

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1524

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 29, 2007

RE: H.R. No. 55

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor & Public Employment, to which was referred H.R. No. 55 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY  
AND AUDIT OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM IN HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request that the Auditor conduct a study on various aspects of the workers' compensation system in Hawaii, including: whether any problems exist in the current workers' compensation system, an evaluation of the claims process of the Disability Compensation Division of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations, the workers' compensation insurance market in Hawaii, the number of cases filed annually with insurers, the costs associated with the provision of workers' compensation insurance, and various other relevant topics.

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association, Hawaii Government Employees Association, ILWU Local 142, National Federation of Independent Businesses, and the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii testified in support of this measure. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations supported the intent of the measure.


Workers' compensation is an essential program that provides stability to the economy and benefits the general welfare by ensuring that injured workers are provided treatment for work-related injuries and by expediting their return to work. However, concerns have been raised from various parties including

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employees, employers, insurers, and healthcare providers, regarding the efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness of the current workers' compensation system in Hawaii. In light of these concerns, your committee finds that a study of the workers' compensation system is prudent and necessary, in order to ascertain problems within the system and to help identify possible solutions.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor & Public Employment that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 55 and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Labor & Public  
Employment,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

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ALEX M. SONSON, Chair

State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-fourth Legislature

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <div style="text-align: center;">HR 55</div>	<b>Date:</b> <div style="text-align: center;">3-20-07</div>
<b>Committee Referral:</b> <div style="text-align: center;">LAB, CPC, IMG</div>	<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended  <input type="checkbox"/> Hold         </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments  <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments, for recommittal for further consideration         </div> </div>	

LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. SONSON, Alex M. (C)	✓			
2. NAKASONE, Bob (VC)	✓			
3. EVANS, Cindy	✓			
4. HAR, Sharon E.	✓			
5. LEE, Marilyn B.	✓			
6. LUKE, Sylvia	✓			
7. McKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
8. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	✓			
9. SOUKI, Joseph M.	✓			
10. TAKAMINE, Dwight Y.	✓			
11. TAKUMI, Roy M.	✓			
12. MEYER, Colleen Rose	✓			
13. PINE, Kymberly Marcos	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	13			

**The recommendation is:**

☒ Adopted  
☐ Not Adopted

If joint referral, \_\_\_\_\_ did not support recommendation.  

committee acronym(s)

**Vice Chair's or designee's signature:**

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