

# SB2674

Measure Title: RELATING TO MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS BY THE REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE.

Report Title: Regulated Industries Complaints Office; Healthcare; Investigators; 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 positions who specialize in medical cases.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, ESPERO, KIDANI



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2016**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016  
9:00 A.M.**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2674  
RELATING TO MEDICAL INVESTIGATIONS BY  
THE REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE**

**TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND TO THE HONORABLE MICHELLE N. KIDANI, VICE CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No.2674, Relating To Medical Investigations by the Regulated Industries Complaints Office. My name is Daria Loy-Goto and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO supports this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2674 requires RICO to establish a division that specializes in investigating medical complaints. The bill also appropriates unspecified funds for

five field investigator positions to handle investigations of medical complaints.

Two of the five positions are slated for O'ahu and the remaining three positions are allocated, one each, for the Big Island, Maui, and Kauai.

The additional staff, especially on the neighbor islands, would assist RICO in its investigation of medical complaints and allow RICO's existing staff more time to devote to investigating complaints involving the other professions RICO oversees.

RICO does note the Department is currently undergoing rule making for an increase in the compliance resolution fee paid by all licensees to support RICO enforcement. The proposed fee increase for medical licensees would need to be adjusted to cover the personnel and operating costs relating to the new responsibilities provided for in this bill.

Should this bill move forward, RICO requests that the Committee consider replacing at least one investigator position with a staff attorney position. RICO currently employs nine attorneys who handle both licensed and unlicensed activity prosecutions for all of the forty-nine professions RICO oversees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2674. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.