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Committee on Human Services and Housing

HB2195, RELATING TO AGING

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

Thursday, January 24, 2008

8:30 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health and the Executive Office on Aging appreciate
2 the intent of HB 2195 to increase funding for KUPUNA CARE to ensure that the needs of older
3 adults and their family caregivers are maintained. We note that the proposed appropriation is
4 outside the Executive supplemental budget.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** \$500,000 of general funds to be appropriated for state fiscal year 2008-
6 2009.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** HB 2195 appropriates increased funding for KUPUNA CARE to
8 ensure that the needs of older adults and their family caregivers are maintained. The proposed
9 appropriation is designed to increase the reach of services such as adult day care, respite care
10 assisted transportation, attendant care, case management chore, home-delivered meals,
11 homemaker, transportation and personal care.

12 EOA respectfully requests the deletion of the sentence on page 2, line 4 – 5 which reads,
13 “Kupuna Care offers a reduced rate for those who can afford to pay only a portion of the service.”
14 This practice previously referred to as “cost share,” was part of the original design in 1999, but

1 was eliminated in 2005. In addition, we ask that the term “donation” on line 6 be replaced with
2 “contribution.” The term “voluntary contributions” would be consistent with the federally funded
3 services also funded in KUPUNA CARE program.

4 It should be noted that Act 204, SLH 2007, already appropriated an additional \$525,000 to EOA
5 for Kupuna Care services in fiscal year 2008-2009.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

January 24, 2008

To: Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Vice-Chair Karl Rhoads
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Representative Barbara Marumoto

Re: HB 2195, RELATING TO AGING

I am submitting written testimony in favor of HB 2195, RELATING TO AGING. I support the efforts of the Legislature to increase funding for care of our elders, and to ensure that the needs of older adults and their family caregivers are maintained.

The proposed appropriation is designed to increase the reach of services such as adult day care, respite care, assisted transportation, attendant care, case management, chores, home-delivered meals, homemaker, transportation and personal care. As such, it enables our elders to maintain their lives at home with their families, without resort to residential care homes.

I support any effort to assist our kupuna and their caregivers and families.

-----Original Message-----

From: John Tomoso [mailto:John.Tomoso@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2008 9:42 AM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of H.B. 2195

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Human Services who are holding a public hearing on H.B. 2195 on Thursday, January 24, 2008, at 8:30 a.m., in Room 329 of our State Capitol:

Aloha kakou,

As the Maui County Executive on Aging, I would like to offer my support of H.B. 2195, that makes an appropriation to increase funding for the Kupuna Care Program administered by the Executive Office on Aging, an attached agency of the Department of Health. Our office, along with the other Area Agencies on Aging in Honolulu and on Kaua'i and the Big Island of Hawai'i, has compiled a list of our Kupuna and Family Caregivers who are "Wait Listed" for Kupuna Care Services. Thus we are all in need of additional state funds for Kupuna Care that will leverage our available federal and, in the case of our jurisdiction, county general revenue funds allocated for services for frail kupuna and their caregivers.

As Hawaii's population ages, many more families will be providing higher levels of long-term care to

frail and disabled older adults in their own homes. Thus, Kupuna Care Program is becoming more important as more older adults want to "age in place". I support H.B. 2195 as the appropriation of more state funds will increase our capacity to serve an increasingly aging and frail kupuna population.

Mahalo a nui,

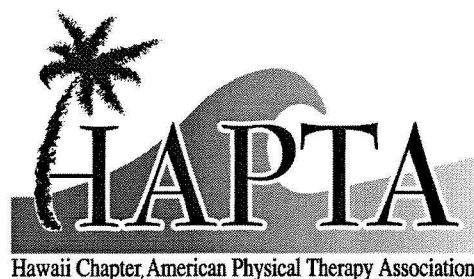
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW
Maui County Executive on Aging
808-270-7350
john.tomoso@mauicounty.gov

County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments
larger than 12 MB, and will block or quarantine
high-risk file types in attachments.

**Testimony by:
Lucy Lessard, PT**

**HB2195, Aging
House HSH Committee
January 24, 2008 - 8:30 am
Conference Room 329**



Position: Support

Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the House HSH Committee:

I am Lucy Lessard, P.T., member of the Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association, and Chair of the Legislative Committee. The Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) is comprised of 300 member physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

HAPTA supports this measure that appropriates funds to continue the Kupuna Care program. Physical therapists have an inherent interest in maintaining the independent function of our elder citizens. It is our society's best interest to keep people functioning in their home and reserve long-term care beds for those who cannot function in their homes, with or without support services. Many of our elders rely on help from family and those outside services to maintain their quality of life in their own or family's homes.

The Kupuna Care program is central to the maintenance of function of those who are not completely independent. This is a program that is increasingly more necessary as our population ages and long-term beds are in acute shortage.

Please support this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

FROM: 
Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2008 (8:30 a.m., Room 329)

RE: **Support of HB 2195, Relating to Aging**

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH), is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 60 years. The Agency has also been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves approximately 5,000 older persons each year. **We strongly support HB 2195, Relating to Aging, which would provide an additional \$500,000 for Kupuna Care and recommend that the funding base for Kupuna Care in the Executive Office on Aging (HTH904) budget be increased by this amount.**

Catholic Charities Hawaii has provided transportation and housekeeping services, both State-funded Kupuna Care Services, for a number of years. In addition, we have been partners with other aging network providers who also provide essential State-funded Kupuna Care Services such as home-delivered meals, case management, bathing service and more.

State-funded Kupuna Care currently funds a set of basic, essential services that help frail elders remain independent and avoid institutionalization or homelessness. In addition, these services support family caregivers who are providing support to frail elderly relatives who still want to maintain their independence but require supportive services, from family and the community, in order to do so.

Some of the challenges that Catholic Charities Hawaii faces in providing State-funded Kupuna Care Services include:

- **Flat or reduced Federal funding** for elderly services.
- **Continued wait list for Housekeeping Services** which means elders who may be at risk of eviction must wait for several months in order to receive services.
- **Increased gas expense** which hampers our ability to provide transportation that enables seniors to access needed services. This particularly impacts our ability to serve rural elders who need to get to medical and other appointments in town.



The Consequences of Not Providing More Funding for State Kupuna Care Services

- **Wait lists will grow.** The longer that elders must wait for service, the greater the risk that their will **lose their ability to live independently in a safe, dignified environment.**
- The **alternative is institutionalization** at a cost of approximately \$7,000 a month per person. **Additional funding of \$500,000 for State Kupuna Care will provide additional services for hundreds of seniors. This same amount could only support about six elders in nursing homes for a year.** The cost of institutional care will eventually be a burden on taxpayers and government since State-funded Kupuna Care program targets those in greatest need.

Catholic Charities Hawaii asks for your support of HB 2195, Relating to Aging. If I can provide any further information, please feel free to contact me via phone at 808-595-5901 or via email at diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org. **Thank you.**

TO : 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 2195 Relating to Aging**

HEARING: 8:30 am Thursday January 24, 2008
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Makes and appropriation to increase funding for Kupuna Care program administered by the Executive Office on Aging.

POSITION: **PABEA supports HB 2195 to appropriate additional funding for the Kupuna Care program.**

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.

- § The population of Hawaii is aging rapidly and there is general consensus that we face a significant challenge to assure appropriate care to the frail elderly. Kupuna Care provides a range of services for frail elders living at home and their caregivers. There is a strong preference for individuals to remain at home for as long as possible, and the number of institutional beds is not likely to grow significantly.
- § The need for the services of the Kupuna Care program is growing rapidly but the funding has not kept pace with the growth, resulting in long wait-lists for many services;
- § Reimbursements have been flat for many years even though the costs of providing services has increased. Kupuna Care is having more difficulty finding providers willing to provide services, and thus the reimbursements need to increase to keep pace with costs.
- § The Joint Legislative Taskforce on Family Caregiving is asking Kupuna Care to develop additional services to support family caregivers, provide emergency respite, provide grants for home modification, and provide financial assistance. Additional funding is needed in order to provided these needed services.

In conclusion, this program provides badly needed assistance to frail elderly and their caregivers, and an additional appropriation is needed in order to better meet these needs.

From: Sandy Baz [mailto:sandy@meoinc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2008 9:59 AM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: Public Testimony on HB 2195

Please deliver to Room 329 for the House Committee on Human Services and Housing who are holding a public hearing on H.B. 2195 on Thursday, January 24, 200, at 8:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and committee members,

I am writing to **support** the purpose of **H.B. 2195**, that makes an appropriation to increase funding for the Kupuna Care Program administered by the Executive Office on Aging, an attached agency of the Department of Health. We are members of the Joint Advocacy Committee On Senior Affairs (JACOSA) and we provide transportation and many other services for the elderly. From our experience, we know that the longer an elderly person lives in their own home, the happier they will be and the less costly on the state. As Hawaii's population ages, many more families will be providing higher levels of long-term care to frail and disabled older adults in their own homes. Thus, Kupuna Care Program is becoming more important as more older adults want to "age in place". I support H.B. 2195 as the appropriation of more state funds will increase our capacity to serve an increasingly aging and frail kupuna population.

Mahalo nui loa,
Sandy

Sandy Baz

Executive Director
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
99 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, HI 96793
(808)249-2990 Phone
(808)249-2991 Fax
sandy@meoinc.org
www.meoinc.org

Community Action Partnerships
Helping People. Changing Lives.

"Because it is right, because it is wise, and because, for the first time in our history, it is possible to conquer poverty, I submit, for the consideration of the Congress and the country, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964."

- President Lyndon B. Johnson

-----Original Message-----

From: Katsuda [mailto:Roy@halemahaolu.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2008 5:49 PM
To: HSHtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of H.B. 2195

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing who are holding a public hearing on H.B. 2195 on Thursday, January 24, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 329 of our State Capitol:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and committee members,

Please accept this letter as a support of H.B. 2195. Hale Mahaolu is a member of the Joint Advocacy Committee on Senior Affairs (JACOSA) in Maui County and has first hand experiences with the delivery of supportive services which can help an elderly person age-in-place in their homes. As a direct result, these elderly persons are happier and share a higher quality of life.

The increase in Kupuna Care funds will immediately reduce the dollars which would have been expended for the higher cost nursing home care. These monies will be well spent.

Your support of H.B. 2195 will be most appreciated by the Kupuna, JACOSA, and Hawaii's families.

Mahalo nui loa,

roy katsuda

Roy Katsuda
Executive Director
Hale Mahaolu
200 Hina Avenue
Kahului, HI 96732
(808) 872-4100
(808) 872-4120 (fax)
roy@halemahaolu.org

Hale Mahaolu - "Home of Pleasant Living"

TO: Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2008 (8:30 a.m., Room 329)

RE: Support of HB 2195, Relating to Aging

I am 84 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through the State Kupuna Care Program.

Please help Hawaii's growing population of Kupuna by providing ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS:

- Transportation
- Housekeeping
- Home-delivered meals
- Case Management
- Adult day care
- Attendant care
- Bathing services
- Respite services

I need TRANSPORTATION because:

I have bad knees and have hard time walking.

If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION:

*have no way to go places.
can't go shopping.*

Please make additional Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Violet Kana

Address: 1718 Oahu St
96819

TO: Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2008 (8:30 a.m., Room 329)

RE: Support of HB 2195, Relating to Aging

I am 80 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through the State Kupuna Care Program.

Please help Hawaii's growing population of Kupuna by providing ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS:

- Transportation
- Housekeeping
- Home-delivered meals
- Case Management
- Adult day care
- Attendant care
- Bathing services
- Respite services

I need TRANSPORTATION because:

I am visually impaired.

If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION:

I will be house bound.

Please make additional Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Grace Kukona

Address:

700 Richards St. #2402
Honolulu HI, 96813

TO: Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2008 (8:30 a.m., Room 329)

RE: Support of HB 2195, Relating to Aging

I am 85 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through the State Kupuna Care Program.

Please help Hawaii's growing population of Kupuna by providing ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS:

- Transportation
- Housekeeping
- Home-delivered meals
- Case Management
- Adult day care
- Attendant care
- Bathing services
- Respite services

I need TRANSPORTATION because:

THIS IS MY ONLY WAY TO GET TO MY DOCTOR + DENTIST APPOINTMENT

If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION:

I HAVE TO SPEND EXPENSIVE TAXI.

Please make additional Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: JAMES GOROSE

Address: 3437 KUPUNI ST.

HON. 96815

TO: Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Housing

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2008 (8:30 a.m., Room 329)

RE: Support of HB 2195, Relating to Aging

I am 83 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through the State Kupuna Care Program.

Please help Hawaii's growing population of Kupuna by providing ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS:

- Transportation
- Housekeeping
- Home-delivered meals
- Case Management
- Adult day care
- Attendant care
- Bathing services
- Respite services

I need TRANSPORTATION because: I have many illnesses and need to see at least five doctors every 3 to 6 months. I have difficulty walking - shortness of breath, arthritis & dizzy spells. I am under civilian & Tripler Hospital care. I am a widow & cannot depend on my one son.

If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION: who is working for reasons above, I would not be able to care for myself & stay independent as long as I can. I live alone.

Please make additional Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Janet Y Lee

Address: 852 21st Av

Honolulu, HI 96816