

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health  
Monday, January 27, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2064 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** SB 2064 Relating to Workers' Compensation.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We oppose this bill as it is not necessary and will drive up costs for businesses and consumers. These services are already available should it be deemed necessary by the attending physician. As written, this bill will add mandated and entitled benefits even if the injured employee does not require psychological or psychiatric care.

For these reasons we ask that this bill be held. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# WIMAH

WORK INJURY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII  
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MAULI OLA  
THE POWER OF HEALING

JANUARY 27, 2014

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

### SENATE BILL 2064 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

ENTITLES INJURED EMPLOYEES TO UP TWENTY VISITS FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES UNDER WORKERS' COMPENSATION. REQUIRES THE VISITS TO TAKE PLACE OVER A SIXTY DAY PERIOD.

WORK INJURY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2064. WE BELIEVE THIS AMENDMENT WILL SUPPORT THE REHABILITATION OF THE INJURED WORKER.

YOUR PASSAGE OF THIS BILL IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

GEORGE M. WAIALEALE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WORK INJURY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII



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**Monday – January 27, 2014 – 1:30pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

**Re: Testimony in Opposition**  
**SB 2064 — Relating to the Worker's Compensation**

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My name is Michael Robinson, Executive Director, Government Relations for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff.

Testifying as a private not for profit employer, we are writing in opposition to SB 2064 which entitles injured employees up to twenty visits for psychological and psychiatric services under workers' compensation and for the visits to take place over a sixty day period.

Currently, the medical assessment provided by an Independent Medical Examiner (IME) is an essential component in all workers compensation claim in order to determine whether a claimant's injury is work related. Given the importance and difficulty in establishing nexus of any injury to the workplace— and particularly situations involving psychological issues - our concern is that this bill would have the effect of determining psychological and psychiatric treatment outside of the existing IME assessment.

We ask that you hold SB 2064 from this committee. Thank you.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2064 on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM  
**Date:** Sunday, January 26, 2014 3:01:55 PM

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**SB2064**

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for HTH on Jan 27, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stanley Bruce Berger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a rehabilitation counselor working with injured workers I strongly support this bill as there is a strong need for many workers who have been psychologically affected by their injury.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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