

## HAWAIIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT ATTENDANTS RATIFY CONTRACT

Members of the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA) at Hawaiian Airlines vote overwhelmingly to ratify a tentative agreement on a two-year contract for 1,031 workers, according to AFA officials. The agreement was approved by 84 percent of the members who voted, while the remaining 16 percent were opposed. Under the new contract, flight attendants will receive a pay increase of 2 percent this year retroactive to February 25, followed by an additional 2 percent increase in 2010. Other provisions allow employees to participate in the carrier's profit-sharing programs while maintaining important work rules.

Both union and company officials welcome the outcome of the vote on the tentative agreement, which was reached in late February after the two sides agreed to expedite negotiations on a new contract to replace the previous agreement, which became amendable November 1, 2007.

"In this very difficult economic environment, we are pleased that we were able to work with management and negotiate an agreement that honors the important work flight attendants perform," according to Sharon Soper, President of the AFA local at Hawaiian Airlines. While increasing compensation for flight attendants, the new contract also provides for better operational efficiency, which will "help improve the performance of our company going forward....Our ability to reach this progressive new agreement collaboratively and in a relatively short span of time says a lot about the level of engagement of our flight attendants and the AFA leadership," says Mark Dunkerley, the carrier's president and chief executive officer.

The new contract also makes minor changes to rest time and other provisions for extended range flight duty, compensation for airport reserves duty, and training. Employees' contribution to their health insurance coverage is not affected. The AFA is affiliated with the Communications Workers of America.

(Source: BNA, *Daily Labor Report*, No. 61, April 2, 2009, p. A2.)