



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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NELSON B. BEFITEL, DIRECTOR  
COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
Phone: (808) 586-8844  
Fax: (808) 586-9099

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**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO HOLD  
EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR ON NEW WORKERS' COMPENSATION RULES**

The Educational Seminar is free to the public and will cover the new  
Hearings Process and Medical Treatment Guidelines

HONOLULU - In its continuing effort to reform Hawaii's workers' compensation system, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) will hold a free educational seminar on Thursday, June 23, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 321 at the Princess Keelikolani Building, 830 Punchbowl Street. The half-day seminar will provide employees, employers and the workers' compensation community the opportunity to learn more about the new administrative rules recently signed by Governor Linda Lingle, marking the most significant reform to Hawaii's workers' compensation system in a decade.

The new rules address two areas, the hearings and resolution of claims process and the treatment of injured workers. The new rules help modernize the workers' compensation hearings and claims resolution process to bring transparency, predictability, and accountability. The rules also help ensure that injured workers are being treated based on the most current medical "best practices" by requiring the use of the ODG Treatment in Workers' Comp Guidelines designed for medical providers, injured workers and the workers' compensation

community. The rules also allow medical providers the flexibility to treat an injured worker more extensively than what the ODG guidelines may indicate, provided there is an objective justification based on evidence-based medicine.

The seminar is sponsored by the DLIR with Stephen Demeter, MD, and Robert Sussman, MD, providing a presentation on the medical portion of the program, including an overview of the ODG guidelines, "evidence based medicine", and a step-by-step process to utilize the ODG guidelines. Dr. Demeter currently serves as the Director of Disability Evaluations and IME's at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii. He is nationally recognized in the area of occupational medicine. He has treated injured workers in Ohio, Arizona and Hawaii, and authored numerous publications, including the American Medical Association's reference to Disability Evaluation (2nd Ed). Dr. Sussman currently serves as the medical director at The Medical Corner, specializing in family and occupational medicine. He is licensed in Pennsylvania and Hawaii, and has treated injured workers in Hawaii's workers' compensation system since 1987.

"This seminar is part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration's emphasis to improve the workers' compensation system and provide more educational and outreach programs to employees, employers, medical providers and insurers. It is a great opportunity to learn about our new rules and how they will improve our workers' compensation system," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. "We are very pleased to have two well-respected medical doctors assist our efforts in educating Hawaii's workers' compensation community on how the new treatment guidelines will benefit injured workers, while providing a more efficient workers' compensation system."

To register or for more information on the seminar, please visit

[www.hawaii.gov/labor/wcFlyer.shtml](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor/wcFlyer.shtml).

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For more information, contact:  
James P. Hardway  
Assistant to the Director  
Phone: (808) 586-8845  
Fax: (808) 586-9099