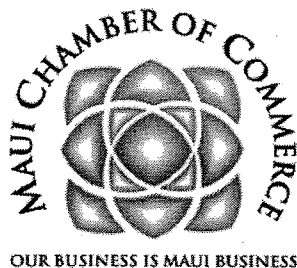


LATE



**Testimony to the House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 9:00a.m.
Conference Room 309**

RE: HOUSE BILL 1279 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Chamber of Commerce, a business organization with who mission it is to advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics, strongly opposes this bill and asks that you do the same.

We are a membership driven organization comprised of over 900 members, 88% of which are small businesses with fewer than 25 employees, representing nearly 21,000 employees. We oppose this bill which requires 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.

The Chamber OPPOSES this measure because the passage of this bill may cause unreasonable and unnecessary treatment for non-related work injuries and prolong time off the job, even if the employee is deemed able to return to his or her work.

This bill will lead to an increase in the overall cost of doing business, something none of us can afford right now. Instead, we should further legislation that reduces costs and helps local businesses thrive, so that revenue is generated and jobs can be saved and created.

Therefore, we respectfully request that HB 1279 be held.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

President

LATE

Testimony to the House Labor & Public Employment Committee
February 10, 2009
9:00 a.m.

Re: HB 1279

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

I am Rick Tsujimura testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Airlines. Hawaiian Airlines is opposed to HB 1279 relating to Workers' Compensation.

This measure requires the employer to continue medical services to an employee despite disputes over whether treatment should be continued, until the director of labor and industrial relations decides whether treatment should be continued.

While we understand the intent of the bill, we believe this bill may serve as a disincentive to return to work, which will be counterproductive to its actual purpose.

This measure, if passed, may increase our workers' compensation premiums and the overall cost of doing business, a time when our business and the community cannot afford to undertake.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.