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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A PROPOSAL THAT DELINEATES HOW IT WILL INCREASE THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE TO PROVIDERS OF SERVICE FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMANTS.

WHEREAS, injured workers need immediate access to physicians and providers for rehabilitative treatment to appropriately return to work as soon as possible; and

WHEREAS, access to workers' compensation treatment is especially limited on neighbor islands where there is already a shortage of physicians; and

WHEREAS, access to medical and rehabilitative treatment for injured workers is restricted because few providers accept workers' compensation patients due to burdensome documentation and reporting, slow approval and payment processing, and inadequate fee reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, in testimony on S.B. No. 413, Regular Session of 2017, and H.B. No. 808, Regular Session of 2017, stated, "The Department [of Labor and Industrial Relations] favors an increase in the reimbursement rate to providers of service for workers' compensation claimants and is considering other alternatives to the current fee schedule and plans to have a proposal for discussion shortly."; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to prepare a proposal that delineates how it will increase the reimbursement rate to providers of service for workers' compensation claimants, including outcome measures; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to include the following in its proposal:

- (1) Federally accepted factors to estimate the cost of practice expenses and the average cost of the work itself;
- (2) Recognition of geographic differences in insurance rates; and
- (3) Analysis of increased fees and medical work force participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to submit its proposal to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

OFFERED BY:

MAR 1 0 2017