



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

March 31, 2023

To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Friday, March 31, 2023
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol and Videoconference

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

Re: S.B. 696 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The DLIR supports this proposal. SB696 SD1HD1 proposes to amend Section 46-13.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to provide for volunteer firefighters average weekly wages be computed pursuant to Section 386-181(c). The bill also proposes to directly amend Section 386-181(c)(3), HRS, 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.