

MAR 14 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO SURVEY WHETHER
AND HOW WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS IN OTHER STATES ARE USED
TO COVER EMPLOYEE DISABILITIES CAUSED BY MULTIPLE CHEMICAL
SENSITIVITIES.

1 WHEREAS, although no consensus has been reached for a case
2 definition of "multiple chemical sensitivities", according to
3 the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of
4 Environmental Health Sciences, the term, also known as "20th
5 Century Syndrome", "environmental illness", "sick building
6 syndrome", idiopathic environmental intolerance, and TILT
7 (toxicant-induced loss of tolerance), can be defined as a
8 chronic, recurring disease caused by a person's inability to
9 tolerate an environmental chemical or class of foreign
10 chemicals; and
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12 WHEREAS, multiple chemical sensitivities has been described
13 as a group of sensitivities to extraordinarily low levels of
14 environmental chemicals appearing to develop in some individuals
15 without prior history following acute or chronic exposure to a
16 wide variety of environmental agents including various
17 pesticides, solvents, drugs, and air contaminants in so-called
18 sick buildings; and
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20 WHEREAS, some researchers contend that the term multiple
21 chemical sensitivities refer to complaints of patients who
22 report recurrent nonspecific symptoms referable to multiple
23 organ systems that the sufferers believe are provoked by
24 exposure to low levels of chemical, biological, or physical
25 agents, yet other researchers have found no consistent physical
26 findings or laboratory abnormalities to differentiate multiple
27 chemical sensitivities patients from the remainder of the
28 population; and
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30 WHEREAS, while some researchers espouse various theories as
31 to the causes of multiple chemical sensitivities, other
32 researchers either doubt the existence of the disease as there
33 is little concrete evidence to support it, or suspect a
34 psychosomatic cause; and



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2 WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Hawaii to
3 protect its workers who suffer from multiple chemical
4 sensitivities; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
8 that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to survey
9 whether and how workers' compensation laws in other states are
10 used to cover employee disabilities caused by multiple chemical
11 sensitivities; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
14 Bureau is further requested to develop a workable model by which
15 the State can cover disabilities caused by multiple chemical
16 sensitivities through the State's workers' compensation law; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Labor and
19 Industrial Relations is requested to provide assistance to the
20 Legislative Reference Bureau, if requested; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
23 Bureau is requested to submit its findings and recommendations,
24 including any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature
25 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
26 Session of 2008; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative
30 Reference Bureau and the Director of Labor and Industrial
31 Relations.
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OFFERED BY: *Ron Meno*

