
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INSURANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new article to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 **"ARTICLE**

5 **MARKET CONDUCT**

6 §431: -1 **Legislative intent.** The purpose of this
7 article is to establish a framework for insurance division
8 market conduct actions, including:

- 9 (1) Processes and systems for identifying, assessing, and
10 prioritizing market conduct problems that have a
11 substantial adverse impact on consumers,
12 policyholders, and claimants;
- 13 (2) Market conduct actions by the commissioner to
14 substantiate those market conduct problems and a means
15 to remedy significant market conduct problems; and
- 16 (3) Procedures to communicate and coordinate market
17 conduct actions among states to foster the most
18 efficient and effective use of resources.



1 **§431: -2 Definitions.** As used in this article, unless
2 the context indicates otherwise:

3 "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner of the
4 State of Hawaii.

5 "Complaint" means a written or documented oral
6 communication to the insurance division primarily expressing a
7 grievance, meaning an expression of dissatisfaction. For health
8 companies, a grievance is a written complaint submitted by or on
9 behalf of a covered person.

10 "Comprehensive market conduct examination" means a review
11 of one or more lines of business of an insurer domiciled in this
12 state that is not conducted for cause. The term includes a
13 review of rating, tier classification, underwriting,
14 policyholder service, claims, marketing and sales, producer
15 licensing, complaint handling practices, and compliance
16 procedures and policies.

17 "Insurance compliance audit" means a voluntary, internal
18 evaluation, review, assessment, audit, or investigation for the
19 purpose of identifying or preventing noncompliance with, or
20 promoting compliance with laws, regulations, orders, or industry
21 or professional standards, which is conducted by or on behalf of



1 an insurer, or which involves an insurer activity regulated by
2 the commissioner.

3 "Insurance compliance self-evaluative audit document" means
4 documents prepared as a result of or in connection with an
5 insurance compliance audit. An insurance compliance self-
6 evaluative audit document may include a written response to the
7 findings of an insurance compliance audit. An insurance
8 compliance self-evaluative audit document may include, but is
9 not limited to, as applicable, field notes and records of
10 observations, findings, opinions, suggestions, conclusions,
11 drafts, memoranda, drawings, photographs, exhibits, computer
12 generated or electronically recorded information, telephone
13 records, maps, charts, graphs, and surveys; provided that this
14 supporting information is collected or developed for the primary
15 purpose and in the course of an insurance compliance audit.

16 "Market analysis" means a process whereby market conduct
17 surveillance personnel collect and analyze information from
18 filed schedules, surveys, required reports, and other sources to
19 develop a baseline and to identify patterns or practices of
20 insurers licensed to do business in this state that deviate
21 significantly from the norm or that may pose a potential risk to
22 the insurance consumer.



1 "Market conduct action" means any of the full range of
2 activities that the commissioner may initiate to assess the
3 market and practices of individual insurers, beginning with
4 market analyses and extending to targeted examinations. The
5 commissioner's activities to resolve an individual consumer
6 complaint or other reports of a specific instance of misconduct
7 are not market conduct actions for purposes of this article.

8 "Market conduct examination" means the examination of the
9 insurance operations of an insurer licensed to do business in
10 this state to evaluate compliance with the applicable laws and
11 rules of this State. A market conduct examination may be either
12 a comprehensive examination or a targeted examination. A market
13 conduct examination is separate and distinct from a financial
14 examination of an insurer performed pursuant to article 5, but
15 may be conducted at the same time.

16 "Market conduct surveillance personnel" means those
17 individuals employed or contracted by the commissioner to
18 collect, analyze, review, or act on information about the
19 insurance marketplace, which identifies patterns or practices of
20 insurers.



1 "National Association of Insurance Commissioners" means the
2 organization of insurance regulators from the fifty states, the
3 District of Columbia, and the four United States territories.

4 "Qualified contract examiner" means a person under contract
5 to the commissioner, who is qualified by education, experience
6 and, where applicable, professional designations, to perform
7 market conduct actions.

8 "Targeted examination" means a focused examination
9 conducted for cause, based on the results of market analysis
10 indicating the need to review either a specific line of business
11 or specific business practices, including but not limited to
12 underwriting and rating, marketing and sales, complaint handling
13 operations, advertising materials, licensing, policyholder
14 services, non-forfeitures, claims handling, or policy forms and
15 filings. A targeted examination may be conducted by desk
16 examination or by an on-site examination.

17 "Third party model or product" means a model or product
18 provided by an entity separate from and not under direct or
19 indirect corporate control of the insurer using the model or
20 product.

21 **§431: -3 Domestic responsibility and deference to other**
22 **states.** (a) The commissioner shall be responsible for



1 conducting market conduct examinations for policyholder
2 protection, which shall be accomplished by comprehensive or
3 targeted examinations of domestic insurers or the affiliates of
4 domestic insurers and targeted examinations of foreign insurers
5 or the affiliates of foreign insurers as deemed necessary by the
6 commissioner, based on the results of market analysis. The
7 commissioner may delegate responsibility for conducting an
8 examination of a domestic insurer, foreign insurer, or an
9 affiliate of an insurer to the insurance commissioner of another
10 state if that state's insurance commissioner agrees to accept
11 the delegated responsibility for the examination.

12 (b) The commissioner may delegate responsibility to an
13 insurance commissioner of a state in which the domestic insurer,
14 foreign insurer, or affiliate has a significant number of
15 policies or significant premium volume, as determined by the
16 commissioner by rule.

17 (c) If the commissioner elects to delegate responsibility
18 for examining an insurer, the commissioner shall accept a report
19 of the examination prepared by the commissioner to whom the
20 responsibility has been delegated.

21 (d) In lieu of conducting a market conduct examination of
22 an insurer, the commissioner shall accept a report of a market



1 conduct examination on the insurer prepared by the insurance
2 commissioner of the insurer's state of domicile or another
3 state; provided:

4 (1) The laws of that state applicable to the subject of
5 the examination are deemed by the commissioner to be
6 substantially similar to those of this State;

7 (2) The examining state has a market conduct surveillance
8 system that the commissioner deems comparable to the
9 market conduct surveillance system required under this
10 article; and

11 (3) The examination from the other state's insurance
12 commissioner has been conducted within the past three
13 years.

14 (e) If the insurance commissioner to whom the examination
15 responsibility was delegated pursuant to subsection (a) or the
16 report of a market conduct examination prepared by the insurance
17 commissioner of another state pursuant to subsection (d), did
18 not evaluate the specific area or issue of concern to the
19 commissioner, the commissioner may pursue a targeted examination
20 or market analysis of the unexamined area pursuant to this
21 article.



1 (f) The commissioner's determination under subsection (d)
2 is discretionary and is not subject to appeal.

3 (g) Subject to a determination under subsection (d), if a
4 market conduct examination conducted by another state results in
5 a finding that an insurer should modify a specific practice or
6 procedure, the commissioner shall accept documentation that the
7 insurer has made a similar modification in this state, in lieu
8 of initiating a market conduct action or examination related to
9 that practice or procedure. The commissioner may require other
10 or additional practice or procedure modifications as are
11 necessary to achieve compliance with specific state laws or
12 regulations, which differ substantially from those of the state
13 that conducted the examination.

14 **§431: -4 Market analysis procedures.** (a) The
15 commissioner shall gather information from data currently
16 available to the insurance division, as well as surveys and
17 required reporting requirements, information collected by the
18 National Association of Insurance Commissioners and a variety of
19 other sources in both the public and private sectors,
20 information from within and outside the insurance industry from
21 objective sources, information from websites for insurers,
22 agents, and other organizations, and information from other



1 sources; provided the sources are published at least annually in
2 a bulletin or circular, prior to use.

3 The information shall be analyzed to develop a baseline
4 understanding of the marketplace and to identify for further
5 review insurers or practices that deviate significantly from the
6 norm or that may pose a potential risk to the insurance
7 consumer. The commissioner shall use procedures that are
8 substantially similar to the National Association of Insurance
9 Commissioners' guidelines on market analysis as one resource in
10 performing this analysis.

11 The commissioner shall use the following policies and
12 procedures in performing the analysis required under this
13 section:

14 (1) Identify key lines of business for systematic review;
15 and

16 (2) Identify companies for further analysis based on
17 available information.

18 (b) If the analysis compels the commissioner to inquire
19 further into a particular insurer or practice, the following
20 continuum of market conduct actions may be considered prior to
21 conducting a targeted, on-site market conduct examination. The



1 action selected shall be made known to the insurer in writing.

2 These actions may include but are not limited to:

- 3 (1) Correspondence with the insurer;
- 4 (2) Insurer interviews;
- 5 (3) Information gathering;
- 6 (4) Policy and procedure reviews;
- 7 (5) Interrogatories; and
- 8 (6) Review of insurer self-evaluation and compliance
- 9 programs, including membership in an organization such
- 10 as a best-practice organization that has as its
- 11 central mission the promotion of high ethical
- 12 standards in the marketplace.

13 (c) The commissioner shall select a market conduct action

14 that is cost-effective for the insurance division and the

15 insurer, while still protecting the insurance consumer.

16 (d) The commissioner shall take those steps reasonably

17 necessary to:

- 18 (1) Eliminate requests for information that duplicate:
 - 19 (A) Information provided as part of an insurer's
 - 20 annual financial statement, the annual market
 - 21 conduct statement of the National Association of
 - 22 Insurance Commissioners, or other required



1 schedules, surveys, or reports that are regularly
2 submitted to the commissioner; or

3 (B) Data requests made by other states if that
4 information is available to the commissioner,
5 unless the information is state-specific; and

6 (2) Coordinate market conduct actions and findings with
7 other states.

8 **§431: -5 Protocols for market conduct actions.** (a)

9 Market conduct actions taken as a result of a market analysis
10 shall focus on the general business practices and compliance
11 activities of insurers, rather than identifying infrequent or
12 unintentional random errors that do not cause consumer harm.

13 (b) The commissioner is authorized to determine the
14 frequency and timing of such market conduct actions. The timing
15 shall depend upon the specific market conduct action to be
16 initiated, unless extraordinary circumstances indicating a risk
17 to consumers require immediate action.

18 If the commissioner has information that more than one
19 insurer is engaged in common practices that may violate the law,
20 the commissioner may schedule and coordinate multiple
21 examinations simultaneously.



1 (c) The insurer shall be notified of any practice or
2 procedure which is to be the subject of a market conduct action
3 and shall be given an opportunity to resolve such matters that
4 arise as a result of a market analysis to the satisfaction of
5 the commissioner before any additional market conduct actions
6 are taken against the insurer. If the insurer has modified the
7 practice or procedure as a result of a market conduct action
8 taken by the insurance commissioner of another state, the
9 commissioner shall accept appropriate documentation that the
10 insurer has satisfactorily modified the practice or procedure
11 and made similar modification to such practice or procedure in
12 this state.

13 **§431: -6 Protocols for market conduct examinations.** (a)
14 When market analysis identifies a pattern of conduct or practice
15 by an insurer which requires further investigation, and less
16 intrusive market conduct actions identified in section 431: -
17 4(b) are not appropriate, the commissioner has the discretion to
18 conduct targeted market conduct examinations in accordance with
19 procedures that are substantially similar to the National
20 Association of Insurance Commissioners' guidelines on market
21 conduct examination procedures.



1 (b) Causes or conditions, if identified through market
2 analysis, that may trigger a targeted examination, are:

3 (1) Information obtained from a market conduct annual
4 statement, market survey, or report of financial
5 examination indicating potential fraud, that the
6 insurer is conducting the business of insurance
7 without a license or is engaged in a potential pattern
8 of unfair trade practice in violation of article 13;

9 (2) A number of complaints against the insurer or a
10 complaint ratio sufficient to indicate potential
11 fraud, conducting the business of insurance without a
12 license, or a potential pattern of unfair trade
13 practice in violation of article 13. For the purposes
14 of this section, a complaint ratio shall be determined
15 for each line of business;

16 (3) Information obtained from other objective sources,
17 such as published advertising materials indicating
18 potential fraud, conducting the business of insurance
19 without a license, or evidencing a potential pattern
20 of unfair trade practice in violation of article 13;
21 or



1 (4) Patterns of violations of this chapter and the rules
2 adopted thereunder regarding rate filings, form
3 filings, and termination requirements.

4 (c) If the insurer to be examined is not a domestic
5 insurer, the commissioner shall communicate with and may
6 coordinate the examination with the insurance commissioner of
7 the state in which the insurer is organized.

8 (d) Concomitant with the notification requirements
9 established in subsection (f), the commissioner shall post
10 notification on the National Association of Insurance
11 Commissioners' Examination Tracking System, or comparable
12 product as determined by the commissioner, that a market conduct
13 examination has been scheduled.

14 (e) Prior to commencement of a targeted on-site market
15 conduct examination, market conduct surveillance personnel shall
16 prepare a work plan and proposed budget. The proposed budget,
17 which shall be reasonable for the scope of the examination, and
18 work plan, shall be provided to the insurer under examination.
19 Market conduct examinations, to the extent feasible, shall use
20 desk examinations and data requests prior to a targeted on-site
21 examination.



1 Market conduct examinations shall be conducted in
2 accordance with procedures that are substantially similar to the
3 National Association of Insurance Commissioners' guidelines on
4 market conduct examination procedures.

5 Prior to the conclusion of a market conduct examination,
6 the individual among the market conduct surveillance personnel
7 who is designated as the examiner-in-charge shall schedule an
8 exit conference with the insurer.

9 (f) Announcement of the examination shall be sent to the
10 insurer and posted on the National Association of Insurance
11 Commissioners' Examination Tracking System or comparable
12 product, as determined by the commissioner, as soon as possible
13 but in no case later than sixty days before the estimated
14 commencement of the examination. The announcement shall
15 contain:

- 16 (1) The name and address of the insurer being examined;
- 17 (2) The name and contact information of the examiner-in-
18 charge;
- 19 (3) The reason for and the scope of the targeted
20 examination;
- 21 (4) The date the examination is scheduled to begin;



- 1 (5) Identification of any non-insurance department
2 personnel who will assist in the examination, if known
3 at the time the notice is prepared;
- 4 (6) A time estimate for the examination;
- 5 (7) A budget and work plan for the examination and
6 identification of reasonable and necessary costs and
7 fees that will be included in the bill, if the cost of
8 the examination is billed to the insurer; and
- 9 (8) A request for the insurer to name its examination
10 coordinator.
- 11 (g) If a targeted examination is expanded beyond the
12 reasons provided to the insurer in the notice of the examination
13 required under this section, the commissioner shall provide
14 written notice to the insurer, explaining the extent of the
15 expansion and the reasons for the expansion. The commissioner
16 shall provide a revised work plan to the insurer before the
17 beginning of any significantly expanded examination, unless
18 extraordinary circumstances indicating a risk to consumers
19 require immediate action.
- 20 (h) The commissioner shall conduct a pre-examination
21 conference with the insurer examination coordinator and key



1 personnel to clarify expectations thirty days prior to
2 commencement of the examination.

3 (i) The commissioner shall use the National Association of
4 Insurance Commissioners' Standard Data Request or comparable
5 product.

6 An insurer responding to a commissioner's request to
7 produce information shall produce it as it is kept in the usual
8 course of business or shall organize and label it to correspond
9 with the categories in the demand.

10 If a commissioner's request does not specify the form or
11 forms for producing electronically stored information, an
12 insurer responding to the request shall produce the information
13 in a form or forms in which the insurer ordinarily maintains it
14 or in a form or forms that are reasonably usable.

15 An insurer responding to an information request need not
16 produce the same electronically stored information in more than
17 one form.

18 An insurer responding to an information request need not
19 provide the electronically stored information from sources that
20 the company identifies as not reasonably accessible because of
21 undue burden or cost.



1 (j) The commissioner shall adhere to the following
2 timeline, unless a mutual agreement is reached with the insurer
3 to modify the timeline:

4 (1) The commissioner shall deliver the draft report to the
5 insurer within sixty days of the completion of the
6 examination. Completion of the examination shall be
7 defined as the date the commissioner confirms in
8 writing that the examination is completed;

9 (2) The insurer shall respond with written comments within
10 thirty days of receipt of the draft report;

11 (3) The commissioner shall make a good faith effort to
12 resolve issues and prepare a final report within
13 thirty days of receipt of the insurer's written
14 comments, unless a mutual agreement is reached to
15 extend the deadline. The commissioner may make
16 corrections and other changes, as appropriate; and

17 (4) The insurer, within thirty days, shall accept the
18 final report, accept the findings of the report, file
19 written comments, or request a hearing. An additional
20 thirty days shall be allowed if agreed to by the
21 commissioner and the insurer. Any such hearing



1 request shall be made in writing and shall follow
2 chapter 91.

3 The final written and electronic market conduct report
4 shall include the insurer's written response and any agreed-to
5 corrections or changes. The response may be included either as
6 an appendix or in the text of the examination report. The
7 insurer shall not be obligated to submit a response. References
8 to specific individuals by name shall be limited to an
9 acknowledgement of their involvement in the conduct of the
10 examination.

11 (k) Upon adoption of the examination report pursuant to
12 subsection (j), the commissioner shall continue to hold the
13 content of the examination report as private and confidential
14 for a period of thirty days, except as provided in this
15 subsection. During this time, the report shall not be subject
16 to subpoena and shall not be subject to discovery or admissible
17 as evidence in any private action; provided no court of
18 competent jurisdiction has ordered production. Thereafter, the
19 commissioner shall open the report for public inspection;
20 provided no court of competent jurisdiction has stayed its
21 publication. This section shall not be construed to limit the
22 commissioner's authority to use any final or preliminary market



1 conduct examination report, and examiner or insurer work papers
2 or other documents, or any other information discovered or
3 developed during the course of an examination in the furtherance
4 of any legal or regulatory action that the commissioner, in the
5 commissioner's sole discretion, may deem appropriate.

6 Nothing contained in this article shall prevent or be
7 construed as preventing the commissioner from disclosing the
8 content of an examination report, preliminary examination report
9 or results, or any matter relating thereto, to the insurance
10 division of this or any other state or agency of the federal
11 government at any time; provided the agency or office receiving
12 the report or matters relating thereto agrees to hold it
13 confidential and in a manner consistent with this article.

14 (1) Where the reasonable and necessary cost and fees of a
15 market conduct examination are to be assessed against the
16 insurer under examination, the costs and fees shall be
17 consistent with that otherwise authorized by law. Costs and
18 fees shall be itemized and bills shall be provided to the
19 insurer on a monthly basis for review prior to submission for
20 payment.

21 The commissioner shall maintain active management and
22 oversight of examination costs and fees, including costs and



1 fees associated with the use of insurance division personnel and
2 examiners and with retaining qualified contract examiners
3 necessary to perform an examination. To the extent the
4 commissioner retains outside assistance, the commissioner shall
5 have written protocols that:

- 6 (1) Clearly identify the types of functions subject to
7 outsourcing;
- 8 (2) Provide specific timelines for completion of the
9 outsourced review;
- 10 (3) Require disclosure of contract examiners'
11 recommendations;
- 12 (4) Establish and use a dispute resolution or arbitration
13 mechanism to resolve conflicts with insurers regarding
14 examination costs and fees; and
- 15 (5) Require disclosure of the terms of the contracts with
16 the outside consultants that will be used,
17 specifically the costs and fees or hourly rates, or
18 both, that can be charged.

19 The commissioner shall review and affirmatively endorse
20 detailed billings from the qualified contract examiner before
21 the detailed billings are sent to the insurer.



1 The commissioner may contract in accordance with applicable
2 state contracting procedures, for qualified contract actuaries
3 and examiners as the commissioner deems necessary; provided that
4 the compensation and per diem allowances paid to the contract
5 persons shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five per cent of the
6 compensation and per diem allowances for examiners set forth in
7 the guidelines adopted by the National Association of Insurance
8 Commissioners, unless the commissioner demonstrates that one
9 hundred twenty-five per cent is inadequate under the
10 circumstances of the examination.

11 (m) The commissioner may not conduct a comprehensive
12 market conduct examination more frequently than once every three
13 years. The commissioner may waive conducting a comprehensive
14 market conduct examination based on market analysis.

15 **§431: -7 Confidentiality requirements.** (a) Except as
16 otherwise provided by law, market conduct surveillance personnel
17 shall have free and full access to all books and records,
18 employees, officers, and directors, as practicable, of the
19 insurer during regular business hours. An insurer using a
20 third-party model or product for any of the activities under
21 examination shall provide, upon the request of market conduct
22 surveillance personnel, the details of those models or products



1 to those personnel. All documents, whether from a third party
2 or an insurer, including but not limited to working papers,
3 third-party models or products, complaint logs, and copies
4 thereof, created, produced, or obtained by or disclosed to the
5 commissioner or any other person in the course of any market
6 conduct actions made pursuant to this article, or in the course
7 of market analysis by the commissioner of the market conditions
8 of an insurer, or obtained by the National Association of
9 Insurance Commissioners as a result of any of the provisions of
10 this article, shall be confidential by law and privileged, shall
11 not be subject to subpoena, and shall not be subject to
12 discovery or admissible in evidence in any private civil action.

13 (b) No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim of
14 confidentiality in the documents, materials, or information
15 shall occur as a result of disclosure to the commissioner under
16 this section.

17 (c) Market conduct surveillance personnel shall be vested
18 with the power to issue subpoenas and examine insurer personnel
19 under oath when such action is ordered by the commissioner.

20 (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the
21 commissioner may:



- 1 (1) Share documents, materials, or other information,
2 including confidential and privileged documents,
3 materials, or information subject to subsection (a),
4 with other state, federal, and international
5 regulatory agencies, law enforcement authorities, and
6 the National Association of Insurance Commissioners
7 and its affiliates and subsidiaries; provided that the
8 recipient agrees to and has the legal authority to
9 maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of
10 the document, material, communication, or other
11 information;
- 12 (2) Receive documents, materials, communications, or
13 information, including otherwise confidential and
14 privileged documents, materials, or information, from
15 the National Association of Insurance Commissioners
16 and its affiliates or subsidiaries, and from
17 regulatory and law enforcement officials of other
18 foreign or domestic jurisdictions, and shall maintain
19 as confidential or privileged any document, material,
20 or information received with notice or the
21 understanding that it is confidential or privileged



1 under the laws of the jurisdiction that is the source
2 of the document, material, or information; and

3 (3) Enter into agreements governing the sharing and use of
4 information consistent with this subsection.

5 (e) No insurer shall be compelled to disclose an insurance
6 compliance self-evaluative audit document or waive any statutory
7 or common law privilege, but may voluntarily disclose such
8 document to the commissioner in response to any market analysis,
9 market conduct action, or examination as provided in this
10 article.

11 **§431: -8 Market conduct surveillance personnel.** (a)

12 Market conduct surveillance personnel shall be qualified by
13 education, experience, and, where applicable, professional
14 designations. The commissioner may supplement the in-house
15 market conduct surveillance staff with qualified outside
16 professional assistance if the commissioner determines that
17 assistance is necessary.

18 (b) Market conduct surveillance personnel have a conflict
19 of interest, either directly or indirectly, if they are
20 affiliated with the management, have been employed by, or own a
21 pecuniary interest in the insurer subject to any examination
22 under this article within the most recent five years prior to



1 the use of the personnel. This section shall not be construed
2 to automatically preclude an individual from being:

3 (1) A policyholder or claimant under an insurance policy;

4 (2) A grantee of a mortgage or similar instrument on the
5 individual's residence from a regulated entity if done
6 under customary terms and in the ordinary course of
7 business;

8 (3) An investment owner in shares of regulated diversified
9 investment companies; or

10 (4) A settlor or beneficiary of a "blind trust" into which
11 any otherwise permissible holdings have been placed.

12 **§431: -9 Immunity for market conduct surveillance**

13 **personnel.** (a) No cause of action shall arise nor shall any
14 liability be imposed against the commissioner, the
15 commissioner's authorized representatives, or an examiner
16 appointed by the commissioner for any statements made or conduct
17 performed in good faith while carrying out the provisions of
18 this article.

19 (b) No cause of action shall arise, nor shall any
20 liability be imposed against any person for the act of
21 communicating or delivering information or data to the
22 commissioner, the commissioner's authorized representative, or



1 the examiner pursuant to an examination made under this article,
2 if the act of communication or delivery was performed in good
3 faith and without fraudulent intent or the intent to deceive.

4 (c) A person identified in subsection (a) shall be
5 entitled to an award of attorney's fees and costs if the person
6 is the prevailing party in a civil cause of action for libel,
7 slander, or any other relevant tort arising out of activities in
8 carrying out the provisions of this article and the party
9 bringing the action was not substantially justified in doing so.
10 For the purposes of this section, a proceeding is "substantially
11 justified" if it had a reasonable basis in law or fact at the
12 time that it was initiated.

13 (d) This section shall not abrogate or modify in any way
14 any common law or statutory privilege or immunity heretofore
15 enjoyed by any person identified in subsection (a).

16 **§431: -10 Fines and penalties.** (a) Fines and penalties
17 levied pursuant to this article or other provisions of this
18 chapter shall be consistent, reasonable, and justified.

19 (b) The commissioner shall take into consideration actions
20 taken by insurers that maintain membership in best-practice
21 organizations that exist to promote high ethical standards of
22 conduct in the marketplace, and insurers that self-assess, self-



1 report, and remediate problems detected to mitigate fines levied
2 pursuant to this article.

3 **§431: -11 Data collection and participation in national**
4 **market conduct databases.** (a) The commissioner shall collect
5 and report market data to the market information systems of the
6 National Association of Insurance Commissioners, including the
7 complaint database system, the examination tracking system, and
8 the regulatory information retrieval system, or other comparable
9 successor products as determined by the commissioner. In
10 addition to complaint data, the accuracy of insurer-specific
11 information reported to the National Association of Insurance
12 Commissioners to be used for market analysis purposes or as the
13 basis for market conduct actions shall be reviewed by
14 appropriate personnel in the insurance division and by the
15 insurer.

16 (b) Information collected and maintained by the insurance
17 division shall be compiled in a manner that meets the
18 requirements of the National Association of Insurance
19 Commissioners.

20 (c) After completion of any level of market analysis,
21 prior to further market conduct action, the commissioner shall
22 contact the insurer to review the analysis.



1 (d) An insurer responding to a commissioner's request to
2 produce information shall produce it as it is kept in the usual
3 course of business or shall organize and label it to correspond
4 with the categories in the demand.

5 If a commissioner's request does not specify the form or
6 forms for producing electronically stored information, an
7 insurer responding to the request shall produce the information
8 in a form or forms in which the insurer ordinarily maintains it
9 or in a form or forms that are reasonably usable.

10 An insurer responding to an information request need not
11 produce the same electronically stored information in more than
12 one form.

13 An insurer responding to an information request need not
14 provide the electronically stored information from sources that
15 the insurer identifies as not reasonably accessible because of
16 undue burden or cost.

17 **§431: -12 Coordination with other states through the**
18 **National Association of Insurance Commissioners.** The
19 commissioner shall share information and coordinate the
20 insurance division's market analysis and examination efforts
21 with other states through the National Association of Insurance
22 Commissioners.



1 **§431: -13 Additional duties of the commissioner.** (a)

2 At least once per year, or more frequently if deemed necessary,
3 the commissioner shall make available in an appropriate manner
4 to insurers and other entities subject to the scope of this
5 chapter, information on new laws and rules, enforcement actions,
6 and other information the commissioner deems pertinent to ensure
7 compliance with market conduct requirements.

8 (b) The commissioner shall designate a specific person or
9 persons within the insurance division whose responsibilities
10 shall include the receipt of information from employees of
11 insurers and licensed entities concerning violations of laws, as
12 defined in this section. The person or persons shall be
13 provided with proper training on the handling of the
14 information, which shall be deemed a confidential communication
15 for the purposes of this section.

16 (c) For any change made to a work product referenced in
17 this article, which materially changes the way in which market
18 analysis, market conduct actions, or market conduct examinations
19 are conducted, the commissioner shall give notice and provide
20 parties with an opportunity for a public hearing pursuant to
21 chapter 91."



1 SECTION 2. Section 432:1-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) Article 2 [~~and~~], article 13, and article of
4 chapter 431, and the powers there granted to the commissioner,
5 shall apply to managed care plans, health maintenance
6 organizations, or medical indemnity or hospital service
7 associations, which are owned or controlled by mutual benefit
8 societies, so long as such application in any particular case is
9 in compliance with and is not preempted by applicable federal
10 statutes and regulations."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2008-2009 for the purposes of carrying out this Act.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of commerce and consumer affairs for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Insurance; Market Conduct

Description:

Enacts the National Conference of Insurance Legislators market conduct surveillance model law, which establishes a framework for the insurance commissioner to conduct market conduct examinations of domestic and foreign insurers. Appropriates funds. (HB90 HD2)

