




CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**LATE**

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM:   
Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Thursday, March 13, 2008 (1:15 p.m., Room 016)

RE: **Support of HB 2196, HD2 Relating to Caregiving**

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 2196, HD2, Relating to Caregiving, particularly as it pertains to additional funding for Kupuna Care services.**

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:

- **Kupuna Care funds are based on a unit cost that does not cover the total cost of providing service.** As a result, nonprofit providers are struggling to continue to provide Kupuna Care services because they are funding a larger balance of cost in order to provide these services.
- **Community Need for service is growing and the frailer population of elders now served by Kupuna Care service providers means a higher level of service is needed** to help these elders maintain their independence.



- **Continued wait list for Housekeeping Services** which means elders who may be at risk of eviction must wait for three or more months in order to receive services.
- **Flat or reduced Federal funding** for elderly services, which has a domino effect on Kupuna Care clients.

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

- **Missed opportunities to keep elders out of costly institutions.** At a cost of approximately \$7,000 a month per person for nursing home care, it is much more cost effective, and humane, to keep elders as well as possible in the communities in which they want to remain. **Additional funding of \$750,000 for State Kupuna Care will provide additional services for hundreds of seniors. This same amount could only support about nine elders in nursing homes for a year.** The cost of institutional care eventually becomes a burden on taxpayers and government since State-funded Kupuna Care program targets those in greatest need.
- **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.**

**Catholic Charities Hawaii asks for your support of HB 2196, HD2, Relating to Caregiving. Thank you.**



**LATE**

**To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing  
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Sen. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair**

**Date: March 13, 2008  
Conference Room 016  
1:15 pm**

**Re: HB 2196, HD2, RELATING TO CAREGIVING**

Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ed Thompson and I am the Associate State Director for Advocacy for AARP Hawaii. We are a membership organization for people 50 and older with 156,000 members in Hawaii. AARP provides access to services and information, meaningful volunteer opportunities, and the opportunity for our members to create positive change in their lives.

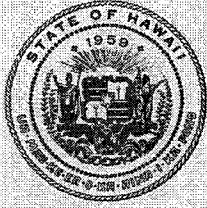
AARP supports HB 2196, HD2.

This bill extends the life of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving; changes the committee's name to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place; and expands the committee's mandate to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving.

Family caregiving plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of our senior and disabled populations that need long-term care services and support in the community. As an alternative to institutional care, many of Hawaii's people have expressed a desire to remain living in their homes and to receive care from family members, friends, and professional caregivers. Hawaii's people should have choices for their care needs.

AARP Hawaii has been an active participant throughout the work of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving. We will continue to offer our support to help Hawaii's family caregivers and to help determine how their needs can be supported through public policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committees.



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

**LATE**

March 13, 2008

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

#### House Bill 2196, HD2 – Relating to Caregiving

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a statewide board with seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor, thirteen (13) of whom are persons with disabilities or family members. The Board's mission is to advocate and promote full integration, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society. This testimony represents a position voted upon by the Legislative Committee of the Board.

We support House Bill 2196, HD2 which is a comprehensive omnibus bill intending to provide support for family caregivers.

We recognize the importance of providing a wider range of options to enable individuals who are elderly and frail to remain in their homes or the community rather than seek institutional care. We recommend, however, that the definition of family caregiver be amended to remove the reference to persons age 60 years and older on page 3, line 12 of HD2. There are many individuals under the age of 60 for whom the need for ongoing caregiving is identical to those age 60 years and older, and we believe that it is in the best interests of the state to make the system as seamless as possible in terms of caregiving resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA M. NIELSEN  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

**testimony**

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**From:** Tomoso Home [tomoso@hawaiianisp.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 13, 2008 6:55 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB 2196, HD 2 Relating To Caregiving  
**Importance:** High

**LATE**

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing who are holding a public hearing on a Bill Relating to Caregiving (HB 2196, HD 2) on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, @ 1:15 p.m., in room 016.

Aloha kakou,

I was on Moloka'i, yesterday, and the issues relating to family caregiving are very real in that rural and geographically isolated community. The wala'au I shared with people is replicated throughout our jurisdiction. Thus, this omnibus bill is widely being paid attention to by many of my colleagues and many of the individuals and families our office is mandated to serve. I believe that the current name of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving needs to be changed to the "Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place" as this nomenclature is more reflective of the realities of caregiving in our communities. Everything else in this omnibus bill is reflective of both continuums of care and infrastructure that are home and community-based, needed to support a growing daily reality of our citizens, in the face of growing aging and longevity in our communities. On Moloka'i, yesterday, a moku with no real infrastructure for Long Term Care outside of the 'ohana and home, everyone I talked with agreed that they would like to "age in place" at home and on Moloka'i. I believe the elements of this omnibus bill will allow this to happen.

Me ka mahalo pono,

John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW  
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