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**UNITED ASSOCIATION (UA) BECOMES FIRST INTERNATIONAL UNION TO ENDORSE NEIL ABERCROMBIE FOR GOVERNOR OF HAWAII**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 3, 2009) – General President William P. Hite and the United Association (UA) of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada today became the first International Union to announce its endorsement of U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie for Governor of Hawaii. General President Hite makes this endorsement on the recommendation of Business Manager Reginald Castanares and the members of UA Local 675, Honolulu, Hawaii.

"As the first union to endorse President Barack Obama, we're very pleased to be able to do the same for our friend Neil Abercrombie. Representative Abercrombie is not only an experienced and professional statesman, but he is also a man of high moral character. It's this combination of professional and personal commitment that makes him the best choice to lead the people of Hawaii," said UA International President William P. Hite. "In fact, the UA believes so strongly in Representative Abercrombie, he has been our keynote speaker for the UA's past two national conventions."

"We need a leader who understands how to build partnerships among our Legislators," said Business Manager Reginald Castanares. "Representative Abercrombie's history of public service, along with his commitment to labor, business, and the communities he serves, has established him as the right choice for the office of Governor. The UA is a multi-craft union whose members are engaged in the fabrication, installation and servicing of piping systems. There are approximately 350,000 highly skilled

United Association members who belong to over 300 individual local unions across North America.

Founded in 1889, the United Association is one of the most respected and influential building trades unions in the U.S. and Canada today. It serves as a collective voice for workers through negotiation and collective bargaining with employing contractor groups, such as the [Mechanical Contractors Association of America](#) and the [National Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors](#). The UA is also a key member of the Building and Construction Trades Department, the AFL-CIO, and the Canadian Federation of Labour.

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