
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STREAMLINE THE STATE'S WORKERS'
COMPENSATION PROCESS.

1 WHEREAS, the purpose of the State's workers' compensation
2 law is to provide wage loss compensation and medical care to
3 employees for work-related injuries through an expedited
4 administrative, rather than judicial, process; and
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6 WHEREAS, despite losing thirty-one per cent of its staff
7 since 2008 due to reductions-in-force, retirements, and hiring
8 freezes, workers' compensation claims are processed by the
9 Disability Compensation Division of the Department of Labor and
10 Industrial Relations; and
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12 WHEREAS, the current workers' compensation system is, at
13 times, inadequate in providing timely relief to workers injured
14 in the course of their employment; and
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16 WHEREAS, injured claimants have experienced considerable
17 delays in the processing of their workers' compensation claims;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, injured claimants have complained that scheduling
21 an employer-requested medical examination can take longer than a
22 year despite repeated requests and inquiries; and
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24 WHEREAS, payments following the execution of a settlement
25 agreement have also been known to take over six months to
26 process; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
30 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
31 Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to convene a working



1 group to streamline the State's workers' compensation process,
2 including the employer-requested medical examination, under
3 chapter 386, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that
6 the working group consider streamlining the filing process for
7 workers' compensation claims by converting to a computerized
8 system; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Labor and
11 Industrial Relations or the Department's Deputy Director is
12 requested to serve as Chairperson of the working group and to
13 invite the following to serve as members:
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- 15 (1) The Director of Human Resources Development or the
16 Director's designee;
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- 18 (2) Insurers that issue workers' compensation insurance
19 policies in the State;
- 20
- 21 (3) Attorneys who represent employers and employees in
22 workers' compensation claims;
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- 24 (4) A representative of a mutual benefit society operating
25 in the State;
- 26
- 27 (5) A representative of a health maintenance organization
28 operating in the State;
- 29
- 30 (6) Health care providers; and
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- 32 (7) Any other persons deemed appropriate by the
33 Chairperson of the working group; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate and
36 the Speaker of the House of Representatives are each requested
37 to appoint one person to serve as a member of the working group;
38 and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
41 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
42 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
43 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
44 of 2017; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor
4 and Industrial Relations and the Director of Human Resources
5 Development.

