Honolulu, Hawaii

Apr:128, 2006

RE:

H.B. No. 2558

H.D. 1 S.D. 2

C.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2006 State of Hawaii

Honorable Robert Bunda President of the Senate Twenty-Third State Legislature Regular Session of 2006 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the House of Representatives to the amendments proposed by the Senate in H.B. No. 2558, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this bill is to encourage employees who have suffered work-related injuries to return to work by authorizing the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations (Director) to refer, for vocational rehabilitation, those employees who are unable to return to their regular jobs upon medical stabilization and who have not been offered permanent suitable work that is comparable in earnings to their former jobs.

Your Committee on Conference notes that existing laws allow employees who have suffered a permanent disability as a result of work injuries to be referred by the Director for vocational rehabilitation services. Existing laws are not clear on whether

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employees who are restricted in their daily living and working activities as a result of their work related injuries are eligible for vocational rehabilitation.

Your Committee on Conference believes that limiting the Director's referrals for vocational rehabilitation to employees who have suffered a permanent disability would be contrary to the intent of this legislation. The recuperative process following a work injury should not only include healing from the physical effects of the injury itself, but also assisting injured workers to reintegrate into the workforce in a timely manner.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 2006.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2558, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2558, H.D. 1, S.D. 2, C.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

BRIAN KANNO, Chair

KIRK CALDWELL, Co-Chair

Mranne Chun Ulluland

SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Co-

Chair

BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, Co-Chair

POP NAVACONE Co-Chair

Hawaii State Legislature

Record of Votes of a Conference Committee



Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: HB 2558, HD 1, SD 2					Date/Time: 4/28/61	5:3	7 /	M	
The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).									
☐ The Committee is reconsidering its	previo	ous dec	ision.						
The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure				EE	The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.				
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KANNO, Brian, Chr.					CALDWELL, Kirk, Co-Chr.	<u></u>			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne, Co-Chr.					NAKASONE, Bob, Co-Chr.	<u></u>			,
TANIGUCHI, Brian, Co-Chr.					STEVENS, Anne V.		/		
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Senate Recommendation is:				House Recommendation is:					
Adopted Not Adopted				Adopted U Not Adopted					
Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:				House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:					
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File with Conference Committee Report House Clerk's Office Senate Clerk's Office Drafting Agency									