SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A PROPOSAL THAT DELINEATES HOW IT WILL INCREASE THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE TO PROVIDERS OF SERVICE FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMANTS.

WHEREAS, injured workers need immediate access to physicians and providers for rehabilitative treatment to appropriately return to work as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, access to workers' compensation treatment is especially limited on neighbor islands where there is already a shortage of physicians; and

WHEREAS, access to medical and rehabilitative treatment for injured workers is restricted because few providers accept workers' compensation patients due to burdensome documentation and reporting, slow approval and payment processing, and inadequate fee reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in testimony on S.B. No. 413, Regular Session of 2017, and H.B. No. 808, Regular Session of 2017, stated, "The Department [of Labor and Industrial Relations] favors an increase in the reimbursement rate to providers of service for workers' compensation claimants and is considering other alternatives to the current fee schedule and plans to have a proposal for discussion shortly."; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations has stated that it is currently surveying prepaid health care providers and will be using the data to update the Workers' Compensation Supplemental Medical Fee Schedule, Exhibit A, effective January 1, 2018; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to prepare a
proposal that delineates how it will increase the reimbursement
rate to providers of service for workers' compensation
claimants, including outcome measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
Industrial Relations is requested to include the following in
its proposal:

(1) Federally accepted factors to estimate the cost of
practice expenses and the average cost of the work
itself;

(2) Recognition of geographic differences in insurance
rates; and

(3) Analysis of increased fees and medical work force
participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
Industrial Relations is requested to submit its proposal to the
Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor
and Industrial Relations.