

A Bill for an Act Relating to Workmen's Compensation.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 386-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

"Sec. 386-31. Total disability. (a) Permanent total disability. Where a work injury causes permanent total disability the employer shall pay the injured employee a weekly benefit equal to sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of his average weekly wages, but no more than \$112.50 nor less than \$18 a week.

In the case of the following injuries, the disability caused thereby shall be deemed permanent and total:

- (1) The permanent and total loss of sight in both eyes;
- (2) The loss of both feet at or before the ankle;
- (3) The loss of both hands at or above the wrist;
- (4) The loss of one hand and one foot;
- (5) An injury to the spine resulting in permanent and complete paralysis of both legs or both arms or one leg and one arm;
- (6) An injury to the skull resulting in incurable imbecility or insanity.

In all other cases the permanency and totality of the disability shall be determined on the facts. No adjudication of permanent total disability shall be made until after two weeks from the date of the injury.

(b) Temporary total disability. Where a work injury causes total disability not determined to be permanent in character, the employer, for the duration of the disability but not including the first two days thereof shall pay the injured employee a weekly benefit at the rate of sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of his average weekly wages, but not more than \$112.50 nor less than \$18 a week, or, if his average weekly wages are less than \$18 a week, at the rate of one hundred per cent of his average weekly wages. In cast the total disability exceeds seven days, the compensation shall be allowed from the date of disability.

Temporary total disability benefits shall be paid promptly as it accrues and directly to the person entitled thereto without waiting for a decision from the director, unless the right to the benefits is controverted by the employer. The first payment of benefits shall become due and shall be paid no later than on the tenth day after the employer has been notified of the occurrence of the total disability, and thereafter the benefits due shall be paid weekly except as otherwise authorized pursuant to section 386-53.

SECTION 2. Section 386-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

"Sec. 386-32. Partial disability. (a) Permanent partial disability. Where a work injury causes permanent partial disability the employer shall pay the injured worker a weekly benefit at the rate of sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of his average weekly wages, but not more than \$112.50 nor less than \$35 a week, for the period named in the schedule as follows:

Thumb. For the loss of thumb, seventy-five weeks;

First finger. For the loss of a first finger, commonly called index finger, forty-six weeks;

Second finger. For the loss of a second finger, commonly called the middle finger, thirty weeks;

Third finger. For the loss of a third finger, commonly called the ring finger, twenty-five weeks;

Fourth finger. For the loss of a fourth finger, commonly called the little finger, fifteen weeks;

Phalanx of thumb or finger. Loss of the first phalanx of the thumb shall be equal to the loss of three-fourths of the thumb, and compensation shall be three-fourths of the amount above specified for the loss of the thumb. The loss of the first phalanx of any finger shall be equal to the loss of one-half of the finger, and compensation shall be one-half of the amount above specified for loss of the finger. The loss of more than one phalanx of the thumb or any finger shall be considered as loss of the entire thumb or finger;

Great toe. For the loss of a great toe, thirty-eight weeks;

Other toes. For the loss of one of the toes other than the great toe, sixteen weeks;

Phalanx of toe. Loss of the first phalanx of any toe shall be equal to the loss of one-half of the toe; and the compensation shall be one-half of the amount specified for the loss of the toe. The loss of more than one phalanx of any toe shall be considered as the loss of the entire toe;

Hand. For the loss of hand, two hundred and forty-four weeks;

Arm. For the loss of an arm, three hundred and twelve weeks;

Foot. For the loss of a foot, two hundred and five weeks;

Leg. For the loss of a leg, two hundred and eighty-eight weeks;

Eye. For the loss of an eye by enucleation, one hundred and sixty weeks. For the loss of vision in an eye, one hundred and forty weeks. Loss of binocular vision or of eighty per cent of the vision of an eye shall be considered loss of vision of the eye;

Ear. For the permanent and complete loss of hearing in both ears, two hundred weeks. For the permanent and complete loss of hearing in one ear, fifty-two weeks. For the loss of both ears, eighty weeks. For the loss of one ear, forty weeks;

Loss of use. Permanent loss of the use of a hand, arm, foot, leg, thumb, finger, toe or phalanx shall be equal to and compensated as the loss of a hand, arm, foot, leg, thumb, finger, toe, or phalanx;

Partial loss or loss of use of member named in schedule. Where a work injury causes permanent partial disability resulting from partial loss of use of a member named in this schedule, and where such disability is not otherwise compensated in this schedule, compensation shall be paid for a period which stands in the same proportion to the period specified for the total loss or loss of use of such member as the partial loss or loss of use of that member stands to the total loss or loss of use thereof;

More than one finger or toe of the same hand or foot. In cases of permanent partial disability resulting from simultaneous injury to the thumb and one

or more fingers of one hand, or to two or more fingers of one hand, or to the great toe and one or more toes other than the great toe of one foot, or to two or more toes other than the great toe of one foot, the disability may be rated as a partial loss or loss of use of the hand or the foot and the period of benefit payments shall be measured accordingly. In no case shall the compensation for loss or loss of use of more than one finger or toe of the same hand or foot exceed the amount provided in this schedule for the loss of a hand or foot;

Amputation. Amputation between the elbow and the wrist shall be rated as the equivalent of the loss of a hand. Amputation between the knee and the ankle shall be rated as the equivalent of the loss of a foot. Amputation at or above the elbow shall be rated as the loss of an arm. Amputation at or above the knee shall be rated as the loss of a leg;

Disfigurement. In cases of personal injury resulting in disfigurement the director of labor and industrial relations may, in his discretion, award such compensation as he deems proper and equitable in view of the disfigurement but not to exceed \$15,000. Disfigurement is separate from other permanent partial disability and includes scarring and other disfiguring consequences caused by medical, surgical, and hospital treatment of the employee;

Other cases. In all other cases of permanent partial disability resulting from the loss or loss of use of a part of the body or from the impairment of any physical function, weekly benefits shall be paid at the rate and subject to the limitations specified in this subsection for a period which bears the same relation to a period named in the schedule as the disability sustained bears to a comparable disability named in the schedule. In cases in which the permanent partial disability must be rated as a percentage of total loss or impairment of physical or mental function of the whole man the maximum compensation shall be computed on the basis of the corresponding percentage of \$35,100;

Unconditional nature and time of commencement of payment. Compensation for permanent partial disability shall be paid regardless of the earnings of the disabled employee subsequent to the injury. Payments shall not commence until after termination of any temporary total disability that may be caused by the injury.

(b) **Temporary partial disability.** Where a work injury causes partial disability, not determined to be permanent, which diminishes the employee's capacity for work, the employer, beginning with the first day of the disability and during the continuance thereof, shall pay the injured employee weekly benefits equal to sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of the difference between his average weekly wages before the injury and the weekly wages he is capable of earning thereafter, but not more than \$50 a week.

(c) **Provisions common to permanent and temporary partial disability.** No determination of partial disability shall be made until two weeks from the date of the injury.

SECTION 3. Section 386-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

"Sec. 386-34. Payment after death. Where an employee is entitled to weekly income and indemnity benefits for permanent total or permanent par-

tial disability and dies from any cause other than the compensable work injury, payment of any unpaid balance of the benefits to the extent that the employer is liable therefor shall be made to his dependents as provided herein. If, at the time of the death, the employee is entitled to any benefits from the special compensation fund, the benefits shall also be paid to his dependents as provided herein.

- (1) To a dependent widow or widower, for the use of the widow or widower and the dependent children, if any. The director of labor and industrial relations may from time to time apportion such compensation among the widow or widower and any dependent children.
- (2) If there be no dependent widow or widower, but one or more dependent children, then to such child or children to be divided equally among them if more than one.
- (3) If there be no dependent widow, widower, or child, but there be a dependent parent, then to such parent, or if both parents be dependent, to both of them, to be divided equally between them; or if there be no such parents, but a dependent grandparent, then to such grandparent, or if more than one, then to all of them to be divided equally among them.
- (4) If there be no dependent widow, widower, child, parent, or grandparent, but there be a dependent grandchild, brother, or sister, then to such dependent, or if more than one, then to all of them to be divided equally among them.
- (5) If there be no such dependents, the unpaid balance of the compensation shall be paid in a lump sum into the special compensation fund."

SECTION 4. Section 386-41, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

"Sec. 386-41. Entitlement to and rate of compensation. (a) Funeral and burial allowance. Where a work injury causes death, the employer shall pay funeral expenses not to exceed \$1,000 to the mortician and burial expenses not to exceed \$500 to the cemetery selected by the family or next of kin of the deceased or in the absence of such family or next of kin, by the employer. Such payments shall be made directly to the mortician and cemetery.

(b) Weekly benefits for dependents. In addition, the employer shall pay weekly benefits to the deceased's dependents at the percentages of the deceased's average weekly wages specified below, taking into account not more than \$168.75 and not less than \$30 per week;

To the dependent widow or widower, if there be no dependent children, fifty per cent.

To the dependent widow or widower, if there be one or more dependent children of the deceased, sixty-six and two-thirds per cent. The compensation to the widow or widower shall be for the use and benefit of the widow or widower and of the dependent children, and the director of labor and industrial relations may from time to time apportion the compensation between them in such way as he deems best.

If there be no dependent widow or widower, but a dependent child, then

to the child forty per cent, and if there be more than one dependent child, then to the children in equal parts sixty-six and two-thirds per cent.

If there be no dependent widow, widower, or child, but there be a dependent parent, then to the parent, if wholly dependent fifty per cent, or if partially dependent twenty-five per cent; if both parents be dependent, then one-half of the foregoing compensation to each of them; if there be no dependent parent, but one or more dependent grandparents, then to each of them the same compensation as to a parent.

If there be no dependent widow, widower, child, parent or grandparent, but there be a dependent grandchild, brother, or sister, or two or more of them, then to such dependents thirty-five per cent for one dependent, increased by fifteen percent for each additional dependent, to be divided equally among the dependents if more than one.

(c) Maximum weekly amounts. The sum of all weekly benefits payable to the dependents of the deceased employee shall not exceed sixty-six and two-thirds per cent of his average weekly wages, computed by observing the limits specified in subsection (b). If necessary, the individual benefits shall be proportionally reduced.

(d) Liability to special compensation fund in the absence of dependents. If there be no dependents who are entitled to benefits under this section, the employer shall pay the sum of \$8,775.00 for any one death into the special compensation fund, pursuant to an order made by the director. The employer, pursuant to an order made by the director, shall pay any remaining balance into the special compensation fund, if the weekly benefits to which dependents are entitled terminate without totalling the sum of \$8,775.00."

SECTION 5. Chapter 386, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately numbered and to read:

"Sec. 386-154.5 Special assessments. (a) For the calendar year 1972 only, insurers of employers as defined in section 386-121(a) (1) shall pay a special assessment of one and one-quarter per cent on gross premiums as defined in section 431-318(a) and in accordance with the provisions of section 386-153.

(b) For the calendar year 1972 only, employers not insured under section 386-121(a) (1) shall pay a special assessment equal to 1.67 times the special charge as defined and in accordance with the provisions of section 386-154.

(c) The assessments under this section shall be paid within 30 days from the receipt of notification by the department of regulatory agencies."

SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the Revisor of Statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material or the underscoring.*

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 15, 1972.)

*Edited accordingly.