



Testimony to the House Labor & Public Employment Committee
January 31, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 309

RE: HB 208, Relating to Labor

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Holt and members of the committee:

We are John Knorek and Cara Heilmann, the Legislative Committee co-chairs for the Society for Human Resource Management – Hawaii Chapter (“SHRM Hawaii”). SHRM Hawaii represents nearly 800 human resource professionals in the State of Hawaii.

We are writing to respectfully oppose HB 208, relating to labor. This bill authorizes the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations or the Director's designee to issue and serve on an employer a stop-work order prohibiting the use of employee labor by the employer until the employer complies with the provisions of section 386-121, Hawaii Revised Statutes. It establishes penalties, enforcement, and protest procedure related to stop-work orders. We believe that this measure is unnecessary in light of existing employer penalties and would also tend to negatively affect consumers in the event of a shut down.

Human resource professionals are attuned to the needs of employers and employees. We are the frontline professionals responsible for businesses’ most valuable asset: human capital. We truly have our employers’ and employees’ interests at heart. We will continue to review this bill and, if it advances, request to be a part of the dialogue concerning it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

