

LEGISLATIVE ALERT: Workers' Compensation and maximum taxable wage base Issues Need to be Heard and Passed by February 17th.

Aloha!

Please help us help you as employers and job creators in the State of Hawaii. One of the reasons why our economy has been thriving is because of the hard work of Hawaii's employees. But employees need employers, and clearly Hawaii's employers have been busy creating profits, jobs, and opportunities.

The Administration wants to continue the economic momentum we have by, among other things, addressing issues important to Hawaii's employers. There are a couple workers' compensation measures introduced by Governor Lingle and a measure dealing with lowering the maximum taxable wage base. While all of the Governor's 163 administration bills deserve hearings, the workers compensation measures along with the bill lowering the maximum taxable wage base are crucial to maintaining the business-friendly economic environment we enjoy.

Please contact the Chairs of the respective House and Senate Labor committees and ask that the Governor's workers compensation reform measures and her measure dealing with lowering the maximum taxable wage base be heard and passed immediately. The clock is ticking and time is running out. They must be heard and passed out of the Labor committees before February 17th. Let's not permit another legislative session to conclude without passage of these important measures.

The measures are:

[HB2388/SB2351 - Repeals the changes to the state's workers' compensation law, including the limiting of the Director's authority to amend administrative rules which would allow the Director to implement evidence-based, clinically tested, medical treatment guidelines.](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2351_.htm)

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2351_.htm

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/docs/getstatus2.asp?billno=SB2351>

[HB2389/SB2352 - Allows employers to establish health care provider networks from which employers would direct their employees for medical treatment.](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2352_.htm)

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2352_.htm

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/docs/getstatus2.asp?billno=SB2352>

[HB2390/SB2353 - Lowers the maximum taxable wage base from \\$34,000 to the federal minimum of \\$7,000 for calendar years 2006, 2007, and 2008.](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/hb2390_.htm)

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/hb2390_.htm

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/docs/getstatus2.asp?billno=HB2390>

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/docs/getstatus2.asp?billno=SB2353>

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/sb2353_.htm

Only committee chairs have the power to schedule hearings. If they refuse to hold hearings, they are in effect killing important and necessary legislation. You can reach them on the Internet or by phone:

Rep. Caldwell
586-8475

Sen. Kanno
586-6830

Your lending your voice to the public's calls for a hearing on these measures may just help persuade these chairs to give the bills an opportunity for a fair hearing before the deadline.

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