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The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
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H.B. 2388 HD1 SD1 - RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Chairman Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2388 HD1 SD1, which would require the employer to continue medical services to an injured employee despite disputes over whether treatment should be continued, until the director of labor and industrial relations decides whether treatment should be continued.

Presently, injured employees are required to go to non-treating doctors who are selected by the employers or insurance carriers. Employees have absolutely no decision as to who the doctors will be, resulting in a lack of trust when the medical reports are generated. In fact, there are doctors who are paid hundreds of thousands of dollars each year by insurance companies to perform medical examinations which raises a red flag and causes many to question the validity of the medical reports. As a result, there may be occasions when employees may be seriously injured or even slightly injured, but told by doctors that they are capable of attending work or are no longer in need of medical services. This is truly tragic, and could cause the injury to worsen, especially if they are no longer receiving medical services. The intent of our law is to protect the rights of injured workers; these individuals should not be caught in the middle of disputes between insurers and physicians over treatment plans. This bill would prevent that from occurring.

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO urges the passage of H.B. 2388 HD1 SD1. The health and well being of an employee should be one of the top priorities of any employer. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
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