

# Aloha must pay pilot \$1 million

Court finds he  
was 'blacklisted'  
by other pilots

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The Hawaii Supreme Court has ruled Aloha Airlines must pay more than \$1 million to a pilot it fired after other Aloha pilots "blacklisted" him with peer evaluations that Aloha unquestioningly accepted.

Harry Michael "Mick" Mathewson, now 42, was made an outcast not because of any incompetence but because he had earlier worked as a replacement pilot in another airline's strike, the Supreme Court said Monday in confirming both an arbitrator's award and a subsequent ruling by a state Circuit Court judge.

Arbitrator Ted Tsukiyama had found the peer pilots' evaluations were "fatally contaminated with 'anti-scab' bias."

"It is a source of wonderment that (Aloha's) management ... could not have – either by naivete, insensitivity, indiffer-

ence or plain stupidity – discerned that its evaluation process was being made a travesty," Tsukiyama had said.

Aloha spokeswoman Stephanie Ackerman said the airline "stands by its position on this case. We believe what we did (terminating Mathewson) was right. We regret the Hawaii Supreme Court's ruling."

Mathewson's attorney, Jerry Hiatt of the law firm Bays, Deaver, Hiatt, Lung & Rose, and the Aloha Airlines chapter of the Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) yesterday declined to comment on the ruling.

Mathewson himself said he was very pleased with what he said was "total vindication."

The last six and a half years have been very bumpy for me, and Aloha went out of its way to make it that way."

Blacklisting, whether by a union or an employer, is an unfair labor practice prohibited by state law. Because no federal question arises in this case, the Hawaii Supreme Court's decision cannot be appealed to any higher court.