

Aloha!

There is a great deal of economic inequity in the U.S. This is inequality in income, wealth and overall material well-being is unjust because it results largely from the rich owners of corporations taking advantage of most people.

This inequality is greater in the U.S. than in any other economically developed country. It is even greater in the U.S. than in Egypt. It is partly reflected in several striking statistics: (1) The top 1% of the population in income make 20% of the total income of the entire population; (2) The top 1% of the population in wealth have as much wealth as the bottom 99%; (3) The CEOs of big corporations are paid several hundred times as much as the average employees of those corporations; (4) 15-16% of the U.S. population are living below the poverty line as defined by the U.S. government, which is a level of real poverty; (5) 16% of the population are un- or underemployed,

Within countries economic inequality goes along with a striking number and variety of social, psychological and physical problems. So, because of its great inequality, the U.S. stands very high in regard to these. They include distrust between people, low status of women, mental illness, drug use, low life expectancy, obesity, low math and literacy scores of 15-year olds, teenage birth rates; homicide rate, and social immobility.

In the last several decades corporations have waged highly aggressive war on organized labor. This has greatly weakened the unions and their ability to increase their income and other benefits through collective bargaining. As a result, workers have received a considerably smaller share of income from the output they have much increased. This has produced a large distribution of income upward from the employees to the owners and managers of the corporations, and of course this distribution has strongly increased overall inequality.

Corporations have also increased inequity in people's material well-being by producing, through their political clout, reduced funding of public facilities. These particularly include education, infrastructure and social work and psychological services. This has significantly increased deprivation for a large part of the population.

The money saved by this reduction has been, to a large extent, thrown down the rathole of the U.S.'s current wars. And despite the desperate need for public money shown by this reduction, taxation of the rich has been greatly reduced, so as to increase the tax burden on the rest of the people. This tax reduction has also been supported by the reduced public funding.

So social justice in promoting economic equity is a matter of countering these human actions that contribute to human inequity and also providing help to people that reduces the harmful effects of the inequity.