

## ***HB 2195 Related to Aging Kupuna Care***

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

### COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

DATE: January 24, 2008  
TIME: 8:30AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

My name is Patricia Lockwood and I am the Executive Director of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living, a non-profit organization operated by and for people with disabilities to ensure their rights to live independently and fully integrated in the community of their choice, outside of institutional care settings. As a non-profit, statewide resource, HCIL serves people of any age with any type of disability. HCIL was founded on the historical constitutional beliefs of civil rights and the empowerment of people with disabilities to have equal access, opportunities, and choices in life, no matter how severe their disability.

We have significant concerns about how this program is being operated. In testimony on January 23, 2008 I think that the Department of Aging recommended that contribution by the senior or their family be termed a contribution and that no financial needs test be completed. I don't understand. We have been discussing the need for a financial need test for two years. There is a waiting list for this program. Our belief is that the Department of Health is mistaken in the information they have provided you. A financial needs test would not mean that only the poor would get the services. It would mean the program would be conducted in such a way that a waiver. The aging in place program could be a reality. Federal funds might be brought in for those at risk for placement in a nursing home. I believe that the problem is that these funds would be controlled by Department of Human Services. The Department of Health and the Department of Human services can't get along. The people who suffer are the citizens of the state.

There is a waiting list for these Kupuna services. There are complaints from the community that eligibility is based on who you know not what your needs are. Its time for the Department of Health and th Department of Human Services to start telling you the truth about what services are and are not available from the Feds.