DISABILITY COMPENSATION LAW

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

Workers' Compensation - You have the right to receive workers' compensation benefits and medical care if you suffer a work-related injury. You must report the date, time and circumstance of your injury immediately to your employer or supervisor. Give the name of the insurer to your doctor so that your doctor will know where to send the physician's report. If your employer does not file a report of the injury, you may file a written claim with the Disability Compensation Division. You do not pay for the premium cost; your employer pays the entire amount.

You are entitled to all required medical, surgical and hospital services and supplies including medication; weekly benefits from the fourth day of disability to replace wage loss, representing 66 2/3% of your average weekly wage but not more than the maximum weekly benefit amount annually set by the Department; additional benefits if the injury results in permanent disability or disfigurement; vocational rehabilitation, if appropriate; funeral and burial expenses if the work injury results in death; and additional weekly benefits to the surviving spouse and other dependents.

Temporary Disability Insurance - You have the right to file a claim for temporary disability insurance benefits within 90 days from the date of disability if you suffer a disabling nonwork-related injury/illness, or inability to work because of your pregnancy. Your employer or insurance carrier should furnish you with a TDI-45 claim form or some other authorized claim form. You may receive TDI benefits if your inability to work is properly certified by a physician. Generally, you must have worked for an employer in Hawaii at least two weeks prior to your disability. During the last 52 weeks, you must have: worked for at least 14 weeks; been paid for at least 20 hours per week; and earned at least $400.

After a 7 consecutive day waiting period, you will be paid 58% of your average weekly wage, not to exceed the maximum in the TDI law. Your employer may have an "equivalent" plan approved by the Department, which may provide different benefits. You should ask your employer for details if they have an "equivalent" plan.

You may be required by your employer to share in the premium cost. Your share cannot be more than one-half of the cost and should not exceed .5% of your weekly wages. Your employer pays the remaining portion exceeding the prescribed limitation. If you are not eligible for benefits (see second paragraph above), your employer cannot deduct any contributions from you to share in the premium cost.

Prepaid Health Care - You have the right to enroll in your employer's prepaid health care insurance plan after 4 consecutive weeks of employment where you have worked at least 20 hours each week. The health care plan must be approved by the Department and include insurance coverage for hospital, surgical, medical, diagnostic and maternity medical care.
You should claim benefits under this program if a nonwork-related injury or illness requires medical care. Give your doctor or hospital the name of your employer's health care contractor and the plan name.

If you are required to share in the premium cost for your coverage, your share cannot be more than 1.5% of your monthly wages or one-half the premium cost (whichever is less). Your employer pays the balance.

Disability Compensation Division:

Oahu: . . . . . 586-9161 (Workers' Compensation)
586-9188 (Temporary Disability Insurance and Prepaid Health Care)
Hilo: 974-6464
Kona: 322-4808
Maui: 243-5322
Kauai: 274-3351

This notice provides general background information on labor laws administered and enforced by DLIR's Disability Compensation Division and is not intended to serve as a substitute for legal counsel. For specific legal advice on individual situations, please consult an attorney.

Nelson B. Befitel, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

*You may satisfy Hawaii Labor Laws' posting requirements by posting our official labor law poster.
Click this link for more information: http://hawaii.gov/labor/poster_2006.shtml