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February 5, 2008

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair

From: Cynthia J. Goto, M.D., President
Linda Rasmussen, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair
Philip Hellreich, M.D., Legislative Co-Chair
Paula Arcena, Executive Director
Dick Botti, Government Affairs Liaison

Re: SB 3088 Relating to Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board

The Hawaii Medical Association supports SB 3088.

There have been a number of bills addressing the problem relating to disputes between injured workers and employers that have requested Independent Medical Examinations that differ from the findings of the injured worker's medical provider. Each of these measures address a symptom, and not the cause of delays in medical treatment.

We currently have a balanced law, where the employee chooses the treating physician, and the employer choosing for and paying for the IME. Delays occur because of delays created by the workload placed on the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. This measure addresses the problem rather than the symptom. We fully support this measure.

PLEASE DELIVER
Senate Judiciary &
Labor Committee
LATE TESTIMONY for
Monday
2-5-08
9:00am

LATE