A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL AND REHABILITATION BENEFITS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1	SECTION 1. Section 386-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2	amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:
3	"(b) Whenever medical care is needed, the injured employee
4	may select any physician or surgeon who is practicing on the
5	island where the injury was incurred to render medical care.
6	The physician or surgeon may conduct diagnostic testing or
7	engage in a one-time consultation for a subspecialty diagnostic
8	evaluation and treatment recommendations from a board certified
9	or licensed specialist; and the request for or provision of such
10	diagnostic services shall not be subject to contest by an
11	insurer or employer. If the services of a specialist are
12	indicated, the employee may select any physician or surgeon
13	practicing in the State. The director may authorize the
14	selection of a specialist practicing outside the State where no
15	comparable medical attendance within the State is available.
16	Upon procuring the services of a physician or surgeon, the
17	injured employee shall give proper notice of the employee's
18	selection to the employer within a reasonable time after the

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- 1 beginning of the treatment. If for any reason during the period
- 2 when medical care is needed, the employee wishes to change to
- 3 another physician or surgeon, the employee may do so in
- accordance with rules prescribed by the director. If the 4
- 5 employee is unable to select a physician or surgeon and the
- 6 emergency nature of the injury requires immediate medical
- 7 attendance, or if the employee does not desire to select a
- 8 physician or surgeon and so advises the employer, the employer
- 9 shall select the physician or surgeon. The selection, however,
- 10 shall not deprive the employee of the employee's right of
- subsequently selecting a physician or surgeon for continuance of 11
- 12 needed medical care."
- 13 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.
- 14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Report Title:

Medical and Rehabilitation Benefits

Description:

Clarifies that a physician or surgeon may conduct diagnostic testing or engage in a one-time consultation for a subspecialty diagnostic evaluation and treatment recommendations from a board certified or licensed specialist.

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