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Honolulu, Hawaii

January 31 , 2018

RE: H.B. No. 1778 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Twenty-Ninth State Legislature Regular Session of 2018 State of Hawaii

## Sir:

Your Committee on Labor & Public Employment, to which was referred H.B. No. 1778 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFITS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to provide firefighters with improved access to comprehensive medical coverage for certain diseases arising out of and in the course of their employment when the workers' compensation claim is accepted or determined to be compensable.

## Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Requires private health care plans to pay for or provide medical care, services, and supplies to injured employees for controverted claims, subject to reimbursement by the employer of the employee for whom the claim is accepted or determined to be compensable; and
- (2) Increases an employer's liability for medical costs for certain diseases, including diseases of certain organs.

The Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Maui; Hawaii State Fire Council; Honolulu Fire Department; Maui Fire Department; Kauai Fire Department; Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO; and a concerned individual testified in support of this measure. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Human Resources Development, and Hawaii Insurers Council provided comments on this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- Changing its effective date to January 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on this measure; and
- Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for (2) clarity, consistency, and style.

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 is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1778, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1778, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

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

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Twenty-ninth Legislature

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

HB 1778	Committee Referral:	FIM	Date: 2.5 JA14 2018	
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:  □ Pass, unamended (as is) □ Pass, with amendments (HD) □ Hold □ Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
LAB Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. JOHANSON, Aaron Ling (C				
2. HOLT, Daniel (VC)				
3. EVANS, Cindy				
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda				
5. KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett				
6. YAMASHITA, Kyle T.				
7. MATSUMOTO, Lauren Kea	llohilani			- atamanament suu kannangin sa akaasta
10.0				
TOTAL (7)	/ /0	0	0	1
The recommendation is:  Adopted  If joint referral, did not support recommendation.  committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: Rep Cindy Evans				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				