

ACT 63

H.B. NO. 73

A Bill for an Act Relating to Emergency Workers.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that telephone and emergency dispatchers perform critical services under stressful conditions. These services are

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much more than clerical in nature, yet dispatchers are currently characterized and compensated as clerical employees. Therefore, the legislature believes that telephone and emergency dispatchers should be compensated at a higher rate than personnel who primarily perform clerical functions.

The purpose of this Act is to require the department of human resources development to review the existing classification and compensation schedules for telephone and emergency dispatchers and employees who perform similar functions and to recommend modifications to their classification and compensation schedules to more accurately reflect their duties and responsibilities.

SECTION 2. (a) The department of human resources development shall review the existing classification and compensation schedules for:

- (1) Telecommunications dispatchers, including police, fire, or emergency medical dispatchers, any Hawaii state hospital telephone operators or call takers, and any persons who perform any combination of these functions;
- (2) Emergency dispatchers; and
- (3) Any other telecommunications dispatch personnel who, while operating a 911 automated terminal, uses multiple robust lifesaving procedures and technologies to obtain critical information from the caller, analyzes the information given and, from specialized mapping systems, sends the appropriate and closest available emergency unit, and communicates the best course of action for the caller to take before the arrival of that unit.

(b) The department of human resources development may consult with appropriate county human resources personnel to fulfill the purpose of this Act.

(c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022, the department of human resources development shall submit a report to the legislature recommending modifications to the classification and compensation schedules reviewed pursuant to subsection (a) that more accurately reflect the critical duties and responsibilities of those positions.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 23, 2021.)