

TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: HB 2111 Relating to Long-Term Care Ombudsman

HEARING: 9:00 am Wednesday January 23, 2008
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Expands the long-term care ombudsman program by adding three additional ombudsman positions, one for each neighboring county.

POSITION: PABEA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED HB 2289.

RATIONALE:

I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board. I am also a professor of medical sociology at UH-Manoa who has worked with elderly services in Hawaii for more than 20 years.

- While many facilities provide excellent care, unfortunately there are also instances where there are shortcomings and where the Ombudsman's office is needed to negotiate the needed improvements.

§ The neighbor islands need the same level of protection as do residents of Oahu. In fall 2006, members of the Policy Board for Elder Affairs conducted community forums throughout the state to hear about issues from family caregivers and providers of services for our elderly citizens. On numerous occasions, we heard complaints about inadequate oversight of facilities on the neighbor islands.

§ The Ombudsman's office has developed a volunteer program to assist with providing the needed visits to facilities. Unfortunately, the volunteer program has not succeeded on the neighbor islands. It is apparent that there needs to be professional staff for this important work and to coordinate any qualified volunteers.



The proposed bill would appropriate funds to assure staffing of the Ombudsman's office on the neighbor island in order to meet the federal requirements for visits to facilities and assure the care and safety of residents of long-term care facilities.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



For Wed, Jan 23rd 9:00 am
House HLT/HSH committee
Deliver 5 copies to rm 436

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

January 21, 2008

TO: Representative Josh Green, Chair
Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
And members of the House Health and Human Services and Housing Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii

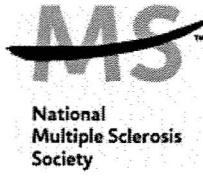
RE: HB 2289 Relating to Long-Term Care Ombudsman- **SUPPORT**
HB 2111 Relating to Long-Term Care Ombudsman- **SUPPORT**

Chair Green, Chair Shimabukuro and members of the House Health and Human Services and Housing Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii (NASW). I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of both HB 2289 and HB 2111 to expand the long-term care ombudsman program to each of the neighbor islands.

In 2007, the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman was established within the Executive Office on Aging. However, only 1 Ombudsman position was created leaving neighbor island residents without the same access to services provided by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program. Furthermore, federal standards developed by the Administration on Aging (AOA) recommends **at a minimum** 1 ombudsman per 2,000 beds. (See Institute of Medicine's 1995 report, *"Real People Real Problems: An Evaluation of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs of the Older Americans Act."*) With a total of 8,606 long-term care residents, that means Hawaii needs 4 ombudsmen to meet the minimum standard.

With the increasing population of elderly in the community, we need to establish a long-term care ombudsman on the other islands to ensure their safety in nursing homes, care homes and community foster homes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of HB 2289 and HB 2111.



All America Chapter - Hawaii Division
418 Kuwili Street, #105
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Phone: 808- 532-0806
Fax: 808-532-0814

To: Representative Josh Green, MD, Chair
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Maile SL Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

From: Lyn Moku, Division Manager Phone: 532-0806

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Subject: **Support of HB 2111 RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN**

The National MS Society supports HB 2111 Relating to Long-Term Care Ombudsman, which expands the long-term care ombudsman program by adding three additional ombudsman positions, one for each neighboring county. As the aging population in Hawaii increases and more people access long-term care services, or find themselves without resources in their communities, the need for additional full-time ombudsman positions in each county becomes critically important.

People living on Neighbor Islands do not have access to many of the health care and community resources that we have on Oahu. At a recent meeting I attended, we were reminded by a Neighbor Island advocate that, "we need to provide the same (opportunities) to everyone, and that we do not live in the State of Oahu...we live in the State of Hawaii." This statement can be applied to almost everything we do to help people in need. The National MS Society does not consider access to health care, long-term care services, elder/patient rights and benefits, and prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation "opportunities." We consider them basic rights for everyone, of every age.

The role and responsibilities of the ombudsman are clearly defined. The task is monumental and cannot be accomplished by one person. Having an ombudsman in each county would provide a much needed service to people throughout the State.

We support establishing procedures for appropriate access by the ombudsman to long-term care facilities, and to resident records to evaluate specific complaint(s) without written consent of the resident or the resident's legal representative. A resident with cognitive problems, or his/her legal representative, may not realize or know if the care recipient is being or has been abused, neglected or exploited. I have spoken to family members who have been denied visitation for any or no reason, and who expressed concern of neglect with the care provider and physician. They may not know if their concerns are valid but want to find out. They don't know what to do or who to contact for help. They fear retaliation against their loved ones from the care provider. Allowing the ombudsman to access the information and facilities is in the best interest of the resident.

We support the terms and conditions of HB 2111 and ask you to vote in favor of this Bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this Bill.

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**To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice-Chair**

**House Committee on Human Services & Housing
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair**

**Date: January 23, 2008
Conference Room 329
9:00 am**

Re: HB2111 RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ed Thompson and I am the Associate State Director for Advocacy for AARP Hawaii. We are a membership organization for people 50 and older with 156,000 members in Hawaii. AARP provides access to services and information, meaningful volunteer opportunities, and the opportunity for our members to create positive change in their lives.

AARP supports the intent of HB2111.

Neighbor Island residents pay the same federal and state taxes as Oahu yet they don't have the same access to services provided by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. A regional ombudsman better serves their local community because they know the local culture and can respond quickly to complaints and concerns.

We need to meet the needs of Hawaii's long term care residents and meet our federal mandate with adequate staffing and funding.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill.

Testimony of Kevin Wong to the:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

Submitted to the COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair – Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair
Rep. Karen Leinani Awana – Rep. Karl Rhoads
Rep. Della Au Belatti – Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Rep. Joe Bertram, III – Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla – Rep. Gene Ward, Ph.D.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair – Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Rep. Karen Leinani Awana – Rep. Josh Green, M.D.
Rep. Della Au Belatti – Rep. John Mizuno
Rep. Joe Bertram, III – Rep. James Kunane Tokioka
Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla – Rep. Gene Ward, Ph.D.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON HB2111

Wednesday, January 23, 2008
9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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To: Chairpersons Rep. Josh Green and Rep. Maile Shimabukuro; to Vice Chairs Rep. Karl Rhoads, and Rep. John Mizuno and all committee members listed above:

Re: HB2111 (A Bill for an Act)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a citizen of State of Hawaii referencing my perspective on my family's and our support favoring bill HB2111.

Purpose for my testimony:

I am here today as a citizen, constituent, and as the spokesperson for a family in Hawaii (and we could represent any family in Hawaii) experiencing first hand the difficulty and legalities of obtaining long term health and care advice for a loved one. Our situation is no different from thousands of families in Hawaii have or will be experiencing eventually if not already.

My father is currently in a nursing facility but to get him there for his own safety, our safety, for his health, and our health, was an arduous and heartbreaking task. My testimony is being given

to ask the Legislature of Hawaii to support bill HB2111 for without the Long-Term care ombudsman's advice and support, and for what his office brings to the citizens of this state, things may have taken a different path.

Fact of Living

We all will eventually grow old and die. We each come into the world with families. . . mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunties, and in Hawaii, a huge extended family of friends and relatives, all of whom love us as infants. We are loved without boundaries and are looked at with hope and expectation. Nonetheless, as we all get older, the dignity we once had in our lives, leaves us when our twilight years settle in. We are left old, wrinkled, decrepit, and often senile and empty shells of the person we once were.

Look at us now, look at your neighbor, your friends, your spouse, your children. For the most part, we are in the prime of our lives; our faculties are intact, our objectives and goals well laid out, and our loved ones holding our hands as we make a living and a difference to all we meet. Yet, as the sun sets in our lives, there is only one outcome, death. Death will come quietly (we hope) to each one of us.

For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part

My in-law have been married 60 years and for almost 100% of the time, these vows were upheld. Come March, both of them will be 84 years old. Both have gone through various sicknesses and financial circumstances and have loved one another still, to this day.

What's the difference in these wedding vows?

My father-in-law has been diagnosed with dementia - frontal lobe dementia, and because of a stroke, he is now experiencing psychosis. Is he the same person we knew 5, 10, 25 or 50 years ago? While we can leave this discussion to spiritualists and religion experts, our eyes and ears tell us 'no,' though our hearts tell us 'yes.' Senility will strike each of us differently. Some will be gentle and quiet, other's demanding and aggressive, but as with all things memories fade with each year. Who and what we once were will be replaced by who and what we are now. This is the truth my family has come to face to face with over the past few months. It is a hard truth to swallow and for every family, the beautiful moments and memories of the past are often overwhelmed with what's happening with our lives day to day.

My father in law was a tough person. He was strict with his family, a perfectionist, a hard worker, played hard, and lived a life most of us would not be able to keep up with, step for step. As someone once told us, if he was in his right frame of mind, would he want his family to see him this way? Would he want his family and loved ones to go through the difficulty of supporting and caring for him? We all, in our right minds, would say, "no."

Long Term Care

With my mother-in-law's age and frailty, caring for my father became an issue of health for her. For the past 60 years, she waited on my father without a break. From morning till evening, she cooked, washed, cleaned, ironed, patched, gave medications, and support both physically, financially, and mentally, to my father. After his diagnosis with Alzheimer's and with his

psychosis, her life and life style were in jeopardy. My father is very hard to manage and take care of. His physical health is fine but mentally, he became dangerous to himself and others. At this particular juncture in our lives, we also, could not care for him. The alternative? Long-Term care . . .

My father in law was an outdoorsman. He used to hike (by himself) along all ridge trails in Hawaii for literally days at a time. For example, we often would drop him off in Hawaii Kai and pick him up in Haleiwa. His backpack was as large as he was and very, very heavy. He traversed almost all the islands by himself reading maps, crossing ravines, streams, braving storms, camping out, and sometimes living off the land by fishing. In his younger years, he would jokingly tell us to leave him in the woods when he became senile and he would get lost and be out of our lives.

Can we leave him in the woods? No, absolutely not. Yet, do we as a family feel as if we abandoned my father. Yes, we do. Do we feel guilty? Yes we do. Can we financially or physically do anything to help? At this time, no. This feeling of guilt, helplessness and of being pushed into a corner with little alternatives is and will always be prevalent in our thoughts and actions.

Healthcare in Hawaii

First off, we would like to commend the Healthcare professionals in the community. They have an extremely hard job of servicing, caring, and supporting our growing populace of older citizens. As citizens of the State of Hawaii and of the United States of America, there is no better health system than ours. We are in the debt to both the State of Hawaii and her people, and to the United States of America and citizenry, for their foresight in planning for Long Term care.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman

We spoke to many people from all different segments of the Long-Term care community from Long Term Care advocacy groups, Alzheimer's Association, Case Management companies for foster care residences, hospitals, various nursing facility administrators, care homes, social workers, nurses, attorneys and even government officials. We found everyone helpful, kind, and supportive . . . yet all the advice we received from various agencies were different and often at odds with one another. The advice was different in how medicaid would be paid, length of care, level of care, cost of care, and who would be able to care for my father. There did not seem to be any cohesiveness in what was told to us. Each agency was an expert in doing things their own way and with their own interpretation of the laws governing Long Term care.

Finally, through Eldercare Hawaii, we learned we could speak to the Ombudsman of Long Term care. We did so and luckily we did. He was able to direct us legally what our rights were and the immediate issues we were facing of my father's displacement were quickly nullified. The Ombudsman helped us with finding out our rights, what was legal, what was not, and what a nursing or case management company could do and would do if they abided by the law.

My father is currently staying at a nursing facility we are very pleased with. We drop by to see him a few times a week to sit with him and talk (be) with him.

Without the Long-Term care Ombudsman, we would have been without a question, in physical and mental harm. We are fortunate we live on Oahu and have direct access to the Long Term Care Ombudsman. After speaking with the Office on Long Term care and with the Ombudsman, we were able to amenablely, peacefully and legally reconcile our needs with the Long-Term care facility. All this with just a phone call and a meeting with the office to review what was and was not acceptable accordingly to the law. The misconceptions and weighted advice we had received prior to our meeting with the Long-Term care ombudsman, vanished over night. The law and legalities of Long-Term care were made clear to both ourselves and the facility(s) we are in communication with.

With the growing population of older people across the state of Hawaii, the citizenry needs to have the information and the means to understand the legalities of the law as it pertains to Long-Term health provisions. Our Healthcare professionals, do an awesome job but government officials or lawyers they are not. The rules governing Long Term Care may be black and white, still, in many aspects, these laws are open to interpretation in seemingly unpretentious ways as different philosophies and business paradigms affect each nursing facility, care home, residence care homes, and case management companies differently.

Lastly, yes . . . I've heard the urban tales of older folks, locked up into their homes, hard earned assets being squandered away or stolen, and even of lost old people. If nothing else, as we get older, it is this my hope we pass on to the next plane of existence with dignity and with the loving memories of our successes and achievements held in esteem by the younger generation; not the memories of old age and the undignified passing and relief with that passing of a family or filial problem.

Support of Bill HB2111

I give my testimony on behalf of my family and myself, we are in full support of having the State of Hawaii support Bill HB2111 and the revised statutes Section 349-21 to "...establish the office of the long-term care ombudsman in executive office on aging to protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents of long-term care facilities in accordance with state and federal law. The office of the long-term care ombudsman shall be headed by the long-term care ombudsman with the assistance of three local long-term care ombudsmen, one situated in the county of Hawaii, one situated in the county of Kauai, and one situated in the county of Maui.

In this regards, the Office of Long Term Care is vital to the welfare and health of ALL citizens of Hawaii. One person, overseeing three other ombudsman for the state of Hawaii, across all counties, is a preponderant task best served by the amending of Bill HB2111. We hereby give our support to this bill knowing full and well, the help and advice given by the Long-Term care ombudsman and the Office of Long Term care, was vital to us as a family and as it undoubtedly will be for thousands of families across these beautiful islands we call home.

TESTIMONY BY JIM SHON

SUBMITTED: January 21, 2008 via email

TO:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 23, 2008

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE:

<u>HB 2289</u>	RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN. Expands the long-term care ombudsman program by adding three additional ombudsman positions, one for each neighboring county.	HLT/HSH, FIN
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<u>HB 2111</u>	RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN. Expands the long-term care ombudsman program by adding three additional ombudsman positions, one for each neighboring county.	HLT/HSH, JUD, FIN
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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THESE BILLS,

Hawaii's approach to Long Term Care relies heavily on the private sector for services. In order to assure that there is even a minimum of consumer protection and adequate standards of care, we must invest in a well-funded Ombudsman. Frankly, I would double the number of positions. With the inadequate reimbursements seen for Medicaid clients, individuals are bounced from one facility to another, always at the whim of operators who are seeking the higher reimbursements of private pay residents.

Failure to adequately invest in quality control will have a negative impact on the lives of our most vulnerable *kupuna*. We can do no less.

Mahalo.

May Mizuno

From: BJsReverie@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2008 11:55 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB 2111

- Testifier's name with position/title and organization:

Lynn Y. Muramaru, LSW, CCM

Licensed Social Worker, Certified Case Manager, Concerned Citizen

- The Committee the comments are directed to;

Committee on Health

- The date and time of the hearing;

Wednesday January 23, 2008

9:00 A.M.

- Measure number;

HB 2111

- The number of copies the Committee is requesting.

5 copies

Testimony In Favor of HB 2111

My name is Lynn Muramaru and I am a social worker and certified case manager on Oahu with over 25 years of medical social work experience. I urge you to pass HB 2111 because I strongly feel that this bill will do much to benefit residents of long term care facilities in Hawaii .

Over the years I have placed many residents in various long term care facilities, nursing homes, care homes, assisted livings, and RACC foster homes. I was shocked to learn that then RACC foster home residents were not under the LTC Ombudsman's jurisdiction. I was even more appalled to learn that this omission is due to the fact that RACC foster homes are "certified" and the other facilities are "licensed". It is not fair that residents of "licensed" facilities have "Residents' Rights" and foster home residents are denied these rights and the services of the LTC ombudsman due to the language of the law. I have heard the concerns

of many foster home residents and their families. I have directed them to the DHS employees who are assigned to hear their complaints but are not neutral advocates for these residents. The case managers who are contracted with the State to service the foster homes are private businesses and often are not effectively able to advocate for their residents. All foster home residents require nursing home level (skilled nursing or intermediate care level) care and many are frail elderly. There is no one for them to turn to, no one to be a voice for them. They need and deserve to have the services of the Long Term Care Ombudsman available to them.

Please pass HB 2111 to correct this horrible injustice and to increase the staffing of the LTC Ombudsman's office so that they will be adequately staffed to service the growing number of adults residing in long term care facilities in Hawaii. The addition of 3 staff members will help the LTC Ombudsman's office service the 1,520 residents who reside in about 760 foster homes.

Submitted by:

Lynn Muramaru, LSW, CCM

92-960 Hunekai Place

Kapolei, HI 96707

Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape in the new year.

House Committee on Health
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

H.B. 2111 Relating to Long Term care Ombudsman
Conference Room 329, 9:00 a.m.
January 23, 2008

*Testimony of **Michael A. Ragsdale, RN, JD.***
Attorney, Davis Levin Livingston
(Former State Long Term Care Ombudsman)
In support of HB 2111

I am writing in **support of proposed H.B. 2111** which "expands the LTCOP by adding three additional ombudsman positions, one for each neighboring county."

I am currently an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Davis Levin Livingston. In addition to being an attorney, I have been a Registered Nurse for the past 22 years and worked in several local hospitals, nursing homes and clinics. Most important to my support of H.B. 2111, I also served as the State Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) from 1993 to 1994 and worked as a Medicare Advocate for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii assisting clients who were denied Medicare. As a result of my experiences in "elder care" and the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, I am very familiar with the program, the federal and state mandates and the people of Hawaii whom the program serves.

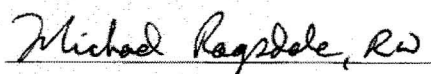
As the State Long Term Care Ombudsman from 1993 to 1994 serving the entire state of Hawaii, I saw first hand the problems of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. It was my responsibility to respond to complaints, mediate solutions and improve the quality of life of Hawaii's elder population. Unfortunately, because there was just one of me, but thousands of elder residences, I never felt that I was able to meet the mandates required by both federal and state law. The need for additional positions to serve the elder people of Hawaii existed back in 1994 when I left the position and the need exists today. In fact, with the aging of our population, the need will only grow as the numbers of Hawaii's elderly residents increases in the coming years.

It is important to point out that Hawaii is a unique state because water separates regions of our state. Having only one State Long Term Care Ombudsman on Oahu serving the entire state of Hawaii is simply inadequate to fully and timely meet the needs of Hawaii's elderly population. This is why I support proposed H.B. 2111.

Giving the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program the resources (additional positions) now will assure that Hawaii's elderly population will be cared for in the future. You and I may not currently fall into the population (elderly) in which the State Long Term Care Ombudsman serves, but we will some day. More importantly your support of H.B. 2111 shows that you care about our elderly population TODAY, even if you and I are currently not directly served by the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

I support H.B. 2111 and I ask that you too support H.B. 2111.

Thank you.



Michael A. Ragsdale, RN, JD

May Mizuno

From: Ruthtutu@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2008 3:02 PM
To: HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: HALND55@aol.com
Subject: HLT/HSB Comm. Hearing Wed 1/23 9.am.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Twenty Fourth Legislature
 Reg. Session 2008

Rm. 329 9. a.m. Jan.. 23,2008

Comm. on Health:
 Rep. Josh Green, M.D. Chr.
 Rep. John Mizuno, V. Chr.

Comm. on Human Services-Housing
 Rep. Maile s. L. Shumabukuro, Chr.
 Rep. Karl Rhoads, V. Chr.

Chairmans Green,Shimabukuro and fellow committee members,

In Full Support of HB 2112, Establish a Task Force on Aging, as well as Full Support of HB2196,Joint
 Legislative Committee on Caregiving; Kupuna Care, Appropriations

We also are in Full Support of HB 2289 and HB 2111 Relating to OMBUDSMAN LTC care issues and addition
 of ombudsman positions on each of the neighbor islands.This has been needed for a long time. FULL
 SUPPORT

Tesitmony submitted by Ruth Dias Willenborg:1015 Aoloa Pl. #360, Kailua, Hi. Ph. 261-1046
 (ruthtutu@aol.com)

(Background info) I have been a member and participant with the Joint Legislative Committee on Caregiving
 from the beginning, as well as the Kupuna Caucus.(I am also a Board member of ALOH(Assisted Living
 Options Hawaii) and their newsletter editor--Aging in Place in NORCs etc. has become one of our more recent
 objectives.(Past association with AARP as Legislative Chair when we were all volunteer committee on many
 LTC issues)

I am now and have been for last 5 years a Spousal Caregiver for husband Harold, now age 74 and
 his biggest health problem is NPH(Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus) and cerebral shunt is not now working
 and condition fatal, but he is still ambulatory. As happens with caregivers, I am myself now "disabled", soon will
 be age 80, having been diagnosed with Emphysema about 3 years ago, with added 24/7 Oxygen now
 (secondhand pollution) and other health problems as well.

For this reason I have not appeared much before the legislature in recent years, but submit testimony via email.
 (By the way, I read recently an accolade for Hawaii as being the only state to have email testimony. I know I
 am grateful for that as well) Most of you on these committees now are not personally known to me, but I
 thought this background of our circumstances and history might be helpful and will not repeat in the future.

I support all of the above Bills. We have been in need of a separate Department on Aging for many years.
 This Department with additional specialized workforce would be helpful in fully implementing Older American
 Act appropriations and join other states who have already done so with many services that are in great need.

The ADRC's and their specific future advantage with the Department of Aging would become a needed Single
 point of Entry role in many senior long-term care issues. With our Boomer population now entering senior
 years who may need LTC services, we must do everything possible to speed up our role of providing more
 needed services to our expanding senior population as quickly as possible.

ALL caregivers are in great need of special services. Those who are elderly and spousal caregivers themselves, are in great need of support and more so as they become in need of services themselves. It is overwhelming and scary to not know where to turn!

Therefor it is imperative that a Special Legislative Committee as described in HB 2196 be formed as soon as possible as well...

All four of these legislative pieces are in great need at the same time! We cannot work fast enough to provide services for our Kupuna and those that care for them.

Mahalo for serving your community,
Ruth Dias Willenborg, 1015 Aoloa Pl. #360, Kalua, Hi. 996734 Ph. 261-1046
Ruthtutu@aol.com

Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape in the new year.

House Committee on Health
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

H.B. 2111 Relating to Long Term care Ombudsman
Conference Room 329, 9:00 a.m.
January 23, 2008

Testimony of Colette V. Browne, Dr.PH
Professor, UH School of Social Work

In support of HB 2111

Thank you, Chairs Green and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Mizuno and Rhoads and members of the joint committees, for providing me with this opportunity to state my support for HB 2111,

My name is Colette Browne, and I am a Professor and Chair of the Gerontology Concentration at the School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I have worked in the field of gerontology for more than 30 years, and for more than 16 hours, I have served as a gubernatorial appointment to the State Executive Office on Aging (EOA), Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs. From both of these positions, I have learned about the State Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) Program, a federally and state funded and mandated program of the EOA whose sole purpose is advocacy on behalf of our State's most frail and vulnerable citizens who reside in licensed nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult residential care homes and expanded ARCHs. This total population in Hawai'i is approximately 8,129 residents in 503 facilities.

H.B. 2111 has my full support. Additional resources will enable the LTCOP to expand to the neighbor islands by adding three additional ombudsman positions, one for each neighboring county. This bill will enable this program to have a "local" or "regional" ombudsman program, thus providing the resources to provide adequate protection and advocacy to our vulnerable elders. According to the National Institute of Medicine's 1995 report, "Real People, Real Problems: An Evaluation of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs of the Older Americans Act, one ombudsman at a minimum is needed per 2,000 residents.

- Hawaii has 1 ombudsman per 4,065 residents.
- National average is 1 ombudsman to 2,208 beds.
- If we include "certified" facilities like foster homes (which this bill does) that will increase the number of residents by 1,520 more residents.

I urge your consideration of this important bill. One case of abuse and neglect surely is too many.

Thank you.

May Mizuno

From: John Tomoso [John.Tomoso@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2008 2:51 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony for H.B. 2111

House Committee on Health
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

House Committee on Human Services and Housing Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

H.B. 2111 Relating to Long Term care Ombudsman Conference Room 329, 9:00 a.m.
January 23, 2008

Testimony of John A. H. Tomoso MSW, ACSW, LSW Maui County Executive on Aging In support of HB 2111

Good morning, Chairs Green and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Mizuno and Rhoads and members of the joint committees,

We understand that the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is both federally and state mandated, receives federal and state funding and is housed in the Executive Office on Aging, an attached agency of the Department of Health.

Per the Older Americans Act of 1965, as reauthorized and amended in 2006, is to serve on a full-time basis and shall, personally or through representatives of the Office, identify, investigate, and resolve complaints that are made by, or on behalf of residents, and relate to action, inaction, or decisions that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare and rights of residents."

As the Area Agency on Aging for Maui County, we advocate for seniors living in licensed nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult residential care homes and expanded ARCHs. That total population in Hawai'i is approximately 8,129 residents in 503 facilities.

We are in support of proposed H.B. 2111 which "expands the LTCOP by adding three additional ombudsman positions, one for each neighboring county."

Hawaii can be proud that it was one of the first state's to pilot the LTCOP back in 1975, three years before it became a federal mandate. Unfortunately we are also the last state to put that federal mandate into state law. Last year's H.B.807 finally officially "established" the LTCOP within the Executive Office on Aging in HRS 349, 21-25 (Part 3). We are now one of only 5 remaining states which still does not have a "local" or "regional" ombudsman program. This bill will finally bring us up to speed with every other state, Puerto Rico, Guam and the District of Columbia. H.B. 2111 will give us, in Maui County a "local" staff professional, which will greatly improve the quality, quantity and "timeliness" of our advocacy for seniors living in institutional and step-down care.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony in favor of H.B. 2111.

- - - - - County of Maui.

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