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Committee on Health

Committee on Human Services and Housing

HB2138, RELATING TO CAREGIVER RECOGNITION DAY

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

Monday, February 4, 2008

10:45 a.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

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

3 EOA respectfully requests that on page 1, line 11, the word "control" be changed to
4 "assistance" which reads physical assistance. Also, we ask that instead of listing 17 types of care
5 giving facilities and to prevent the possibility of excluding another type of care giving institution,
6 the words " long-term care facilities and community home based institutions" be inserted on page
7 1 of line 17 and delete the list of items #1-17 on pages 1 and 2.

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

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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

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

HEARING: 10:45 am, Monday, February 4, 2008
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

SUBJECT: HB 2138 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 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.

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