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LATE
Testimony

Committee on Health

Committee on Human Services and Housing

HB 2112, RELATING TO THE TASK FORCE ON AGING

**Testimony of Noemi Pendleton
Director of Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

9:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) appreciates the intent of this
2 measure. We, however, have serious concerns with the measure and respectfully oppose it as
3 written.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** There is an unspecified amount of general funds appropriated for fiscal year
5 2008-2009 to be used by the task force described in this proposal to support its work.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to fund the establishment of a task force to
7 be known as the "task force on the department of aging," which is to be responsible for
8 determining the services and programs that would be under the jurisdiction of a new department of
9 aging. The bill states that "the executive office on aging already coordinates programs and
10 services available to Hawaii's population; however, the scope and magnitude of issues facing the
11 elderly necessitates department level attention. A departmental agency could better focus
12 resources and personnel to address the multi-faceted needs of Hawaii's older population."

1 In order to accomplish what this measure requests, any such task force would need to
2 gather extensive information and data, do an analysis of all programs for the elderly offered by the
3 State by all departments to determine what might be consolidated under the proposed new
4 department, study staff reassignments that would be necessary, determine what programs would
5 be possible to transfer to a newly-organized department, study how other states have structured
6 jurisdiction of elderly programs, study and propose staffing, operational budget, organizational
7 structure and all other items attending to creating a new executive department. It is not possible
8 for EOA to assist in the completion of the required report within the time period proposed by this
9 measure. In addition, EOA is not a voting member of the task force.

10 It is a priority of the Administration to effectively support Hawaii's elder population,
11 which is aging at 2.5 times the national rate. However, creating a new executive department is not
12 necessarily the most appropriate approach.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
Regular Session of 2008

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Health

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Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services & Housing

Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

LATE
Testimony

State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Wednesday, January 23, 2008; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2112
RELATING TO TASK FORCE ON AGING**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2112, which establishes a task force on aging to study the need for and feasibility of establishing a Department of Aging.

A crisis is looming as our aging population increases. Hawaii is not prepared for the huge numbers of those over 65 who will soon be upon us, much less those who are over 80, who will soon be the fastest growing segment of Hawaii's population. As people age, health deteriorates and the need for long-term care and other services increases. The State's resources in the form of taxes will potentially diminish with fewer people in the workforce.

Currently, many agencies and programs address the aging population within state government. These services are scattered and sometimes work at cross-purposes. A Department of Aging may not be the answer, but studying its potential to bring resources and ideas together is worth doing. The task force proposed by H.B. 2112 is intended to do that.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 2112. Thank you for considering our views.