

HOISTING MACHINE **OPERATORS'** **ADVISORY BOARD**

PURPOSE

The Hawaii State Legislature created the Hoisting Machine Operators' Advisory Board for the purpose of assuring the safe operation of hoisting machines in the State of Hawaii by establishing a certification program for operators. The Board is administratively attached to the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for the purpose of developing rules for the certification of hoisting machine operators.

GOVERNANCE

Established by the Hawaii State Legislature in 1998 through Act 165, the Hoisting Machine Operators' Advisory Board is composed of five members appointed by the Governor. The advisory board began meeting in May 1999 and promulgated administrative rules that became effective December 6, 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 that certification standards meet nationwide standards for hoisting machines; the cost of preparing and disseminating information on hoisting machine operators' certification and training; and annual reports on the program's accomplishments. The reimbursed sum of \$50,000 in start-up moneys was appropriated out of the general fund for FY1998-99. Although the program is now self-supporting, it has been supported by the Occupational Safety and Health Training and Assistance Special Fund since 1999.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Under the Hawaii Administrative Rules, a hoisting machine operator certificate is required to operate any hoisting machine in the State of Hawaii with a lifting capacity of more than five tons and performing construction work. The certification process includes a written and practical exam and a current physical examination certificate. This certification program ensures public and worker safety by requiring operators to document training, experience and physical capacities before being certified to a hoisting machine in the State of Hawaii.

The certification process requires a prospective hoisting machine operator to submit an application along with a non-refundable \$50.00 application fee. Once approved, the applicant must pay a \$500.00 certification fee for a five-year certificate. There is a renewal fee of \$500.00. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the costs of this program are borne by hoisting machine operators and not the taxpayers. The Board established fees considered affordable to the individual hoisting machine operator.

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

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations has certified five hundred forty four (544) crane operators statewide and deposited \$261,340.00 in collected certification fees.