

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO SURVEY WHETHER
AND HOW WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS IN OTHER STATES ARE USED
TO COVER EMPLOYEE DISABILITIES CAUSED BY MULTIPLE CHEMICAL
SENSITIVITIES.

1 WHEREAS, although no consensus has been reached for a case
2 definition of "multiple chemical sensitivities", according to
3 the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of
4 Environmental Health Sciences, the term, also known as "20th
5 Century Syndrome", "environmental illness", "sick building
6 syndrome", idiopathic environmental intolerance, and TILT
7 (toxicant-induced loss of tolerance), can be defined as a
8 chronic, recurring disease caused by a person's inability to
9 tolerate an environmental chemical or class of foreign
10 chemicals; and

11
12 WHEREAS, multiple chemical sensitivities has been described
13 as a group of sensitivities to extraordinarily low levels of
14 environmental chemicals appearing to develop in some individuals
15 without prior history following acute or chronic exposure to a
16 wide variety of environmental agents including various
17 pesticides, solvents, drugs, and air contaminants in so-called
18 sick buildings; and

19
20 WHEREAS, some researchers contend that the term multiple
21 chemical sensitivities refer to complaints of patients who
22 report recurrent nonspecific symptoms referable to multiple
23 organ systems that the sufferers believe are provoked by
24 exposure to low levels of chemical, biological, or physical
25 agents, yet other researchers have found no consistent physical
26 findings or laboratory abnormalities to differentiate multiple
27 chemical sensitivities patients from the remainder of the
28 population; and

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30 WHEREAS, while some researchers espouse various theories as
31 to the causes of multiple chemical sensitivities, other



1 researchers either doubt the existence of the disease as there
2 is little concrete evidence to support it, or suspect a
3 psychosomatic cause; and
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5 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Hawaii to
6 protect its workers who suffer from multiple chemical
7 sensitivities; now, therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
11 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
12 Reference Bureau is requested to survey whether and how workers'
13 compensation laws in other states are used to cover employee
14 disabilities caused by multiple chemical sensitivities; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
17 Bureau is further requested to develop a workable model by which
18 the State can cover disabilities caused by multiple chemical
19 sensitivities through the State's workers' compensation law; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
22 Industrial Relations is requested to provide assistance to the
23 Legislative Reference Bureau, if requested; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
26 Bureau is requested to submit its findings and recommendations,
27 including any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature
28 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
29 Session of 2008; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
33 Legislative Reference Bureau and the Director of Labor and
34 Industrial Relations.
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OFFERED BY: 

