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Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Senate Committee on Public Safety

HB2138 SD 1, RELATING TO CAREGIVER RECOGNITION DAY

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

Thursday, March 13, 2008

1:15 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging supports this bill as this establishes an
2 annual Caregiver Recognition Day on the first Saturday of November.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) believes that caregivers, both
5 formal and informal, are the backbone of our long-term care system. Caregivers in Hawaii should
6 be recognized, supported, and valued by the community. We are pleased that the Legislature
7 chose to designate the month of November to annually recognize caregivers, as November is also
8 designated by the federal government as National Family Caregiver Support Month.

9 EOA is also pleased that the Legislature has such a high regard for caregivers that, in
10 Hawaii, these heroes will be recognized twice a year. Via the passage of S.C.R. No. 204, S.D. 1
11 (2006), the Legislature currently recognizes March as "Caregivers' Month." Last March, the
12 Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition sponsored Caregiver Awareness Day at the Capitol, and this

1 year, the Coalition will be coordinating a Family Caregiver Health and Resource Fair at the
2 Capitol on March 14, 2008.

3 The designation of the 1st Saturday of November as Caregiver Recognition Day embraces
4 the spirit of gratitude and respect that caregivers deserve. Therefore, EOA supports this measure.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

AFT Hawaii Retirees

HGEA Retirees

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans

HSTA – Retired

c/o AFSCME · 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

ILWU Retirees

Kokua Council

Machinists Union Retirees

UPW Retirees

ADA/Hawaii

(Submitted by email to testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov. March 9, 2008)

Joint statement of Al Hamai, President, and Carol Nitta, Legislative Committee Member, Supporting HB 2138, HD1, Caregiver Recognition Day

Hearing of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing and Committee on Public Safety

March 13, 2008, 1:15 p.m. Conference Room o16

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland and Members of the HSP Committee, and Chair Will Espero and Members of the PBS 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.

This bill proposes to establish a state Caregiver Recognition Day on the first Saturday in the month of November. Establishing this Day will help celebrate and show public recognition to the thousands of caregivers who daily provide the essential services for loved ones and/or patients who are unable to perform various activities of daily living. Most of the family caregivers perform their services with love and dedication as a natural extension of their family activities, although their efforts may mean much sacrifice on their personal, professional and social lives.

With our aging population and the probability that more and more people will need caregiver services, this proposal for an annual Hawaii Caregiver Recognition Day is timely and full of merit.

HARA urges the approval of HB 2138, HD1.

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

TO : COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Vice-Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator, Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.
POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)

HEARING: 1:15 pm Thursday, March 13, 2008
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: HB 2138 HD1 RELATING TO CAREGIVER RECOGNITION DAY

PURPOSE: Establishes an annual Caregiver Recognition Day on the first Saturday of November.

POSITION: The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs supports approval of HB 2138 HD 1 which would establish a Caregiver Recognition Day.

RATIONALE:

The Policy Board for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

§ Family caregivers provide informal care for our disabled and frail elderly population without any public recognition or compensation. Their care is the equivalent of millions of dollars to our state. The care often entails financial sacrifices and psychological and physical burdens which compromise their own quality of life and well-being.

§ Because carework is carried out in private, the larger community is unaware of the positive contributions of these persons and unaware of their problems and needs.

§ Establishing a Caregiver Recognition Day will create public visibility to the value of informal caregiving and increase awareness of the need to support family caregivers in this work.

Thank you for the opportunity testify.