

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

525

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12

, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 480
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which
was referred H.B. No. 480, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to streamline the approval
process for functional capacity exams to ensure automatic approval
of such exams when requested by the attending physician for an
injured employee under certain conditions.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations; Department
of Human Resources Development; Hawaii Insurers Council; and
Hawaii Medical Association. Your Committee received testimony in
opposition to this measure from the Office of the Mayor of the
County of Maui. Your Committee received comments on this measure
from one individual.

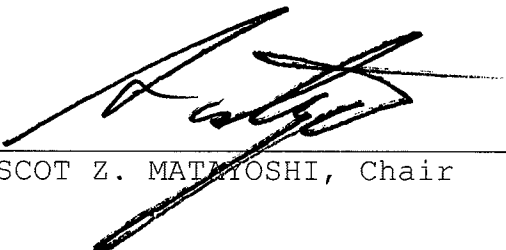
Your Committee finds that a functional capacity exam is a set
of tests that are used to identify the patient's physical skills,
functional capabilities, activity endurance, and work tolerances,
typically administered by a trained and licensed provider, such as
an occupational therapist or physical therapist. Employers
understand well the importance of prompt evaluation as the
functional capacity exam informs the clinical care team of



possible diagnoses, treatments, and recovery. Additionally, the functional capacity exam provides an objective assessment that assists with future job modifications and the safe gradual transition back to work, decreasing risks for reinjury or long-term disability. This measure provides a reasonable step to decrease unnecessary and harmful delays for patients by eliminating employer permission for functional capacity exams in certain circumstances.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 480, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce,



SCOT Z. MATSUMOTO, Chair



HSCR 525

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 480, HD1		Committee Referral: LAB, CPC, FIN		Date: 2/6/25	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
CPC Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z. (C)		✓			
2. CHUN, Cory M. (VC)		✓			
3. ILAGAN, Greggor		✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda		✓			
5. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco		✓			
6. KONG, Sam Satoru		✓			
7. LOWEN, Nicole E.		✓			
8. MARTEN, Lisa		✓			
9. TAM, Adrian K.		✓			
10. PIERICK, Elijah		✓			
TOTAL (10)		10			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					