

Bargaining Update No. 17

Hawaii Newspaper and Printing Trades Council

Honolulu Advertiser

November 21, 2008

Advertiser seeks more cuts

Union and company negotiators met this week and made progress on a number of issues involving work rules and staffing levels. However, the company reported that its financial situation has continued to deteriorate in the past two months and announced that it is seeking drastic new across-the-board pay cuts – up to 31.5 percent.

While acknowledging that the company needs some financial relief, Wayne Cahill, spokesman for the six unions representing Advertiser workers, said the company's new proposals go too far, pushing employees past a breaking point.

“We're willing to make investments that will help the company through these tough times, but we can't accept proposals that would put our members in financial jeopardy,” Cahill said. “We have to continue working to find a solution that will satisfy everyone.”

Company negotiator John Jaske said Advertiser revenue has fallen to its lowest level in 20 years, causing the company to seek the pay cuts and another \$4.5 million in other savings, including benefit and work practice changes.

Any agreement will have to include ways to restore pay and benefits once the company returns to profitability, Cahill said.

The next round of negotiations was scheduled for the week of Dec. 15