
SENATE 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.

1 WHEREAS, injured workers need immediate access to
2 physicians and providers for rehabilitative treatment to
3 appropriately return to work as soon as possible; and
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5 WHEREAS, access to workers' compensation treatment is
6 especially limited on neighbor islands where there is already a
7 shortage of physicians; and
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9 WHEREAS, access to medical and rehabilitative treatment for
10 injured workers is restricted because few providers accept
11 workers' compensation patients due to burdensome documentation
12 and reporting, slow approval and payment processing, and
13 inadequate fee reimbursements; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations,
16 in testimony on S.B. No. 413, Regular Session of 2017, and H.B.
17 No. 808, Regular Session of 2017, stated, "The Department [of
18 Labor and Industrial Relations] favors an increase in the
19 reimbursement rate to providers of service for workers'
20 compensation claimants and is considering other alternatives to
21 the current fee schedule and plans to have a proposal for
22 discussion shortly."; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
25 has stated that it is currently surveying prepaid health care
26 providers and will be using the data to update the Workers'
27 Compensation Supplemental Medical Fee Schedule, Exhibit A,
28 effective January 1, 2018; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4 Labor and Industrial Relations is requested to prepare a
5 proposal that delineates how it will increase the reimbursement
6 rate to providers of service for workers' compensation
7 claimants, including outcome measures; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
10 Industrial Relations is requested to include the following in
11 its proposal:
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- 13 (1) Federally accepted factors to estimate the cost of
14 practice expenses and the average cost of the work
15 itself;
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- 17 (2) Recognition of geographic differences in insurance
18 rates; and
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- 20 (3) Analysis of increased fees and medical work force
21 participation; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
24 Industrial Relations is requested to submit its proposal to the
25 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
26 the Regular Session of 2018; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Labor
30 and Industrial Relations.

