



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 3, 2026

To: The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair,
The Honorable Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Date: March 3, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. 2323 H.D.1 RELATING TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The **DLIR strongly supports** HB2323 but prefers the introduced version of the measure. This Governor's Package measure is critical because it aligns statutory requirements with the Disability Compensation Division's (DCD) modernized, automated electronic filing and reporting system. Reinstating the original language preserves clarity, consistency, and the integrity of this modernization initiative.

HB2323 HD1 proposes to amend HRS Chapter 386 by:

- Repealing the requirement that health care providers' forms be filed with the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) in triplicate.
- Repealing the option of employers to submit reports to the DLIR via United States mail.
- Repealing the option of health care providers to provide reports to the DLIR or employer via mail.

II. CURRENT LAW

§386-21(d) states that when reporting on and billing for compensable injuries forms may be in triplicate, or in any other configuration so as to minimize, to the extent practicable, the need for a health care provider to fill out multiple forms.

§386-21.2(a) provides that a physician may transmit a treatment plan to an employer by mail or facsimile.

§386-21.2(c) states that a treatment plan shall be deemed received by an employer

when the plan is sent by mail or facsimile with reasonable evidence showing that the treatment plan was received.

§386-25(g) provides that the employer shall have ten calendar days from the postmark date on which the plan was mailed to submit in writing to the director any objections to the plan.

§386-95 states that the reports required by this section shall be made on forms to be obtained from the director pursuant to §386-71 and deposit of reports in the United States mail or by electronic means as approved by the director.

§386-96(e) provides that deposit of the records required by subsection (a)(1) in the United States mail or by electronic means as approved by the director.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

HB2323 was introduced as a comprehensive modernization package to eliminate outdated statutory provisions and to update the workers' compensation framework to fully support the Disability Compensation Division's automated, cloud-based system. The fully automated, cloud-based system was launched in January 2024 and provides comprehensive access and real-time claim status updates.

The Department respectfully requests reinstating the original language of HB2323. The HD1 version removes key sections that were intentionally drafted as part of a unified modernization packet. These omissions fragment the bill and undermine the continuity and clarity of its original intent. As a result, the measure becomes unnecessarily complex for stakeholders and increases the risk of confusion through piecemeal statutory changes.

This modernization effort is more than a technological upgrade, it is a strategic transformation that strengthens DCD's commitment to efficient, transparent, and user-centered service delivery. Electronic filing enables real-time access, reduces processing delays, and supports the timely delivery of medical services and benefits to injured workers. By ensuring statutory alignment, the amendments provide the legal and operational foundation necessary for DCD's automation initiative to succeed.

For the above reasons, the DLIR respectfully urges the Committee to restore the original HB2323 language.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.



JOSH GREEN, M. D.
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KE KIA'ĀINA

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LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

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Statement of
BRENN H. HASHIMOTO
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Tuesday, March 3, 2026
2:00PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In consideration of
HB2323 HD1, RELATING TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the committee:

The Department of Human Resources Development (HRD) **supports** HB2323 HD1.

The purpose of HB2323 HD1 is to:

- Repeal the requirement that health care providers' forms be filed with the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) in triplicate
- Clarify the way a physician transmits a treatment plan to an employer
- Repeal a reference to the employer's receipt of a vocational rehabilitation plan by mail
- Repeal the option of employers to submit reports to the DLIR via United States mail
- Repeal the option of health care providers to provide reports to the DLIR or employer via mail

HRD appreciates and supports this measure because the modernization of the Department and Labor and Industrial Relations' Disability Compensation Division to an electronic based platform has helped with streamlining processes, resulting in enhanced efficiency, and productivity which has translated to time and cost savings.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We are available to answer any questions or provide further information as needed.



Hawaii Medical Association

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Date: March 3, 2026
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)
Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee
Christina Marzo MD and Robert Carlisle MD, Vice Chairs, HMA Public Policy Committee

RE HB2323 HD1 RELATING TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW. Workers' Compensation; Disability Compensation Division; Modernization of Data System; Electronic Submission of Reports
Position: Support

This measure would repeal the requirement that health care providers' forms be filed with the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) in triplicate, clarify the way a physician transmits a treatment plan to an employer, repeal a reference to the employer's receipt of a vocational rehabilitation plan by mail, repeal the option of employers to submit reports to the DLIR via United States mail, and repeal the option of health care providers to provide reports to the DLIR or employer via mail.

Delays in report submission, whether due to outdated procedures, redundant requirements, or technological bottlenecks, undermine timely decision-making. HMA supports this measure to modernize reporting requirements to DLIR and procedures for workers compensation, freeing employers and providers to focus on delivering services.

Improving the accuracy and timeliness of workers compensation information received by DLIR enables more informed policy decisions. HMA thanks our policymakers for continued efforts to align Hawaii with best practices in digital integration, increasing transparency and accessibility, and streamlining and eliminating unnecessary redundancy in reporting to improve DLIR effectiveness for providers, employers and the employee communities that they serve.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Elizabeth A Ignacio, MD, Chair • Robert Carlisle, MD, Vice Chair • Christina Marzo, MD, Vice Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President • Jerald Garcia, MD, President Elect • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, • Immediate Past President
Laeton Pang, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

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Matayoshi CC. How to get worker's comp for work-related injury, illness. KHON.com. Apr 8, 2024. Accessed February 4, 2026.

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2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Beth England, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



The House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
March 3, 2026
Room 329
2:00 PM

RE: **HB 2323 HD1, Relating to Workers' Compensation Law**

Attention: Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **supports HB 2323 HD1.**

We support updating the Workers' Compensation statutes to accommodate the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' move toward a fully automated electronic system. UHPA specifically endorses the modernization of filing procedures, including the removal of archaic requirements such as submitting forms in "triplicate" or via U.S. mail. Enabling the electronic transmission of necessary documentation will streamline communication between the University, the State, and medical providers, reducing administrative delays. This modernization is essential to ensure that injured faculty members have their claims processed efficiently so they can receive timely medical care and benefits.

UHPA supports the passage of HB 2323 HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

HB-2323-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:04:41 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Workers' Comp Physicians	WIMAH - Work Injury Medical Assoc. of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony of Gary Okamura, MD
President, Work Injury Medical Association of Hawai'i (WIMAH)
In Support of HB 2323**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Gary Okamura, MD**, an orthopedic surgeon who has cared for Hawai'i's injured workers for decades. I currently serve as **President of the Work Injury Medical Association of Hawai'i (WIMAH)**, whose members are treating providers dedicated to helping injured workers recover and return to work.

I am writing in **strong support of HB 2323**.

WIMAH supports all measures that modernize and clean up outdated language in our workers' compensation statutes. **HB 2323 does exactly that**. This bill is part of the Governor's package and reflects a straightforward effort to update terminology and ensure our laws remain clear, consistent, and aligned with current practice.

These updates help reduce confusion, improve administrative efficiency, and support a more functional system for injured workers, employers, and providers alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Gary Okamura, MD
President, Work Injury Medical Association of Hawai'i (WIMAH)

HB-2323-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:51:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/3/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support all measures that clean up old verbiage in our statutes. This measure does exactly that. It was introduced as part of the Governor's package.