
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 386-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:
3 "(b) The director may refer [~~employees~~] an employee who
4 may have or [~~have~~] has suffered permanent disability as a result
5 of work injuries or who has otherwise been deemed unable to
6 return to the employee's regular job after the injury has
7 stabilized, and who has not received an offer of suitable work
8 that would restore the earnings capacity as nearly as possible
9 to that level at which it was at the time of injury, and who, in
10 the director's opinion, can be vocationally rehabilitated, to
11 the department of human services or to private providers of
12 rehabilitation services for vocational rehabilitation services
13 that are feasible. A referral shall be made upon recommendation
14 of the rehabilitation unit established under section 386-71.5
15 [~~and~~] after the employee has been deemed physically able to
16 participate in rehabilitation by the employee's attending
17 physician. The unit shall include appropriate professional
18 staff and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:



- 1 (1) To review and approve rehabilitation plans developed
2 by certified providers of rehabilitation services,
3 whether they be private or public;
- 4 (2) To adopt rules consistent with this section that shall
5 expedite and facilitate the identification,
6 notification, and referral of industrially injured
7 employees to rehabilitation services, and establish
8 minimum standards for providers providing
9 rehabilitation services under this section;
- 10 (3) To certify private and public providers of
11 rehabilitation services meeting the minimum standards
12 established under paragraph (2); and
- 13 (4) To enforce the implementation of rehabilitation
14 plans."

15 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 2009.



SB 2643 SDI

HD1

Report Title:

Workers' Compensation Law; Vocational Rehabilitation

Description:

Allows the director to refer employees who have been deemed unable to return to work in their regular jobs as a result of work injury to receive vocational rehabilitation services.

(SB2643 HD1)

SB2643 HD1 HMS 2006-2970

