
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS BY THE REGULATED INDUSTRIES
COMPLAINTS OFFICE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the regulated
2 industries complaints office of the department of commerce and
3 consumer affairs enforces various regulations governing
4 professions and occupations that are licensed in the State. The
5 regulated industries complaints office investigates allegations
6 of professional misconduct by licensees and any possible
7 unlicensed activity that may be occurring in the State. The
8 enforcement of certain professional and occupational regulations
9 can be especially challenging when these professions and
10 occupations involve complex medical issues and scopes of
11 practice that are widely varied. Despite the regulated
12 industries complaints office's critical role in protecting
13 consumers by enforcing regulations that impact physical and
14 mental health, the agency lacks investigators with specialized
15 experience or expertise in medical issues.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Statutorily establish a division of the regulated
2 industries complaints office that specializes in
3 medical cases; and
- 4 (2) Appropriate funds to establish four full-time
5 equivalent (4.0 FTE) field investigators and two full-
6 time equivalent (2.0 FTE) staff attorneys who
7 specialize in medical cases within the regulated
8 industries complaints office.

9 SECTION 2. Section 26-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

11 "(b) The department shall protect the interests of
12 consumers, depositors, and investors throughout the State. It
13 shall set standards and enforce all laws and rules governing the
14 licensing and operation of, and register and supervise the
15 conduct of, trades, businesses, and professions, including
16 banks, insurance companies, brokerage firms, and other financial
17 institutions.

18 The regulated industries complaints office shall establish
19 a division that specializes in the investigation of medical
20 cases involving professions and occupations regulated by the



1 department of commerce and consumer affairs pursuant to title
2 25."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the compliance
4 resolution fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may
5 be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for four full-time
6 equivalent (4.0 FTE) field investigators and two full-time
7 equivalent (2.0 FTE) staff attorneys who specialize in medical
8 cases within the department of commerce and consumer affairs'
9 regulated industries complaints office.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 commerce and consumer affairs for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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Report Title:

Regulated Industries Complaints Office; Health Care; Regulated Professions and Occupations; Investigators; Staff Attorneys; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the regulated industries complaints office to establish a division that specializes in medical cases involving regulated professions and occupations. Appropriates funds for field investigator and staff attorney positions who specialize in medical cases. (SD1)

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