

Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

AFT Hawaii Retirees

HGEA Retirees

HSTA – Retired

ILWU Retirees

Kokua Council

Machinists Union Retirees

UPW Retirees

ADA/Hawaii

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans
c/o AFSCME · 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(Submitted via email, January 21, 2008, to hlttestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Joint statement of Al Hamai, President, and Carol Nitta, Legislative Committee Member, Supporting HB 2112, Relating to the Task Force on Aging

Joint Hearing by House Committees on Health and Human Services and Housing

January 23, 2008, 9 a.m. Conference Room 329

Chair Josh Green, M.D. and Members of the Health Committee and
Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and Members of the HSH Committee

We are submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA). HARA represents 17,000 retirees, members of the above organizations and individuals. We are a chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA), a national advocacy organization for retirees.

HARA supports HB 2112 and considers the establishment of a Task Force on Aging as a very important step in establishing a Department of Aging in recognition of the fact that the number of senior citizens in our state is growing very rapidly and the state will need a strong, response department to work of senior issues. The state's current Executive Office on Aging does not have the resources nor the clout to deal with aging issues.

One of the speakers of the HARA Convention on January 12, 2008 discussed her experiences while serving as one of several voluntary commissioners, appointed by the Maryland Governor, on the Maryland Department of Aging and how the Department was able to coordinate all aging activities in the state. Judith Cato, Executive Vice President of the Alliance of Retired Americans also pointed out that the Department had sufficient staff and funding to look at the aging issues and take appropriate action and/or recommend appropriate action by the state Legislature.

HARA supports HB 2112 and urges both Committees to approve it. Mahalo.

Ke hana like nei na kupuna i 'oi loa a'e 'o Hawai'i
Senior citizens working together for a better Hawai'i

**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health and Committee on Human Services & Housing**

January 23, 2008 at 9:00am

by

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education &
Interim Dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2112 – RELATING TO THE TASK FORCE ON AGING

Chair Green, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of this measure so long as it does not adversely impact the priorities set by the University in our Board of Regents approved budget request. The University has many needs, most notably repairs and maintenance, maintaining our library collections, and safety and emergency preparedness. Addressing these urgent needs is critical to our ability to perform the functions the state needs us to perform – including the study of aging.

However, we do believe that the objective of developing a Center on Aging is worthwhile. In fact, Chancellor Hinshaw recently charged me with the development of such a center under the auspices of my office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education. This is because our efforts on aging are truly cross-campus and interdisciplinary in nature. We have begun planning a multidisciplinary approach to what we believe will be a critically important facility for the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



**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: HB 2112 RELATING TO THE TASK FORCE ON AGING

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 HB2112.

The population of Hawaii is aging rapidly and there is general consensus that we face a significant challenge to assure appropriate care for the frail elderly. This bill will help to establish a task force on aging to study the need for, feasibility of, and preliminary plans for the consolidation of publicly-funded programs and services that would appropriately fall within the jurisdiction of a new department of aging.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill.

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.