

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE 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

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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

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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  
32 researchers either doubt the existence of the disease as there  
33 is little concrete evidence to support it, or suspect a  
34 psychosomatic cause; and



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WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Hawaii to protect its workers who suffer from multiple chemical sensitivities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to survey whether and how workers' compensation laws in other states are used to cover employee disabilities caused by multiple chemical sensitivities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is further requested to develop a workable model by which the State can cover disabilities caused by multiple chemical sensitivities through the State's workers' compensation law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to provide assistance to the Legislative Reference Bureau, if requested; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau and the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

OFFERED BY: *Ron Mauer*