<u>H</u>.B. NO. <u>1327</u>

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INSURANCE FRAUD.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1	SECTION 1. Chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2	amended by adding to article 2 two new sections to be
3	appropriately designated and to read as follows:
4	"§431:2-A Insurance fraud investigations unit; deposit
5	into compliance resolution fund; funding. (a) There is
6	established in the insurance division an insurance fraud
7	investigations unit.
8	(b) The purpose of the insurance fraud investigations unit
9	shall be to conduct a statewide program for the prevention,
10	investigation, and prosecution of insurance fraud cases and
11	violations relating to insurance fraud, arising from article 10C
12	and chapter 386. The insurance fraud investigations unit may
13	also review and take appropriate disciplinary and administrative
14	action on complaints relating to insurance fraud arising from
15	article 10C and chapter 386.
16	(c) The unit shall employ or retain by contract or
17	otherwise, attornevs, investigators, investigator assistants, and

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1 other support staff as necessary to promote the effective and efficient conduct of the unit's activities. Notwithstanding any 2 3 other law to the contrary, the attorneys may represent the State in any judicial or administrative proceeding to enforce all 4 applicable state laws relating to insurance fraud, including but 5 not limited to criminal prosecutions, administrative actions, 6 disciplinary actions, and actions for declaratory and injunctive 7 relief. Investigators may serve process and apply for and 8 execute search warrants pursuant to chapter 803 and the rules of 9 court but shall not otherwise have the powers of a police officer 10 or deputy sheriff. The commissioner may hire such employees not 11 12 subject to chapter 76. (d) All moneys that have been recovered by the department 13 of commerce and consumer affairs as a result of prosecuting 14 insurance fraud violations pursuant to this section, including 15 16 civil fines, criminal fines, administrative fines, and settlements, but not including restitution made pursuant to 17 section 431:2-B or 386-98, shall be deposited into the compliance 18 resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o). 19 (e) Funding for the insurance fraud investigations unit 20 shall come from the compliance resolution fund established 21 pursuant to section 26-9(o). 22

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1	§431	:2-B	Insuranc	e fraud	; pena	lties.	<u>(a)</u>	Ар	erson	comm	nits
2	the offen	se of :	insuranc	e fraud	if th	e pers	on act	s or	omits	to	act
3	with inte	nt to	obtain b	enefits	or re	covery	or co	mpen	sation	for	<u>-</u>
4	services	provid	ed, or p	rovides	legal	assis	tance	or c	ounsel	wit	<u>:h</u>
5	intent to	obtai	n benefi	ts or r	ecove	ry, thr	ough t	he f	ollowi	ng	
6	means:										
7	(1)	Knowi	ngly pre	senting	, or o	ausing	or pe	ermit	ting t	o be	<u> </u>
8		prese	nted, an	y false	info	mation	on a	clai	m ;		
9	(2)	Knowi	ngly pre	senting	, or o	causing	or pe	ermit	ting t	o be	<u> </u>
10		prese	nted, an	y false	clair	n for t	he pay	ment	of a	loss	} ;
11	(3)	Knowi	ngly pre	senting	, or o	causing	or pe	ermit	ting t	o be	<u> </u>
12		prese:	nted, mu	ltiple	claims	for t	he san	me lo	ss or	inju	ıry,
13		inclu	ding pre	senting	mult:	ple cl	aims t	o mo	re tha	n or	<u>1e</u>
14		insur	er, exce	pt when	these	e multi	ple cl	laims	are		
15		appro	priate;								
16	(4)	Knowi	ngly mak	ing, or	caus	ing or	permit	ting	to be	mac	<u>le ,</u>
17		any f	alse cla	im for	payme	nt of a	healt	h ca	re ben	efit	<u>: ;</u>
18	(5)	Knowi	ngly suk	mitting	, or	causing	or pe	ermit	ting t	o be	<u> </u>
19		submi	tted, a	claim f	or a l	nealth	care l	penef	it tha	t wa	<u>is</u>
20		not u	sed by,	or prov	ided (on beha	lf of	the	claim	ant;	•
21	(6)	Knowi	ngly pre	esenting	, or	causing	or pe	ermit	ting t	o be	2
22		nrece	nted mi	ultinle	claim	= for n	arment	- of	the ca	me	

1		health care benefit except when these multiple claims
2		are appropriate;
3	(7)	Knowingly presenting, or causing or permitting to be
4		presented, for payment, any undercharges for benefits
5		on behalf of a specific claimant unless any known
6		overcharges for benefits under this article for that
7		claimant are presented for reconciliation at the same
8		time;
9	(8)	Aiding, or agreeing or attempting to aid, soliciting,
10		or conspiring with any person who engages in an
11		unlawful act as defined under this section; or
12	(9)	Knowingly making, or causing or permitting to be made,
13		any false statements or claims by, or on behalf of, any
14		person or persons during an official proceeding as
15		defined by section 710-1000.
16	(b)	A violation of subsection (a) is a criminal offense and
17	shall con	stitute a:
18	(1)	Class B felony if the value of the benefits, recovery,
19		claim, or compensation obtained or attempted to be
20		obtained is more than \$20,000;

1	(2)	Class C felony if the value of the benefits, recovery,
2		claim, or compensation obtained or attempted to be
3		obtained is more than \$300; or
4	(3)	Misdemeanor if the value of the benefits, recovery,
5		claim, or compensation obtained or attempted to be
6		obtained is \$300 or less.
7	(c)	Where the ability to make restitution can be
8	demonstra	ted, any person convicted under this section shall be
9	ordered b	y a court to make restitution to an insurer or any other
10	person fo	r any financial loss sustained by the insurer or other
11	person.	
12	(d)	A person, if acting without malice, shall not be
13	subject t	o civil liability for providing information, including
14	filing a	report, furnishing oral or written evidence, or giving
15	testimony	concerning suspected, anticipated, or completed
16	insurance	fraud to a court, the commissioner, the insurance fraud
17	investiga	tions unit, the National Association of Insurance
18	Commissio	ners, any federal, state, or county law enforcement or
19	regulator	y agency, or another insurer if the information is
20	provided	only for the purpose of preventing, investigating, or
21	prosecuti	ng insurance fraud, except if the person commits
22	perjury.	

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1	(e) This section shall not supersede any other law relating
2	to theft, fraud, or deception. Insurance fraud may be prosecuted
3	under this section, or any other applicable law, and may be
4	enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction.
5	(f) An insurer shall have a civil cause of action to
6	recover payments or benefits from any person who has
7	intentionally obtained payments or benefits in violation of this
8	section; provided that no recovery shall be allowed if the person
9	has made restitution under subsection (c).
10	(g) All applications for insurance under this article and
11	all claim forms provided and required by an insurer, regardless
12	of the means of transmission, shall contain, or have attached to
13	them, the following or a substantially similar statement, in a
14	prominent location and typeface as determined by the insurer:
15	"For your protection, Hawaii law requires you to be informed that
16	presenting a fraudulent claim for payment of a loss or benefit is
17	a crime punishable by a fine, imprisonment, or both." The
18	absence of such a warning in any application or claim form shall
19	not constitute a defense to a charge of insurance fraud under
20	this section.
21	(h) An insurer, or the insurer's employee or agent, having
22	determined that there is reason to believe that a claim is being

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made in violation of this section, shall provide to the insurance fraud investigations unit within sixty days of that 2 determination, information, including documents and other 3 evidence, regarding the claim in the form and manner prescribed 4 by the unit. Information provided pursuant to this subsection 5 shall be protected from public disclosure to the extent 6 authorized by chapter 92F and section 431:2-209; provided that 7 the unit may release the information in an administrative or 8 judicial proceeding to enforce this section, to a federal, state, 9 or local law enforcement or regulatory authority, to the National 10 Association of Insurance Commissioners, or to an insurer 11 aggrieved by the claim reasonably believed to violate this 12 **13** section." SECTION 2. Section 386-98, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 14 15 amended to read as follows: 16 "§386-98 Fraud violations and penalties. (a) A [fraudulent insurance act, under this chapter, shall include **17** acts or omissions committed by any person who intentionally or 18 19 knowingly] person commits the offense of insurance fraud if the person acts or omits to act [so as] with intent to obtain 20 benefits, deny benefits, obtain benefits compensation for 21 22 services provided, or provides legal assistance or counsel to

1	obtain be	nefits [or recovery through fraud or deceit by doing
2	the follo	wing:], deny benefits, or obtain benefits compensation
3	through t	he following means:
4	(1)	[Presenting,] Knowingly presenting, or causing or
5		permitting to be presented, any false information on
6		an application;
7	(2).	[Presenting,] Knowingly presenting, or causing or
8		permitting to be presented, any false [or fraudulent]
9		claim for the payment of a loss;
10	(3)	[Presenting] Knowingly presenting, or causing or
11		permitting to be presented, multiple claims for the
12		same loss or injury, including presenting multiple
13		claims to more than one insurer, except when these
14		multiple claims are appropriate [and each insurer is
15		notified immediately in writing of all other claims
16		and insurers];
17	(4)	[Making,] Knowingly making, or causing or permitting
18		to be made, any false [or fraudulent] claim for
19		payment or denial of a health care benefit;
20	(5)	[Submitting] Knowingly submitting, or causing or
21		permitting to be submitted, a claim for a health care
22		benefit that was not used by, or provided on behalf

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1		of, the claimant;
2	(6)	[Presenting] Knowingly presenting, or causing or
3		permitting to be presented, multiple claims for
4		payment of the same health care benefit, except when
5		these multiple claims are appropriate;
6	(7)	[Presenting] Knowingly presenting, or causing or
7		permitting to be presented, for payment any
8		undercharges for health care benefits on behalf of a
9		specific claimant unless any known overcharges for
10		health care benefits for that claimant are presented
11		for reconciliation at [that] the same time;
12	(8)	Misrepresenting or concealing a material fact;
13	(9)	Fabricating, altering, concealing, making a false
14		entry in, or destroying a document;
15	(10)	[Making,] Knowingly making, or causing or permitting
16		to be made, any false [or fraudulent] statements with
17		regard to entitlements or benefits, with the intent to
18		discourage an injured employee from claiming benefits
19		or pursuing a workers' compensation claim; or
20	(11)	[Making,] Knowingly making, or causing to be made, any
21		false [or fraudulent] statements or claims by, or on
22		behalf of, a client with regard to obtaining legal

1	recovery or benefits.
2	(b) No employer shall wilfully make a false statement or
3	representation to avoid the impact of past adverse claims
4	experience through change of ownership, control, management, or
5	operation to directly obtain any workers' compensation insurance
6	policy.
7	(c) It shall be inappropriate for any discussion on
8	benefits, recovery, or settlement to include the threat or
9	implication of criminal prosecution. Any threat or implication
10	shall be immediately referred in writing to:
11	(1) The state bar if attorneys are in violation;
12	(2) The insurance commissioner if insurance company
13	personnel are in violation; or
14	(3) The regulated industries complaints office if health
15	care providers are in violation,
16	for investigation and, if appropriate, disciplinary action.
17	(d) An offense under subsections (a) and (b) shall
18	constitute a:
19	(1) Class C felony if the value of the moneys obtained or
20	denied is \$2,000 or more;
21	(2) Misdemeanor if the value of the moneys obtained or
22	denied is less than \$2,000; or

1	(3)	Petty misdemeanor if the providing of false
2		information did not cause any monetary loss.
3	Any person	n subject to a criminal penalty under this section
4	shall be	ordered by a court to make restitution to an insurer or
5	any other	person for any financial loss sustained by the insurer
6	or other]	person caused by the fraudulent act.
7	(e)	In lieu of or in addition to the criminal penalties
8	set forth	in subsection (d), any person who violates subsections
9	(a) and (1	b) may be subject to the administrative penalties of
10	restituti	on of benefits or payments fraudulently received under
11	this chap	ter, whether received from an employer, insurer, or the
12	special c	ompensation fund, to be made to the source from which
13	the compe	nsation was received, and one or more of the following:
14	(1)	A fine of not more than \$10,000 for each violation;
15	(2)	Suspension or termination of benefits in whole or in
16		part;
17	(3)	Suspension or disqualification from providing medical
18		care or services, vocational rehabilitation services,
19		and all other services rendered for payment under this
20		chapter;
21	(4)	Suspension or termination of payments for medical,
22		vocational rehabilitation, and all other services

1		rendered under this chapter;
2	(5)	Recoupment by the insurer of all payments made for
3		medical care, medical services, vocational
4		rehabilitation services, and all other services
5		rendered for payment under this chapter; and
6	(6)	Reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs of the
7		party or parties defrauded.
8	(f)	With respect to the administrative penalties set forth
9	in subsec	etion (e), no penalty shall be imposed except upon
10	considera	tion of a written complaint that specifically alleges a
11	violation	of this section occurring within two years of the date
12	of said c	complaint. A copy of the complaint specifying the
13	alleged v	violation shall be served promptly upon the person
14	charged.	The director or board shall issue, where a penalty is
15	ordered,	a written decision stating all findings following a
16	hearing h	neld not fewer than twenty days after written notice to
17	the perso	on charged. Any person aggrieved by the decision may
18	appeal th	ne decision under sections 386-87 and 386-88.
19	(g)	The insurance fraud investigations unit of the
20	departmen	nt of commerce and consumer affairs, established
21	pursuant	to section 431:2-A, may initiate investigations,
22	prosecuti	ons, and disciplinary and administrative actions to

1	enforce t	his section, including, but not limited to, workers
2	compensat	ion fraud relating to self-insured employers."
3	SECT	ION 3. Section 431:10C-307.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
4	is repeal	ed.
5	[" §4 :	31:10C-307.7 Insurance fraud; penalties. (a) A person
6	commits t	he offense of insurance fraud if the person acts or
7	omits to	act with intent to obtain benefits or recovery or
8	compensat	ion for services provided, or provides legal assistance
9	or counse	l with intent to obtain benefits or recovery, through
10	the follo	wing means:
11	(1)	Knowingly presenting, or causing or permitting to be
12		presented, any false information on a claim;
13	(2)	Knowingly presenting, or causing or permitting to be
14		presented, any false claim for the payment of a loss;
15	(3)	Knowingly presenting, or causing or permitting to be
16		presented, multiple claims for the same loss or injury,
17		including presenting multiple claims to more than one
18		insurer, except when these multiple claims are
19		appropriate;
20	(4)	Knowingly making, or causing or permitting to be made,
21		any false claim for payment of a health care benefit;

1	(5)	Knowingly submitting, or causing or permitting to be
2		submitted, a claim for a health care benefit that was
3		not used by, or provided on behalf of, the claimant;
4	(6)	Knowingly presenting, or causing or permitting to be
5		presented, multiple claims for payment of the same
6		health care benefit except when these multiple claims
7		are appropriate;
8	(7)	Knowingly presenting, or causing or permitting to be
9		presented, for payment any undercharges for benefits or
10		behalf of a specific claimant unless any known
11		overcharges for benefits under this article for that
12		claimant are presented for reconciliation at the same
13		time;
14	(8)	Aiding, or agreeing or attempting to aid, soliciting,
15		or conspiring with any person who engages in an
16		unlawful act as defined under this section; or
17	(9)	Knowingly making, or causing or permitting to be made,
18		any false statements or claims by, or on behalf of, any
19		person or persons during an official proceeding as
20		defined by section 710-1000.
21	(b)	Violation of subsection (a) is a criminal offense and
22	shall con	stitute a:

1	(1)	Class B felony if the value of the benefits, recovery,		
2		or compensation obtained or attempted to be obtained is		
3		more than \$20,000;		
4	(2)	Class C felony if the value of the benefits, recovery,		
5		or compensation obtained or attempted to be obtained is		
6		more than \$300; or		
7	(3)	Misdemeanor if the value of the benefits, recovery, or		
8		compensation obtained or attempted to be obtained is		
9		\$300 or less.		
10	(c)	Where the ability to make restitution can be		
11	demonstrated, any person convicted under this section shall be			
12	ordered by a court to make restitution to an insurer or any other			
13	person for any financial loss sustained by the insurer or other			
14	person caused by the act or acts for which the person was			
15	convicted.			
16	(d) A person, if acting without malice, shall not be			
17	subject to civil liability for providing information, including			
18	filing a report, furnishing oral or written evidence, or giving			
19	testimony concerning suspected, anticipated, or completed			
20	insurance fraud to a court, the commissioner, the insurance fraud			
21	investigations unit, the National Association of Insurance			
22	Commissioners, any federal, state, or county law enforcement or			

regulatory agency, or another insurer if the information is 1 provided only for the purpose of preventing, investigating, or 2 prosecuting insurance fraud, except if the person commits 3 4 perjury. (e) This section shall not supersede any other law relating 5 6 to theft, fraud, or deception. Insurance fraud may be prosecuted under this section, or any other applicable section, and may be 7 8 enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction. (f) An insurer shall have a civil cause of action to 9 recover payments or benefits from any person who has 10 intentionally obtained payments or benefits in violation of this 11 section; provided that no recovery shall be allowed if the person 12 has made restitution under subsection (c). 13 14 (q) All applications for insurance under this article and all claim forms provided and required by an insurer, regardless 15 of the means of transmission, shall contain, or have attached to 16 them, the following or a substantially similar statement, in a **17** prominent location and typeface as determined by the insurer: 18 "For your protection, Hawaii law requires you to be informed that 19 presenting a fraudulent claim for payment of a loss or benefit is 20 21 a crime punishable by fines or imprisonment, or both." The 22 absence of such a warning in any application or claim form shall

not constitute a defense to a charge of insurance fraud under 1 2 this section. (h) An insurer, or the insurer's employee or agent, having 3 determined that there is reason to believe that a claim is being 4 made in violation of this section, shall provide to the insurance 5 fraud investigations unit within sixty days of that 6 determination, information, including documents and other 7 evidence, regarding the claim in the form and manner prescribed 8 by the unit. Information provided pursuant to this subsection 9 shall be protected from public disclosure to the extent 10 authorized by chapter 92F and section 431:2-209; provided that 11 the unit may release the information in an administrative or 12 iudicial proceeding to enforce this section, to a federal, state, 13 or local law enforcement or regulatory authority, to the National 14 15 Association of Insurance Commissioners, or to an insurer aggrieved by the claim reasonably believed to violate this 16 17 section."] SECTION 4. Section 431:10C-307.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, 18 19 is repealed. ["§431:10C-307.8 Insurance fraud investigations unit. (a) 20 There is established in the insurance division an insurance fraud 21 22 investigations unit.

(b) The unit shall employ attorneys, investigators, 1 investigator assistants, and other support staff as necessary to 2 3 promote the effective and efficient conduct of the unit's 4 activities. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the 5 attorneys may represent the State in any judicial or administrative proceeding to enforce all applicable state laws 6 7 relating to insurance fraud, including but not limited to criminal prosecutions and actions for declaratory and injunctive 8 relief. Investigators may serve process and apply for and 9 execute search warrants pursuant to chapter 803 and the rules of 10 11 court but shall not otherwise have the powers of a police officer or deputy sheriff. The commissioner may hire such employees not 12 13 subject to chapter 76. (c) The purpose of the insurance fraud investigations unit 14 shall be to conduct a statewide program for the prevention, 15 investigation, and prosecution of insurance fraud cases and 16 violations of all applicable state laws relating to insurance 17 18 fraud. The insurance fraud investigations unit may also review 19 and take appropriate action on complaints relating to insurance 20 fraud."] SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed 21 22 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

1	SECTION 6.	This Act shall take	effect on July 1,	2007.
2			l'Almid y	K
3		INTRODUCED BY:	Chrot.d.	Yday
4			BY REQUEST	Y
			JAN 2 2 2007	

HB 1327

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT:

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

TITLE:

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE

FRAUD.

PURPOSE:

To expand the authority of the insurance division's insurance fraud investigations unit for the prevention, investigation, and

prosecution (by administrative, disciplinary, or criminal action) of insurance fraud within the workers' compensation insurance line to protect Hawaii's consumers and the insurance industry from the high cost of insurance

fraud.

MEANS:

Add two new sections to article 2 of chapter 431, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), amend section 386-98, HRS, and repeal sections 431:10C-307.7 and 431:10C-307.8, HRS.

JUSTIFICATION:

In 1997, the Legislature found it necessary to protect Hawaii's citizens from the growing cost of motor vehicle insurance fraud, and enacted Act 251, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997. Among other things, Act 251 established the insurance fraud investigations unit in the insurance division and gave it the powers to address motor vehicle insurance fraud.

Presently, the insurance fraud investigations unit's authority to investigate and prosecute remains limited to motor vehicle insurance matters. As a result, though the Legislature enacted section 386-98, creating insurance fraud penalties for the workers' compensation line of insurance, little or no investigation or prosecution has occurred in this area.

This bill provides the insurance fraud investigations unit with the authority and



tools it needs to investigate and prosecute insurance fraud relating to workers' compensation insurance, in addition to its authority relating to motor vehicle insurance. The bill accomplishes this by: (1) repealing section 431:10C-307.8, which established the insurance fraud investigations unit in the motor vehicle article of the insurance code; (2) reestablishing the unit through a new section in article 2, chapter 431, with language specifying the unit's authority to conduct a statewide program for prevention, investigation, and prosecution of insurance fraud cases and violations arising from article 10C (relating to motor vehicle insurance) and chapter 386 (relating to workers' compensation insurance); (3) repealing section 431:10C-307.7, which establishes the offense of insurance fraud and penalties for insurance fraud violations; and (4) re-establishing the provisions of section 431:10C-307.7 in article 2, chapter 431.

The bill amends section 386-98 (relating to workers' compensation insurance fraud) by:
(1) adding a new subsection authorizing the insurance fraud investigations unit to initiate investigations, prosecutions, and disciplinary and administrative actions to enforce the section; and (2) conforming the language of this section with the insurance fraud language in article 2, chapter 431, HRS.

Finally, the bill authorizes funding for the insurance fraud investigations unit from the compliance resolution fund and mandates that moneys recovered by the unit from insurance fraud be deposited into the fund. This includes all civil, criminal, and administrative fines and settlements, but not moneys paid for restitution. This will allow the insurance fraud investigations unit to help fund some of its cost in preventing, investigating, and prosecuting



insurance fraud.

Impact on the public: There should be a positive impact on the public as the insurance division will be allowed to address insurance fraud in the workers' compensation line of insurance in addition to the motor vehicle line of insurance. Policyholders will save money from the reduction of fraudulent claims and policies.

Impact on the department and other agencies: This bill will have the positive effect of lessening the workload of other state law enforcement agencies by allowing the insurance fraud investigations branch to take action in preventing, investigating, and prosecuting insurance fraud in both motor vehicle and workers' compensation lines of insurance. With the passage of this bill a more comprehensive approach can be taken to deter perpetrators of insurance fraud. No additional staffing is being requested with the initial passage of this bill. The insurance division will evaluate additional staffing needs at a future date, should it be determined that additional staffing may result in greater prevention and deterrence in stopping insurance fraud.

GENERAL FUND:

None.

OTHER FUNDS:

None.

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION:

CCA-106.

OTHER AFFECTED

AGENCIES:

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Disability Compensation Division; Department of the Attorney General; and Department of Human Resources Development.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

July 1, 2007.