



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

February 1, 2024

To: The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair,
The Honorable Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Government Operations

Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. 1889 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFITS

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The **DLIR supports** this proposal, which amends Section 386-21.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to improve female firefighters' access to comprehensive medical coverage by expanding workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

II. CURRENT LAW

Section 386-21.9, HRS, states that medical care, services, and supplies for firefighters suffering from cancer, leukemia multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, or cancer of the lung, brain, stomach, esophagus, intestines, rectum, kidney, bladder, prostate, or testes.

Section 386-21, HRS, states that the employer is to provide to the employee so long as reasonably needed, all medical care, services and supplies as the nature of the injury requires.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

The DLIR supports this measure to ensure that firefighters receive timely and appropriate medical treatment to include breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8120

February 1, 2024

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

House Bill 1889 – Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1889 – Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits.

This bill adds cancer types that are common among females to the list of covered cancers as applicable to firefighters. It is important that all types of cancer that are correlated to environmental hazards to which firefighters are exposed are covered.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA KINAI AHI O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

636 SOUTH STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-7139 • FAX: (808) 723-7111 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF
LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
HOPE LUNA NUI KINAI AHI

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair
Committee on Labor and Government Operations
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 422
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1889 Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits

I am Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD strongly supports HB 1889, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for fire fighters (FF) to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

Over the last decade, the fire profession has experienced an increase in FF deaths related to cancer. The University of Cincinnati and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health conducted studies as a result of the initial findings. They are the most comprehensive investigations into cancer-related diseases incurred by career FFs to date and support the initial findings.

A State of Hawaii (State) cancer taskforce performed an investigative study with assistance from medical insurance companies and found that FFs in the State are also experiencing elevated levels of exposure to the effects of cancer-related diseases, thereby correlating Hawaii's information with the national studies.

A study published in Public Health in 2023 found that female FFs may develop a wide variety of cancers and develop them at an earlier age than most other women. This proposed language ensures inclusion of cancers that may affect female FFs.

There are approximately 40 female FFs out of a total of about 2,100 active FFs in the State. Although this is not a high percentage of the total, female FFs deserve to be covered due to anatomical differences. If passed, this bill will provide the female FF and their family with the financial and moral support they require if affected.

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi
January 30, 2024
Page 2

The HFD strongly urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 1889.

Should you have questions, please contact State Fire Council Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:31:31 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Baldeviso	County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of worker's compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for communities.

Sincerely,

Eric Baldeviso

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:07:27 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanu Catugal	Maui County Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui County Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

FFI Keanu Catugal

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:30:49 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaiah Bicoy	Maui Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a Firefighter with the Maui Fire Department.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protection and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Mahalo

Isaiah Bicoy Capt. E12A

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:44:20 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Kamalani	Maui Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, David Kamalani, am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. I am in support of Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

David Kamalani

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:52:31 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAMUELA GUTH	Maui fire dept	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,
Kamuela Guth

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
www.mauicounty.gov
January 31, 2024

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair
Committee on Labor and Government Operations
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 422
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi:

**SUBJECT: HOUSE BILL (HB) 1889 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION
MEDICAL BENEFITS**

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of Maui Fire Department. The SFC strongly supports HB 1889, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

Over the last decade, the fire profession has experienced an increase in fire fighter deaths related to cancer. The University of Cincinnati and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health conducted studies as a result of the initial findings. They are the most comprehensive investigations into cancer-related diseases incurred by career fire fighters to date and support the initial findings.

A State of Hawaii (State) cancer taskforce performed an investigative study with assistance from medical insurance companies and found that fire fighters in the State are also experiencing elevated levels of exposure to the effects of cancer-related diseases, correlating Hawaii's information with the national studies.

A study published in Public Health in 2023 found that female firefighters may develop a wide variety of cancers and develop them at an earlier age than most other women. This proposed language ensures inclusion of cancers that may affect female firefighters.

There are approximately 40 female firefighters out of a total of about 2100 active firefighters in the state. Although this is not a high percentage of the total, female firefighters deserve to be covered due to anatomical differences. If passed, this bill will provide the female fire fighter and their family with the financial and moral support they require if affected. The SFC urges your committee's passage of SB 2231, for the welfare of our fire fighters.

The SFC strongly urges your committees' support on the passage of HB 1889. If you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723- 7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov

January 29, 2024

LATE

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair
Committee on Labor and Government Operations
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 422
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Matayoshi:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1889 Relating to Workers' Compensation Medical Benefits

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC strongly supports HB 1889, which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

Over the last decade, the fire profession has experienced an increase in fire fighter deaths related to cancer. The University of Cincinnati and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health conducted studies as a result of the initial findings. They are the most comprehensive investigations into cancer-related diseases incurred by career fire fighters to date and support the initial findings.

A State of Hawaii (State) cancer taskforce performed an investigative study with assistance from medical insurance companies and found that fire fighters in the State are also experiencing elevated levels of exposure to the effects of cancer-related diseases, correlating Hawaii's information with the national studies.

A study published in Public Health in 2023 found that female firefighters may develop a wide variety of cancers and develop them at an earlier age than most other women. This proposed language ensures inclusion of cancers that may affect female firefighters.

There are approximately 40 female firefighters out of a total of about 2100 active firefighters in the state. Although this is not a high percentage of the total, female firefighters deserve to be covered due to anatomical differences. If passed, this bill will provide the female fire fighter and their family with the financial and moral support they require if affected. The SFC urges your committee's passage of SB 2231, for the welfare of our fire fighters.

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair
Page 2
January 29, 2024

The SFC strongly urges your committees' support on the passage of HB 1889.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Todd", written in a cursive style.

KAZUO TODD
Chair

KT/GL:



INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION
LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

HAWAII DIVISION: 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
MAUI COUNTY DIVISION: 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766
HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION: 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LOCAL 142

January 31, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2024

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Labor & Government Operations

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
Thursday, February 1, 2024; 9:00 a.m.

LATE

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON HB 1889 –
RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFITS**

Aloha Chair Matayoshi and Committee Members,

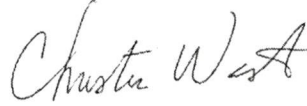
On behalf of the ILWU Local 142, I am writing to express our wholehearted endorsement of HB1889, a critical piece of legislation aimed at strengthening workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters in the state of Hawaii. Our Hawai'i firefighters are dedicated men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our communities, and our union recognizes the paramount importance of addressing the unique health challenges they face in the performance of their duties.

The research findings outlined in the bill, particularly the heightened risk of cancer among firefighters due to exposure to contaminants, underscore the necessity for legislative intervention. This commitment to understanding and mitigating the risks associated with firefighting demonstrates a shared dedication to the welfare of our frontline heroes.

It is particularly noteworthy that HB1889 recognizes and addresses the unique vulnerabilities faced by female firefighters, who may be at an elevated risk of breast, cervical, and uterine cancers. The proposed amendment to Section 386-21.9 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, encompassing coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs, aligns with union values around equity and inclusivity in the provision of comprehensive medical coverage.

The ILWU Local 142 urges the committee to **support** our firefighters by endorsing HB1889.
Thank you for your consideration of this vital matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian West". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Christian West
President



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO

1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929

TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003

WEBSITE: www.hawaii firefighters.org

House of Representatives
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2024

LATE

Committee on Labor & Government Operations
Thursday, February 1, 2024

H.B. No. 1889 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL BENEFIT LGO, FIN

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO represents more than 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State of Hawaii. The HFFA, on behalf of all our members, strongly supports H.B. No. 1889 which expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs.

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) in partnership with the Cancer Firefighter Support Network (CFSN) concluded that female fire fighters have documented "increased risk of developing certain cancers and some are being diagnosed at higher rates compared to female non-fire fighters." Types of cancers and incidents found within the female fire fighter population are alarming.

According to the IAFF/CFSN, female fire fighters are at higher risk of developing cancer of the cervix, breast, thyroid, brain, and other cancers such as bladder, ovarian and melanoma. (see attached)

There are approximately forty female fire fighters through the Counties and State Airports and the exposure to carcinogens are the same as their male counterparts with potentially additional risks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and we ask the Committee to pass H.B. 1889 for further action in the House.



Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness and Prevention



Female Fire Fighters and Cancer

Fire fighters face an elevated risk of being diagnosed with occupational cancer than the general public. This includes female fire fighters. The scientific studies that have been done have mainly centered around male fire fighters. This is due to the small percentage of female fire fighters in the workforce. Female fire fighters are being diagnosed with different cancers than their male colleagues and more research is needed to fully evaluate these differences.

Studies that have evaluated cancer risk among female fire fighters suggest that, like their male coworkers, they may be at an elevated risk for overall cancer incidence.¹ These studies also suggest that female fire fighters may be at an elevated risk for breast,¹ cervical, thyroid² and bladder cancers.¹

Reproductive cancers are also of interest because elevated incidence and mortality may be associated with exposures to endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the fire fighter population. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals could result in elevated incidence and mortality for reproductive cancers among female fire fighters as well. With the potential that these chemicals could affect female fire fighters, further research needs to be done to gain a better understanding of these health concerns.

Female fire fighters are documented having increased risk of developing certain cancers and some are being diagnosed at higher rates compared to female non-fire fighters:

- Cervical Cancer: 4 times higher risk¹
- Breast Cancer: Half of all cases^{1,3}
- Thyroid Cancer: 3 times higher risk^{2,3,4}
- Brain Cancer: 2.54 times higher risk⁴
- Bladder Cancer⁴
- Ovarian Cancer^{3,5,6}
- Melanoma: 1.68 times higher risk⁴

Some of these numbers are alarming; however, these studies have very small sample sizes due to the low number of female fire fighters in the workforce. More studies need to be done, and some are currently underway.

Sources:

1. Daniels, R. D., Kubale, T. L., Yiin, J. H., Dahm, M. M., Hales, T. R., Baris, D., . . . Pinkerton, L. E. (2014). Mortality and cancer incidence in a pooled cohort of US firefighters from San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia (1950-2009). *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 71(6), 388-97. doi:10.1136/oemed-2013-101662
2. Ma, F., Fleming, L. E., Lee, D. J., Trapido, E., & Gerace, T. A. (2006). Cancer incidence in Florida professional firefighters, 1981 to 1999. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 48(9), 883-88.
3. Ma, F., Fleming, L. E., Lee, D. J., Trapido, E., Gerace, T. A., Lai, H., & Lai, S. (2005). Mortality in Florida professional firefighters, 1972 to 1999. *American Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 47(6), 509-17.
4. Lee DJ, Koru-Sengul T, Hernandez MN, Caban-Martinez AJ, McClure LA, Mackinnon JA, Kobetz EN. Cancer risk among career male and female Florida firefighters: Evidence from the Florida Firefighter Cancer Registry (1981-2014). *Am J Ind Med*. 2020 Apr;63(4):285-299. doi: 10.1002/ajim.23086. Epub 2020 Jan 12. PMID: 31930542.
5. U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). March 2019. Emerging Health and Safety Issues Among Women in the Fire Service. https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/emerging_health_safety_issues_women_fire_service.pdf
6. Maronpot RR. Ovarian toxicity and carcinogenicity in eight recent National Toxicology Program studies. *Environ Health Perspect*. 1987 Aug;73:125-30. doi: 10.1289/ehp.8773125. PMID: 3665857; PMCID: PMC1474570.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:01:06 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamehalani Ortiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Kamehalani Ortiz, and I am a captain with twenty-two years of dedicated service in the Honolulu Fire Department. I write in strong support of HB1889, which seeks to expand workers' compensation medical benefits to include coverage for breast cancer and cancers of the female reproductive organs for firefighters.

In my over two decades of service, I have witnessed firsthand the unwavering commitment and sacrifices of firefighters, regardless of gender. Female firefighters are exposed to the same hazardous environments and contaminants as their male counterparts, facing equal risks in the line of duty. This bill acknowledges and addresses the need for equitable medical support and recognition of the dangers we all share.

On a personal note, particularly breast cancer, resonates deeply with me. My mother, a beacon of strength and resilience, was diagnosed with and survived breast cancer. Her journey through diagnosis, treatment, and recovery highlighted the critical importance of access to comprehensive medical care and support. HB1889 is a step toward ensuring that my fellow firefighters, who serve and protect our communities with courage and dedication, have access to the necessary medical treatments without the added burden of financial strain.

This bill represents more than just legislative action; it embodies the Aloha spirit by extending care, compassion, and support to those who selflessly protect our communities. The commitment of the Hawaii State Legislature to the well-being of its public servants reflects our shared values of ohana and mutual respect.

I urge the legislature to pass HB1889, not only as a measure of support for our firefighters but also as a recognition of the inherent risks involved in our profession. It is imperative that we provide the best possible care and support for those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kamehalani Ortiz

Captain, Honolulu Fire Department

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:34:41 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:25:30 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Jenkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Women's workers compensation and general medical benefit considerations are under represented in the fire service as compared to there male counterparts. HB1889 is a first step in creating such medical parity for female firefighters in Hawaii.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:14:48 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for the inclusion of female cancers in presumptive cancer laws. As we continue to understand the complexities of cancer and its various forms, it is imperative that we recognize and address the specific challenges faced by women in their battle against this devastating disease.

Women are disproportionately affected by certain types of cancers, including breast, ovarian, cervical, and uterine cancers. These cancers not only pose significant health risks but also impose emotional, financial, and societal burdens on women and their families. Despite advances in medical research and treatment options, women continue to endure the physical and emotional toll of these diseases.

Adding female cancers to presumptive cancer laws acknowledges the unique risk factors and challenges faced by women. It ensures that female firefighters, police officers, and other first responders who are exposed to carcinogens in the line of duty are provided with the support and resources they need if they develop these types of cancers.

Furthermore, including female cancers in presumptive cancer laws aligns with the principles of gender equality and fairness. Women who serve in high-risk professions should not be disadvantaged simply because their cancers are not currently recognized under presumptive cancer laws. By expanding the scope of these laws to encompass female cancers, we uphold the principle of equal treatment and ensure that all first responders receive the protection and support they deserve.

I urge you to consider the compelling evidence supporting the inclusion of female cancers in presumptive cancer laws. By taking this important step, we demonstrate our commitment to supporting the health and well-being of all first responders, regardless of gender.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:10:33 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilanimanu Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lani Gomes. I'm a female Fire Captain with Maui County Fire Department. I have been with the department for 22 years.

Through the years I've been witness to the growing pains of having a predominantly male profession try to integrate females into the profession.

Small changes of language to include "she/her" in our SOG's and Rules and Regulation do wonders in the mindset of women firefighters and the inclusivity we seek. The inclusion of medical exams to include female reproductive organ exams is just another step in this equation.

I believe the intent of the law created was to include all firefighters, men and women. Not to exclude women's reproductive organs.

I feel that this is a correction of the language and holds true to the original intent that of the bill.

I wholeheartedly support this bill.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:52:15 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB1889- Rleating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a registered nurse and citizen who supports expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and female reproductive organ cancers. Our firefighters put their lives on the line in service of our community and deserve coverage and protection for their sacrifices. Firefighters are at greater risk for breast cancer and cancers involving reproductive organs than non-firefighting females. Smoke is a carcinogen and can lead to such cancers.

Sincerely,

Brittany Harris RN

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:38:15 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaimie Song	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jaimie Song. I am a female Fire Captain with the Honolulu Fire Department and have proudly served my community for 14 years.

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for not only myself, but for all of my coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which ranks different exposures for their cancer risk based on available science, classifies the occupation of firefighting as class 2B carcinogen, or possibly carcinogenic. Firefighters have higher incidence and higher mortality rates for many cancers. These increased incidence rates are also seen in breast cancer and other cancers involving female reproductive organs.

This bill is a clear statement that gender equity and fair compensation for ALL firefighting-related injuries are important to the state and the communities which we serve as legislators and firefighters.

Thank you,

Jaimie Song

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:54:56 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Dillabaugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Honolulu Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Expanding the coverable types of cancers is supported by the recent designation of firefighting as a group 1 carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and the fact that firefighters are 9% more likely to be diagnosed with cancer and 14% more likely to die from cancer than the general public.

Aloha,

Brent Dillabaugh

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:42:02 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Turgeon	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT OF** HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:02:40 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Aldridge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:19:25 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makanaokeakua Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include the coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day. I have many female firefighter friends and co-workers, all of which deserve the same coverage as their male counter parts. It seems like an obvious change to make. Are female body parts less valuable than male? Do they sacrifice less as male firefighters? NO. No they do not. They do the same work as the other firefighters who currently have coverage. Firefighters are at elevated risk for cancer due to the nature of the hazards that are encountered when on shift. Women should be covered. Not part of a woman, the whole woman.

Thank you.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:24:17 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Kennedy-Pocock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:25:25 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Fujita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Jay Fujita

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:28:03 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Hallock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:28:28 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Brower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:56:01 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Cazimero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:40:15 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Barton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am currently a firefighter with the city and county of Honolulu, and I support this bill. As firefighters we are exposed to many toxic substances in our day to day lives while on the job, as much as possible we try to mitigate these hazards by wearing the appropriate PPE/PPC however it's not always possible to avoid all of the risks as we serve our community.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:15:03 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Thornock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every single day.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:47:39 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aulii Ellis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for a greater number of firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities every day.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:55:47 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaren Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1889 - relating to workers compensation benefits.

Aloha kākou!

I am a Captain with the Honolulu Fire Department and my duty is to protect my firefighters to the best of my ability. This is another way to protect them, advocate for them.

As firefighters, we embrace a calling that asks only courage and compassion in return. Yet a covenant remains unfulfilled denying our women warriors hazards our male peers enjoy protections from already.

Consider the injustice if government barred coverage for prostate cancer afflicting male firefighters due to arbitrary exemptions. Surely cries for equity would demand relief. How then can we abide parallel gender-based restrictions dangerously excluding female responders from similar care for career-borne threats like breast and uterine cancers?

Toxic effluents represent an occupational reality we all share, though unique risks still emerge needing acknowledgement. Data shows female firefighters confront higher likelihood of diseases our current law fails. Though some cancers may decline nationwide, firefighters see mortality spikes, as science confirms. This legislation provides one less worry for women fire professionals least deserving double jeopardy on the job.

My sisters in service never hesitated supporting Hawaii during our darkest hours. I implore you to stand equally with them now during personal health battles worsened by answering the same calls, breathing the same toxic clouds, all while performing our duties in the IDLH environment, or Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.

They are us. We all walk forward together, or injustice prevails. Therefore, I urge adopting HB1889. This is an overdue step against antiquity's lingering imbalance. Doing so tells every firefighter you support them to continue to respond to your family and friends in their most precious time of need. This is your way of supporting these women in their time of need.

Aloha,

Ocean Kaowili – Captain Engine 29/1st Platoon

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:45:45 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Les	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. I have been affected by this sickness and anything that can help to deal with it is a positive win.

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:50:57 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JEREMY EVERT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Evert

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:58:09 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasha Pagdilao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

My name is Tasha Pagdilao and I'm a female firefighter I with the Maui Fire Department. I have been with the department for 4 years, and was with the state as an Airport Rescue Firefighter for 2 years. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Thank you,

Tasha Pagdilao

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:12:51 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeremey irvine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui County Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Jeremey Irvine

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:35:18 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Fujimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Nathan Fujimoto

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:35:27 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Notestone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Miach Notestone FFI

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Mark Walker Jr

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:40:01 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vietnam Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Vietnam Nguyen

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:48:01 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanner Mosher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Tanner Mosher

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:50:31 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Crowder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Zachary GK Crowder

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:54:28 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Mann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a Firefighter III with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for ALL of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Matthew Mann

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:39:47 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a firefighter with the Maui County Department of Fire & Public Safety. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Nate Oshiro

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:06:16 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carson Chihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB1889 - Relating to Workers' Compensation Benefits.

I am a firefighter with the Maui Fire Department. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our coworkers who put thier lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Carson Chihara

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:07:58 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapala Novikoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Firefighter with County of Maui Department Fire and Public Safety. Expanding the coverage of workers' compensation to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs would mean greater protections and care for more of our co-workers who put their lives on the line to protect and care for our communities.

Sincerely,

Kapala Novikoff

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:54:21 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a no-brainer. Please support our fire fighters.

January 31, 2024

Testimony for HB 1889 Related to Work Compensation

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I'm in support for HB 1889

I have seen what the firefighter has gone though with the Lahaina Maui and other fires though out the Hawaiian Islands.

In Lahaina Ash there is testing showing elevated LEVELS of TOXIC SUBSTANCE.

The Department of Health released data showing elevated levels of arsenic, lead, antimony, cobalt, and copper in the wildfire ash that has been collected in Lahiana.

I humbly ask that this HB 1889 be pass for our fire fighters who is a risk for cancer that we the people will try to help them in many ways as possible..

Mahalo,

____/s/____

Cindy Freitas

HB-1889

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 9:29:36 PM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a male Fire Fighter with 23+ years of service I have proudly served alongside female FFs, During this time I have lost friends, fellow FFs, and children of FFs to various forms of cancer. It is well documented that FFs have higher rates of cancer due to occupational exposures. Female FFs are exposed to all the same risks as males but are sucepatble to additional forms of cancer that are unique to their gender. I support this bill and urge its passing to protect the brave women who risk so much to serve and protect the citizens of and visitors to Honolulu.

LATE

HB-1889

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 8:05:08 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nuuanu Kahiapo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support our female firefighters. It's shameful that cancers specific to females were not included in the original measure. Please take corrective action!

Mahalo,

Nu'uanu Kahiapo

Captain, Honolulu Fire Department

LATE