



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, March 31, 2023

3:00 PM

Conference Room 308

**By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian**

S.B. 1141 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

To: Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** S.B. 1141 SD2 HD1, relating to workers' compensation, clarifying that the rights, powers, functions, duties, and resources relating to workers' compensation matters for the Hawaii State Public Library System and its employees are transferred to the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD). This measure also establishes one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position within DHRD for the management and administration of workers' compensation for the HSPLS and its employees, and funds for workers' compensation costs for HSPLS and its employees.

Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, and Act 61, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012 (Act 61), attempted to clarify that the rights, powers, functions, duties and resources relating to all HSPLS personnel matters was transferred to the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD). Specific to workers' compensation matters, there continues to be ambiguity regarding whether DHRD is responsible for workers' compensation matters for HSPLS employees.

Since 2012, HSPLS has annually contracted with DHRD via Memorandum of Agreement for workers' compensation-related support for the HSPLS and its employees. As an unbudgeted item, HSPLS pays DHRD for administrative support through the use of its vacancy savings; workers' compensation claims and payments are paid out of the HSPLS budget.

Adoption of S.B. 1141 SD2 HD1 would ensure that DHRD has a permanent staff position and sufficient funding to assist with HSPLS workers' compensation matters. We respectfully ask that at least \$50,000 remain in HSPLS' budget to ensure that HSPLS can continue to process workers' compensation claims for current employees through the State payroll system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. 1141 SD2 HD1.