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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mufi Hannemann wins endorsements of two major unions

Honolulu, Hawaii - Hawaii Independent Party (HIP) Gubernatorial Candidate Mufi Hannemann picked up a pair of highly coveted union endorsements today. The State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO), and the Hawaii Sheet Metal Workers Union, Local 293 (HSMW) combined forces to throw their support to the former Honolulu mayor during a news conference held at the SHOPO Headquarters in Kalihi.

SHOPO, is an independent Police Union and exclusive representative of about 2,900 police in Hawaii. President Tenari Ma'afala said, "The safety and well being of the people of Hawaii and our visitors have always been Mufi's primary focus, in which he has stated and carried out as the Mayor, 'making Hawaii the safest place to Live, Work, and Play.'" True to this vision, Mufi Hannemann recognizes and supports the countless sacrifices the men and women of the four county police departments that are tasked 24/7, 365 days a year to protect and serve the people of Hawaii." said Ma'afala.

Hannemann gratefully accepted the SHOPO endorsement, saying, "My running mate Les Chang and I pledge our full support to work with these dedicated men and women in uniform, who put their lives on the line daily to protect the health and safety of the people of our great state and who help ensure our quality of life. As governor, I will work doubly hard to support initiatives that drive down crime rates and provide a stronger boost to the state-wide *ohana* of first responders," said Hannemann.

Hannemann was also endorsed by The Hawaii Sheet Metal Workers Union. "Local 293 proudly endorses and supports Mufi Hannemann as our next governor. The residents of Hawaii can be confident that the Hannemann/Chang ticket will work tirelessly to make sure that Hawaii is a great place to earn a living, to support our families, and raise our children. Mayor Hannemann has long been a strong advocate for the working class. His leadership on rail and transit oriented development which will lead to thousands of jobs that will benefit all of us has been extraordinary! Needless to say, rail would not have happened without him," said Art Tolentino, HSMW Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Treasurer.

"I appreciate this early endorsement very much and thankful that Local 293 is expressing it strongly now, stated Hannemann. "Les Chang and I grew up in working class families and neighborhoods where it was all about hard work and sacrifice and that's what the Sheet Metal worker represents. They can count on us to never forget our roots and always strive to bring about good meaningful jobs as we have done in the past wherever we have served."

Mufi Hannemann filed nomination papers on Tuesday with his running mate Les Chang, who is a decorated Air Force veteran.

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