

Testimony to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Labor and Commerce, Consumer Protection& Health February 10, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 16

RE: SB 253 Relating to Workers' Compensation

Aloha members of the Committees:

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 253, which requires, among other things, independent medical examinations and permanent impairment rating examinations for workers' compensation claims to be performed by physicians mutually agreed upon by employers and employees or appointed by the director of labor and industrial relations. 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.

