



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

RE: HB 978, Relating to Workers' Compensation

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 978, relating to workers' compensation. This bill allows an employee to have a chaperone present and use a recording device during the medical examination relating to a work injury under workers' compensation. It seeks to clarify that the employee's right to have a physician or surgeon present at the medical examination applies to the right to have a duly qualified physician or duly qualified surgeon present and defines "duly qualified physician" and "duly qualified surgeon". We believe that these provisions, while appearing well intended, may tend to undermine the balance of interests inherent in workers' compensation matters.

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.

