



Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor
February 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 16

RE: SB 857 Relating to Workers' Compensation

Aloha members of the Committee:

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

We are writing to respectfully **oppose** SB 857, which establishes that employers shall pay all workers compensation claims for compensable injuries and shall not deny claims without reasonable cause or during a pending investigation. It establishes that employers shall notify providers of service of any billing disagreements and allows providers to charge an additional rate to employers who fail to adhere to the notification requirements. It also establishes resolution procedures for employers and providers who have a reasonable disagreement over liability for services provided an injured worker. We believe that this bill unfairly tips the equitable balance of employer and employee perspectives and will likely tend to increase costs.

Human resource professionals are keenly attuned to the needs of employers and employees. We are the frontline professionals responsible for businesses' most valuable asset: human capital. 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.

