signed by more than half the resort's active full and part time union employees—to Eric Gill, financial secretary/treasurer of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 5 Union, requesting the union to cease its boycott activities against the resort.

The boycott was initiated in October 2003. The union has been organizing sign waving near the resort as well as a direct mail campaign to the resort's corporate customers and Internet alerts.

In a letter delivered to Gill with the petition the employees stated: "By attempting to drive Turtle Bay out of business, you are only hurting us. We want the boycott to stop. Local 5 is supposed to represent the employees of Turtle Bay Resort and our interests. A majority of us want the boycott to end. If Local 5 truly represents employees' interests, it will comply with our request. Otherwise, it is readily apparent that Local 5 is only pursuing its own selfish agenda by maintaining its ruinous boycott."

"We have repeatedly asked the union to cease the boycott and we are so happy to see that our staff has come forward to support this position," stated Abid Butt, vice president and general manager of Turtle Bay Resort.

Turtle Bay Resort has been in negotiations with the union since Benchmark Hospitality International took over the property in September 2001. By April 2004 all issues except sub-contracting had been settled and Benchmark presented a settlement document to this effect with a promise from the company's chairman to work on the sub-contracting issue going forward.

"We were stunned when, after an extended period of negotiating in good faith, the union came back to us with a whole set of new demands, including to change the end date of the proposed contract to 2006 instead of three years from the signing date as we had been discussing all along. The settlement proposal had been discussed so many times; we couldn't believe we were being set back that far again," stated Butt.

"At the very least, we would like to have the union end this senseless boycott. It is hurting business as well as the very employees they are supposed to represent," said Butt.