

THE LAW OFFICES OF DOUGLAS THOMAS MOORE
Over 23 years serving the People of Hawai'i

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February 3, 2012

VIA HAND DELIVERY

TO: House Labor Committee
Hon. Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hon. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2582
TO BE HEARD 2/3/2012 @ 9:00 a.m

LATE

Dear Rep. Rhoads and Committee Members:

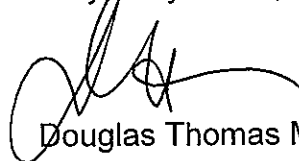
I support the intent of HB 2582 to allow the Labor Appeals Board to charge a filing fee for workers' compensation appeals and for other administrative costs.

I support this measure because as a workers' compensation practitioner before the Appellate Board, I have seen the very detrimental effect budget cutbacks have had on the operations of the LAB. Reduction in staffing has caused lengthy delays in processing appeals, scheduling and conducting hearings and trials, issuing decisions, and conducting overall operations. This often causes great delays in getting appropriate benefits to injured workers and to timely resolving disputes over providing appropriate benefits to injured workers. This hurts all parties to the system.

To help provide resources to the LAB to increase efficiency, including upgrading technology and equipment, I support this measure. No taxpayer money is requested. The only concern at this time is the amount of the filing fee to be charged. If this measure only authorizes modest fee assessment, it should not be onerous on the parties. So long as indigent injured workers can get exempt from having to pay such fees, the potential benefits should help with the timely rehabilitation of injured workers and return them to the workforce as soon as feasible and appropriate.

Help all parties to the work comp system receive enhanced quality LAB services by supporting HB 2582. Please pass this bill. Thank you. Should you have any questions or need further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,



Douglas Thomas Moore