

TESTIMONY

SB 2566

LATE





HAWAII INJURED WORKERS ALLIANCE  
715 SOUTH KING STREET SUITE #410  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 9, 2010

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Regular Session 2010  
The Senate  
Committee on Labor  
Committee on Health

S.B. 2566 clarifies that a physicians or surgeon may conduct diagnostic testing or engages in a one-time consultation for subspecialty diagnostic evaluation and treatment recommendations from a board certified or licensed specialist.

**The Hawaii Injured Workers Alliance strongly supports this measure.**

The ability to move quickly and accurately to resolve an injury is foremost in the mind of doctors. By giving doctors this one-time consultation would help bring about a faster resolution of the injury.

We believe this bill will bring about a faster resolution to claimant injury.

We agree this is a positive step for injured workers in the State of Hawaii.

Your passage of this bill would be greatly appreciated.

George M. Waialeale  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Injured Workers Alliance  
383-0436



Testimony by: Derrick Ishihara, PT  
SB 2566, Relating to Medical and Rehabilitation Benefits  
Senate LBR/HTH, Tues. February 9, 2010  
Room 224, 2:45 pm

Position: **Support with Proposed Amendments**

Chairs Takamine and Ige, and Members of the Senate LBR/HTH Committees:

I am Derrick Ishihara, P.T., Legislative Committee member of the Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) and small business owner of a private practice clinic. HAPTA represents 250-300 physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals, nursing homes, the Armed Forces, the Department of Education and Department of Health (DOH) systems, and private clinics throughout our community. Physical therapists work with everyone, from infants to the elderly, to restore and improve function and quality of life. We are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum function from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

We support this measure because it will expedite care to the injured employee. The hearings process is very drawn out when the insurance carrier challenges the request for surgical or other sub-specialist consult.

**We also propose amending the language to ensure that if more than one sub-specialty provider is needed for evaluation of a severe, multi-system injury, each sub-specialist is allowed to evaluate and obtain necessary testing without prior authorization of the insurance carrier.**

Paying for the consult fee, in the short run, may be less expensive than challenging the case and the long drawn out process to settle the case. Ultimately, it will benefit the injured worker's rehabilitation and return to work.

I can be reached at 593-2610 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.