



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**LABOR DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES IN
COMPLYING WITH NEW LICENSING LAW FOR CRANE OPERATORS**

HONOLULU – The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) in partnership with the General Contractor's Association (GCA) will sponsor a 4-day training program that will prepare crane operators for the State's new licensing exam. DLIR has hired The Crane School, a Florida-based company, to provide the training on June 2, to June 5, 2003. DLIR will pay a portion of the training, with each participant paying \$195.00 to attend. The training site and support staff will be provided by GCA.

Last year, the prior Administration enacted new rules requiring operators of a large crane or hoisting machine to be certified by DLIR's HIOSH division. The employee's costs to go through the training and certification requirement are generally paid by the employer. "We found the new certification requirement to be cost-prohibitive, especially on small businesses," said Nelson Befitel, DLIR Director. "There were

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very few companies providing certification courses in Hawaii, and they were charging about at least \$1,000 per person. Therefore, we wanted to address the need of small businesses by making an affordable training program available in Hawaii.

"This is an excellent example of how our department's HIOSH division will take the necessary steps to help Hawaii's small businesses in complying with HIOSH regulations aimed at making Hawaii's workplaces safer."

The Legislature in 1998 passed a law requiring hoisting machine or crane operators to obtain a certification issued by DLIR. However, the administrative rules setting forth the licensing procedures and requirement were not completed until late last year.

The new requirement will likely affect more than 600 crane operators employed by private companies and the state and county governments. However, crane operators of most the large construction companies have already gone through the certification process. Therefore, DLIR does not believe this new certification rule will halt existing construction projects. "We will enforce the law by stepping up our enforcement efforts in this area," said Befitel. "However, before we take that step, we want to first help the business community comply with the new rule."

The training class is scheduled for June 2 through June 5, 2003 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Radisson Prince Kuhio Hotel, 2500 Kuhio Avenue. The cost is \$195/per person. Seating is limited to 100, so interested persons should contact Pam Anzai of the GCA at 839-4167 as soon as possible. This 4-day class is to help operators pass the certification examination.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.dlir.state.hi.us or can be requested by calling (808) 586-9100.

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Hoisting Certification Fact Sheet

What: The State of Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) and the General Contractor's Association to provide 4-day training session to help Hawaii's crane operators to prepare for the State's new licensing or certification exam.

Where: Radisson Prince Kuhio Hotel, 2500 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii.

When: June 2, 2003 to June 5, 2003.

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cost: \$195 per person

Why: In 1998, the Legislature passed a new law requiring operators of large cranes or hoisting machines to obtain certification issued by DLIR. The legislative act also created a Hoisting Machine Operators Board. Last year, the Board passed administrative rules outlining the licensing requirements and procedures.

These rules are the product of legislation passed in 1998, establishing the State's Hoisting Machine Operators Advisory Board to address concerns of public and worker safety in crane operations.