



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 11, 2013

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Date: Monday, February 11, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Dwight Y. Takamine, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Re: S.B. No. 874 Relating to Workers' Compensation

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

S.B. 874 proposes to amend Section 386-80, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which relates to qualified impartial physicians appointed by the director, by requiring the specialty of the physician to be appropriate to the injury being examined.

The Department supports this measure.

II. CURRENT LAW

Currently, Section 386-80, HRS, does not specify that a physician appointed by the director must be a physician whose specialty is appropriate for the injury being examined.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The Department supports this measure.

Qualifying the specialty of the physician will ensure that a physician knowledgeable in the injury of the claimant will examine the claimant.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

LEILA A. KAGAWA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 8, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

For Hearing on Monday, February 11, 2013
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 016

BY

BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

Senate Bill No. 874
Relating to Workers' Compensation

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO CHAIRPERSON CLAYTON HEE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of H.B. 874 is to require a workers' compensation impartial exam to be conducted by a doctor whose specialty is appropriate for the injury to be examined.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) takes **no position** on this bill provided the proposed amendment is limited to Section 386-80, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. 874.

WIMAH

WORK INJURY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII
91-2135 FORT WEAVER ROAD SUITE #170
EWA BEACH, HAWAII 96706

MAULI OLA
THE POWER OF HEALING

FEBRUARY 11, 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

SENATE BILL 874 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

REQUIRES THAT A WORKERS' COMPENSATION IMPARTIAL EXAM BE CONDUCTED BY A DOCTOR WHOSE SPECIALTY IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE INJURY TO BE EXAMINED.

WORK INJURY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII STRONGLY SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 874.

WORK INJURY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII BELIEVES THIS WILL BILL WILL SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND ALSO INSURE THE EXAMINATION IS DONE BY A PHYSICIAN WHO IS QUALIFIED IN THE SPECIALTY OF INJURY.

AT THE 2012 HAWAII STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, THE DELEGATES UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED THIS PROCESS.

THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL WILL BENEFIT BOTH THE INJURED WORKER AND THEIR EMPLOYER.

YOUR PASSAGE OF THIS BILL WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

GEORGE M. WAIALEALE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WORK INJURY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII