



Testimony to the House Committee on  
Consumer Protection and Health  
March 21, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol - Conference Room 325

RE: SB 2961, HD1, Relating to Family Leave

Aloha members of the committees:

I am John Knorek, the Legislative Committee chair 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 2961, HD1, which establishes a family leave insurance program, requires employees to make contributions into a trust fund to be used to provide employees with family leave insurance benefits in order to care for a designated person and appropriates funds to DLIR to implement the program.

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 respectfully oppose this measure because of the implementation challenges and administrative burden it would impose, and for the potential of unintended conflict with other leave laws. We recognize that some of the changes made to it have been a step toward addressing our concerns about expanding existing leave laws to smaller employers. 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.

