



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health  
Friday, February 6, 2015  
2:30 P.M.  
State Capitol - Conference Room 414

RE: SENATE BILL 1174; RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the committees:

We are Melissa Pannell and John Knorek, the Legislative Committee co-chairs for the Society for Human Resource Management – Hawaii Chapter (“SHRM Hawaii”). SHRM Hawaii represents nearly 1,000 human resource professionals in the State of Hawaii.

We are writing to respectfully oppose HB 1174, which provides that a qualified physician shall conduct independent medical examinations and permanent impairment rating examinations. These physicians shall be selected by the mutual agreement of the parties involved. The measure further provides a process for appointment in the event that there is no mutual agreement. We believe that this process is logistically problematic.

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 truly have our employers' and employees' interests at heart. Furthermore, we respectfully oppose this measure for the potential strain that these prescribed policies may place on the employee/employer relationship.

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.

