



STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA

March 14, 2023

To: The Honorable, Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair,  
The Honorable, Andrew Takuya Garrett Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Government Operations

Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol and Videoconference

From: Jade T. Butay, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: S.B. 696 SD1 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

The DLIR supports this proposal. SB696 SD1 proposes to amend Section 46-13.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to provide for volunteer firefighters average weekly wages be computed pursuant to §386-181(c). The bill also proposes to directly amend §386-181(c)(3) to allow wages of other employees in comparable employment to be considered when computing the average weekly wages of an injured public board member, reserve police officer, police chaplain, reserve public safety law enforcement officer, sheriffs' chaplain, volunteer firefighter, volunteer boating enforcement officer, or volunteer conservation and resources enforcement officer.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

§386-181(c)(3) specifically states that wages of other employees in comparable employment shall not be considered.

**III. COMMENTS ON THE SENATE BILL**

DLIR supports the proposal and believes that injured public board members, reserve police officers, police chaplains, reserve public safety law enforcement officers, sheriffs' chaplains, volunteer firefighters, volunteer boating enforcement officers, or volunteer conservation and resources enforcement officers be afforded all benefits to which they are entitled.