

HOISTING MACHINE OPERATOR'S ADVISORY BOARD

- Purpose** The Hawaii State Legislature created the Hoisting Machine Operators' Advisory Board for the purpose of assuring the safe operation of cranes and hoisting machines by establishing a certification program for operators as well as to advise the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.
- Governance** Established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1998 through Act 165, the Hoisting Machine Operator's Advisory Board is governed by a five member executive board appointed by the Governor. The board has held meetings since May 1999 and its proposed administrative rules were adopted on November 26, 2002.
- Funding** The Hoisting Machine Operators' Certification Revolving Fund was established in 1998 to support the process for certifying hoisting machine operators. The fund is used to cover personnel and operating expenses for the advisory board to oversee certification standards that meet nationwide standards; the cost of preparing and disseminating information on hoisting machine operators' certification and training; and annual reports on the program's accomplishments. The reimbursable sum of \$50,000 in start-up moneys was appropriated out of the general fund for FY1998-99. The program has been supported by the Occupational Safety and Health Training and Assistance Special Fund since FY1999-00. The fund is now self-supporting.

Administrative Rules

A certificate is required to operate a hoisting machine under the administrative rules. The certification process includes a written and practical exam, a physical examination and requires a thousand hours of crane related experience as well as other documentation. This program is mandated to secure and document requirements from hoisting machine operators to ensure public and worker safety by requiring a strict certification process.

The certification costs each individual a non-

refundable \$50.00 application fee and \$500.00 for the certificate. Certificates are valid for five years and the renewals will cost \$500.00. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the costs are borne by the users and not the taxpayers, and that the costs for each individual operator is affordable.

The hoisting machine operator training is an integral part of an overall certification process. Worker and public safety is enhanced with effective training. The certification process ensures a minimum competency level for operators and provides assurance to employers that the crane operators they employ have received appropriate training. This process benefits workers, their employers and the public.

Certification

As of September 30, 2004, the Department of Labor has certified four hundred thirty nine (439) crane operators statewide and deposited \$209,860.00 in collected certification fees.