

# LIRAB Annual Report

## Fiscal Year 2019

### *Overview*

The Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB) is a quasi-judicial agency that is attached to the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) for administrative and budgetary purposes only. LIRAB adjudicates appeals from decisions rendered by the Director of Labor & Industrial Relations (Director) via the Disability Compensation Division relating to workers' compensation matters (Chapter 386, Hawaii Revised Statutes) and decisions rendered by the Director relating to the Boiler and Elevator Safety Law (Chapter 397, Hawaii Revised Statutes). Proceedings before LIRAB are subject to Chapter 91 of the Hawaii Administrative Procedures Act and other applicable administrative rules and laws.

### *Program Objective*

LIRAB's program objective is to provide prompt, just and efficient adjudication of appeals from decisions of the Director of Labor & Industrial Relations relating to Workers' Compensation and Boiler and Elevator Safety.

### *LIRAB Members*

LIRAB comprises two Board Members and one Chairperson who are appointed by the Governor of the State of Hawaii and confirmed by the Hawaii State Senate. The Chairperson is required by law to be an attorney licensed to practice in all of the courts of this State.

### *LIRAB Staff*

The three-member Board is supported by a staff of 8: Executive Officer, Hearings Officer, two Staff Attorneys, Researcher, Chief Clerk, Secretary, and Office Assistant.

### *LIRAB ACTIVITIES for FY 2019*

<b>Workers' Compensation Cases</b>	
New LIRAB appeals received in FY 2019	291
Cases disposed of or closed by settlement, dismissal, Decision and Order, or other means in FY 2019	348
Cases pending as of June 30, 2019	377

Pre-hearing conferences (initial, settlement and status conferences) held in FY 2019	717
Motions/Orders to Show Cause /Oral Arguments heard in FY 2019	168
Trials held in FY 2019	68
Percentage of appeals resolved within 15 months of receipt in FY 2019	72%
Percentage of appellate court appeals upheld in FY 2019	100%
Number of cases awaiting written decision and order in FY 2019	53
<b>Boiler &amp; Elevator Safety Cases</b>	
Cases pending as of June 2019	0
New appeals filed during FY 2019	0

*LIRAB FY 2019 Highlights*

- LIRAB continues to successfully implement and maintain its electronic document management system to scan and index paper case files on appeal as part of its goal to move to a digitized and paperless office.
- LIRAB, in partnership with DLIR-Disability Compensation Division, is implementing a multi-year modernization project to automate the State's workers' compensation system and digitize all case files, forms, and records. Testing of the new system is set to begin in a few months.
- LIRAB's budget request was approved by the 2018-19 legislature for a second staff attorney position. LIRAB is in the process of recruitment for this position. The additional legal position should help LIRAB settle more cases, facilitate the appeals process involving self-represented litigants, and decrease the wait time for written decisions.

