



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 28, 2008

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2196 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO CAREGIVING

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Department of Health.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS HB 2196 HD2 SD1**. The purpose of the bill is to: 1) extend the work of the joint legislative committee on family caregiving (JLCFC) for one year and appropriate funds to the committee; 2) change the name of the joint legislative committee to the joint legislative committee on aging in place and expand the committee's mandate and focus to include aging in place issues relating to family caregiving; 3) require the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to provide an update on the physical site in Hawaii County and the "virtual" site planned for Honolulu City and County; 4) require the legislative committee to design a model cash and counseling program; 5) appropriate funds to the Kupuna care program and allow Kupuna care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, grants to caregivers pursuant to a care plan as part of a cash and counseling approach, and grants for home modifications; 6) establish a task force to focus on the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren; and 7) appropriate funds to the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with the University of Hawaii.

JLCFC, created by Act 285, SLH 2006, was established to address the needs of family caregivers who provide unpaid, informal assistance to a person 60 and older with physical or cognitive disabilities or a grandparent who is a caregiver for a grandchild 18 or younger or 19 or older with physical or cognitive limitations.

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
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Act 204, SLH 2007, allowed JLCFC to continue its work during the 2007 Interim and report to the Legislature. Special Committee Report Number 1 provides the background to JLCFC, a summary of the studies and surveys conducted, including the Family Caregiver Needs Assessment, and the findings and recommendations of the Committee.

The Council believes that family caregiving plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of the increasing elder and disability populations needing long-term care in the community and supports the efforts of JLCFC to continue to develop a support system for family caregivers that includes: coordinated services and policies, training and education, respite services, financial incentives, policies on balancing work and caregiving, and a paid family leave program for family caregivers who take time off from work to care for a seriously ill family member.

The Council defers to EOA for the appropriation necessary for FY 2008-2009 to implement the Kupuna Care Program and continue the respite inventory project.

The Council is a member of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, JLCFC, and ADRC Advisory Council, and looks forward to continued involvement in efforts to provide support for family caregivers providing care for their family members in need of long-term care and supports in the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of **HB 2196 HD2 SD1**.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator



**To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair**

**Date: March 28, 2008
Conference Room 211
9:30 am**

Re: HB 2196, HD2, SD 1, RELATING TO CAREGIVING

Chair Baker 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, SD1.

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 committee.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Conference Room 211
March 28, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

Testimony in support of HB 2196 HD 2 SD 1.

I am Coral Andrews, Vice President of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2196 HD 2 SD 1, which extends the joint legislative committee on family caregiving, changing its name to the joint legislative committee on aging in place. The bill also takes various other steps to support family caregivers.

The relatively good health of Hawaii's population means that there is a large proportion of elderly people. Currently, 17% of the population is 60 years or older. The baby boomers will start to turn 65 by 2011, and by 2030 over one-fourth of the state's population is projected to be older adults. The proportion of those age 85 years and older is growing more than twice as fast as the older population as a whole. Many older people have chronic conditions and need assistance with their care.

As an alternative to institutional care, consumers have expressed a desire to remain living in their homes and to receive care from family members, friends, and professional caregivers. This bill seeks to strengthen the alignment of existing and future organizations whose focus is the development of policies and programs that support family caregivers. As summarized in the SCR 198 Waitlist Task Force Report to the 2008 Legislature, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports efforts that enable the work of family caregivers to successfully care for their loved ones at home.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2196 HD 2 SD 1.

TO : SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: **HB 2196 SD1 Relating to Caregiving**

HEARING: 9:30am, Friday, March 28, 2008
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: An omnibus bill to support the work and recommendations from the Joint Legislative Task Force on Family Caregiving, including changing the name to "Aging in Place" and broadening the scope to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving; requires the Aging and Disability Resource Center to report to the taskforce; undertakes to design a cash and counseling project; expands Kupuna Care to include overnight, weekend and emergency respite and grants to caregivers for home modification, and appropriates funds to Kupuna Care.

POSITION: **PABEA strongly supports the continued work of the Joint Legislative Taskforce and supports its recommendations**

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.

§ PABEA is grateful for the dedicated work of the Joint Taskforce for undertaking to develop a comprehensive set of policies to support family caregiving and aging in place. The growing elder population and the need to support families and minimize reliance on institutions make this a critical area for increased policies and programs for the state;

§ Medicaid waiver cash and counseling programs have shown themselves to be successful in other states, through providing financial assistance along with consumer education to increase consumer direction over care. The recommendation is to create a program which would provide some financial assistance to low income, non-Medicaid caregivers in Hawaii.

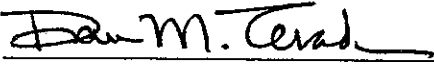
- § The Aging and Disability Resource Center is an exciting restructuring to create a single-access system and to integrate aging and disability services. The development of these centers by our counties needs to be coordinated with the work of the Taskforce;
- § The bill extends Kupuna Care program to provide overnight, weekend, and emergency respite services. An inventory of respite services in the state conducted for the Joint Taskforce showed that this was an urgent need in providing support to family caregivers;
- § The bill the Kupuna Care program to provide grants to caregivers for home modification. In some instances, home modification will enable persons to remain safely in their own homes.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: 
Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Friday, March 28, 2008 (9:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **Support of HB 2196, HD2, SD1 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, SD1 Relating to Caregiving, and urge your support of increased funding for Kupuna Care services.**

Attached is information gathered by Kupuna Care provider agencies on the island of Oahu. This information was sent to Kupuna Caucus legislators, to increase awareness of the urgent need for funding for senior services. **Catholic Charities Hawaii joins with other Oahu Kupuna Care provider agencies to request that an additional 20% increase of \$970,861 be added to the total Kupuna Care Budget in order to address the urgent needs of our Kupuna and enable them to remain at home and prevent premature and costly institutionalization.**

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 for State Kupuna Care of \$970,861 (20%) will provide services for hundreds of seniors in comparison to providing institutional nursing home care for less than 12 seniors.

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, SD1 Relating to Caregiving, including additional funding for Kupuna Care services. Thank you.

Information Paper

Community Need

for Kupuna Care Senior Services

March 17, 2008

WHAT ARE KUPUNA CARE SERVICES?

The State of Hawaii currently funds a discrete set of services for seniors under its Kupuna Care Program. These services help older adults live independently in a safe and healthy environment for as long as possible and avoid costly institutionalization.

Kupuna Care Services include:

- Adult day care
- Case management
- Home delivered meals
- Transportation
- Attendant care
- Chore
- Homemaker
- Personal care

Eligibility for Kupuna Care services:

- Age 60 or older
- U.S. citizen or legal alien
- Unable to receive comparable government assistance (e.g via Medicaid) or afford private paid services
- Impairment in **two** or more areas of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) ¹ or Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL)²; or have reduced mental capacity
- Unmet need in performing at least **one** area of ADL or IADL.
- Not residing in institutional setting, including care home, foster home, hospital or nursing home.

WHY IS MORE STATE FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES NEEDED?

- **Wait list: We currently have 396 elders on Oahu's wait list for Kupuna Care services**

	Homemaker/ Chore	KC Transportation	Case Mgmt	Home Delivery	Attendant Care	Personal Care	TOTAL
# of elders on wait list (12/31/07)	35	5	60	257	11	28	396

¹ Activities of Daily Living (ADL's) include: eating, bathing, dressing, transferring from bed to chair, controlling bowel and bladder, and moving about the house safely on their own.

² Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's) include: preparing meals, shopping for food and personal items, taking medication, managing money, using phone, doing housework, and using public transportation

- **Existing Kupuna Care clients need MORE services: Current Oahu KC clients would benefit from an increase of 9% to 112% in level of services**

The “projected” Units of Service indicated below is based on informed estimates of provider agencies responding to the question, “What additional level of service is needed by your existing clients to assure client basic well being and comfort?”

FY2008	Homemaker /Chore	Transportation	Case Mgmt	Home Delivery Meals	Attendant Care	Personal Care
Unit of Service	1 hour	1 trip	1 hour	1 meal	1 hour	1 hour
Contracted Units of Service	3,066	24,840	13,943	160,896	33,934	27,984
Projected Units of Service	4,242	27,192	16,906	340,500	43,696	37,728
% of Addl. Service for Existing Clients	38%	9%	21%	112%	29%	35%

- **Funding for Kupuna Care services: State pays for 83 cents of every dollar spent on Oahu Kupuna Care services**

Total Cost to provide Kupuna Care Services (FY2008): \$3,913,493
 Total State funds provided to provide Oahu KC Services: \$ 3,297,842
 Total Contribution via Provider Agencies and Client Donations: \$ 615,651

- **Kupuna Care funding currently provides services for only 2.8% of the total 60+ population on the island of Oahu.**

This 60+ population is currently increasing by about 5,000 seniors per year.

- **Missed Opportunities**

- Every month, approximately 100 elders or their family caregivers seek Kupuna Care services and decline to leave a name on the wait list.
- When service providers call seniors on the wait list to start service, they often find that seniors have died or been institutionalized due to lack of service at time of need.
- Case managers are unable to stabilize cases because of lack of services and therefore must keep cases open longer.

- Service provider agencies limit outreach efforts when there are existing wait lists in order to avoid building false expectation of service and results in underestimation of need.
- **Kupuna Care Providers Report on Population Trends**
 - Existing (long term) clients are getting frailer and needing increased quantity of service in order to remain in the community.
 - Baby boomer population is aging differently:
 - More assertive in asking for services
 - Appear to get sicker at earlier age; average age of new clients is decreasing
 - Reduced Federal funds for other senior services has great impact on Kupuna Care services
 - Gap in service - current provider network does not provide placement assistance at the point that elder can no longer safely maintain community. This is a complex, time consuming activity that can leave frail elders in vulnerable situations if not conducted properly.
 - Emergency assistance – Provider agencies, already taxed to serve their existing clients, do not have capacity to address urgent, immediate needs, particularly when these arise after hours, during holidays, or at other times when provider agencies resources are limited/nonexistent.

For More Information, Please Contact a Kupuna Care Provider Agency:

Catholic Charities Hawaii
Diane Terada
PH: 595-5901

Child and Family Service
Valorie Taylor
PH: 543-8437

Kokua Kalihi Valley
Merlita Compton
PH: 848-0977

Lanakila Rehabilitation Center
Remy Rueda
PH: 356-8558

Project Dana
Rose Nakamura
PH: 945-3736

St. Francis Health Services for Senior Citizens
Anita Salcedo
PH: 547-6121

Waikiki Health Center
Jeff Kaplan
PH: 942-5858

Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, March 28, 2008
Conference Room 211; 9:30am

RE: H.B. No. 2196, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO CAREGIVING.

Founding
Organizations

City & County
of Honolulu
Elderly Affairs
Karen Miyaki
Craig Yamaguchi

City & County
of Honolulu
Service Providers
Tony Wong

FACE
Stan Bain
Jim Howell

Hawaii Caregiver
Coalition
Tony Lenzer

HARA
Al Hamai
Bruce McCullough

Hawaii County
Office on Aging
Alan Parker
Lito Asuncion

Hawaii County
Service Providers
Debra Nakaji

JACOSA
Lyn McNeff

Kauai Agency on
Elderly Affairs
Kealoha Takahashi

KoKua Council
Larry Geller

Maui County
Office on Aging
John Tomoso

Maui County
Service Providers
Kathy Louis

Maui Long Term
Care Partnership
Rita Barreras

PABEA
Gary Simon
Eldon Wegner

Co-Conveners
Wes Lum
Hawaii Caregiver
Coalition

Harry Mattson
KoKua Council

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wes Lum and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition (HAAC). **HAAC strongly supports this measure.**

This bill reflects many of the recommendations of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving (Committee). In making its recommendations, the Committee examined the research and data provided by the studies conducted during this past legislative interim, and focused on addressing the immediate needs of family caregivers, as well as facilitating the development of a comprehensive, community based family caregiver support system.

We applaud the Committee for its excellent and thorough work, and for submitting a final report that was done well.

HAAC strongly supports this measure and asks for your favorable consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society
All America
Chapter

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

From: Lyn Moku, Division Manager Phone: 808- 532-0806
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Date: March 28, 2008 – 9:30 a.m. – Conference Room 211

Subject: **WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2196, HD2 SD1
RELATING TO CAREGIVERS.** Joint Legislative Committee on Family
Caregiving; Kupuna Care; Grandparents Raising Grandchildren ask Force; Respite
Care; Appropriations.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports HB 2196, HD2 DS1.

The Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving and its community partners have invested a tremendous amount of work in seeking to identify and address the many needs of our aging population and family caregivers. Studies and surveys conducted in 2007-2008 were presented to the Joint Legislative Committee and provided valuable information. More time is needed, however, to focus on aging in place issues related to family caregiving, and developing a model for a cash and counseling program. Extending the Committee, changing its name to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place and expanding its mandate will allow the Committee to help develop a comprehensive support system for the elderly and their family caregivers.

The National MS Society supports all of the issues included in this proposed bill. We are concerned about people with multiple sclerosis, other chronic diseases, the elderly and people with disabilities of all ages. We hope these much needed services and benefits will eventually be extended to everyone in need, regardless of age. The Society supports the:

- Expansion of public and private long-term care options, especially those that keep individuals in the community and functioning at the highest possible level.
- Development of a coordinated approach to the delivery of care to help assure that the best combination of health care and other services is provided.

Please support SB 2196 HD2, SD1 related to caregiving. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

FROM: PAT SASAKI

RE: HB2196, HD2, SD1, RELATING TO CAREGIVING

HEARING: FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2008
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 211
9:30AM

POSITION: SUPPORT

My name is Pat Sasaki. I am testifying in support of H.B. No. 2196, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Relating to Caregiving.

Mahalo to Hawaii Legislators for sustaining your commitment to the issues and needs of Hawaii's fast-growing older population. From the plight of children lacking responsible parents to the day-to-day economic struggles of working families, older adults play critical roles in the lives of Hawaii's citizens.

Supporting the aging network of services means providing just that bit of extra help that sustains a family's ability to function and avoid abandoning or neglecting older adult family members.

Older adults themselves keep many of Hawaii's families going. They share their life savings to help pay for living and education expenses. They provide childcare for working parents that includes transportation, feeding, and nurturing. They are also the ones who assume child-raising responsibilities and costs when parents are absent or incapable.

I urge your passage of this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

IN STRONG SUPPORT

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Rosalyn Baker Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee, regarding Hearing on March 28, 2008, at 9:30 am in Conference Room 211, at the Hawaii State Capitol

From: From Patricia Urieff, MSW, ACSW, LSW, employed with twenty-four years of experience providing social work services to children and families, including grandparents raising grandchildren. Parent of four. Grandparent of five.

HB 2196, HD2, SD1.

Report Title:

Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving; Kupuna Care; Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force; Respite Care; Appropriations

“Over 14,000 grandparents are primary caregivers for over 33,000 grandchildren in the State of Hawaii. These grandparent raising grandchildren are playing an important part in enduring the wellbeing of children in Hawaii. They are also saving the state approximately 17 million dollars month by caring for their grandchildren outside the foster care system.” *2007 Needs Assessment, Hawaii State Office of Aging, by College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii, Department of Family & Consumer Services.*

Please support that there be *A Task Force to discuss issues related to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.*

The Task Force will not cost money to raise awareness of our existing systems (that get paid salaries by taxpayers) yet are not aware of how to do better to support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. A *Task Force* could result in increased awareness of the fact that Grandparents Raising Grandparents need supports and that existing systems can do better to provide supports -- versus insist on maintaining the status quo.

Such a *Task Force* can identify already existing systems that can do better to provide information and support to the senior citizens raising grandchildren and the children growing up in `ohana home situations, dealing with losses and big adjustments.

Examples.

The Department of Education Administration reported the following February 2008.

- “DOE does not know which children live in `ohana homes and information is not in the DOE Central Data System.” That means that the teachers don’t know, so can’t provide resource information to the children and caregivers, such as there exists free Federally Funded tutoring if the caregiver asks for the tutoring. If the system continues to do nothing about knowing students living in grandparent’s care, the system continues to ignore it - versus discuss how to do better: connect, provide resources to support school success.
- “*Consent Waiver’s signed by caregivers* are in 250 Principals’ offices and none of that data is in the DOE Central Data System”, so the data is not available. Result is that DOE is now not willing to do something to make the data available so that appropriate entities can research how many seniors and children in specific geographic areas are struggling

with issues of maintaining life in an `ohana home situation, consider kinds of community supports, toward preventing community problems.

- “DOE does not inform caregivers (who provide 24/7 care to a special needs child) about *Individual Education Plan (IEP)*”, that is meetings, plans, what is being done, or what caregivers can do to support success. Federal Law does not allow a caregiver without legal status to make decisions related the child’s IEP.” The law does not prevent DOE from outreach to inform the caregiver about things at home that can help the child develop and have small successes at school.
- If teachers knew their students were children living in `ohana homes, dealing with losses and adjustments, teachers could make referrals for supports before the students were stressed and serious behaviors surfaced.

Another example is that many non-profit agencies and many Grandparents Raising Grandchildren don’t know of existing resources so can’t connect with those. As result of the federal *Older Americans Act*, persons 55 years and older raising a grandchild 17 years and younger or a handicapped grandchild 18 years and older are eligible for resources available at `Oahu County Elderly Program, and at neighbor island *All Area Agencies on Aging*. Those programs offer free resources: counsel and referral/links to other resources; legal advice, support group, and transportation,

A Task Force could identify how to link the information about resources to agents of community services that already exist for the purpose of sharing information and doing public relations.

Then there is a grave concern about the Department of Health not providing mental health services to a child living with a caregiver without legal status. Can you imagine a grandparent struggling to raise a grandchild with disturbing behaviors and can’t access mental health services? The grandparent will need to first find an attorney, resources to get to the attorney, and go through process to get legal status – then the system will provide support and services!

testimony

From: manis [manis@lava.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 11:35 AM
To: testimony
Subject: testimony HB2196 HD2 SD1

KOKUA COUNCIL Laura Manis Testifier

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Friday, March 28, 2008 9:30 a.m. Conference Room 211

HB 2196 HD 2 SD1 RELATING TO CAREGIVING. Extends the joint legislative committee on family caregiving; changes the committee's name to the joint legislative committee on aging in place; expands the committee's mandate to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving; requires the aging and disability resource center to report to the committee; requires the joint legislative committee to conduct a cash and counseling project; appropriates funds to the joint legislative committee; allows kupuna care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, as well as provide grants to caregivers and for home modification; appropriates funds to the kupuna care program

SUPPORT

This testimony is being submitted on behalf Kokua Council whose mission includes advocating for the health of the elderly and those vulnerable populations who can not advocate for themselves.

We are pleased to support this bill for the following reasons. Changing the name of the task force acknowledges the reality that frailness includes being unable to do chores such as housekeeping, shopping, yard work, all of which enables people to stay at home. This will expand the scope of this very valuable committee and help relieve the pressure on caregivers as well as the burden on long term care facilities.

The other components of this omnibus bill cover existing gaps in services, such as Kupuna Care for emergencies, overnight and weekend care and help with financing home modification. We also support financing existing programs (Kupuna Care) to shorten wait lists, and to continue and implement the valuable work of the joint committee on caregiving and the one-stop resource center for aging and disability.

We ask that you will support this bill.

Laura G. Manis, Legislative Chair, Kokua Council
tel. 597-8838



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Legislative Testimony

HB 2196, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO CAREGIVING

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 28, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is providing testimony in strong support of HB 2196, HD2, SD1. Our interest in this issue is primarily based on our concerns that 52% of the children placed in foster care in Hawai'i are of Native Hawaiian ancestry, and that Hawaiian grandparents are assuming more responsibility as the primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

In Hawaii, more than fourteen thousand Hawaiian grandparents have assumed this caregiving role. It is a cultural practice of Native Hawaiians to care for their family members, especially when it involves minor children. It is an endearing custom in Hawaii for grandparents or "Kupuna" to raise or "hanai" their grandchildren or "mo'opuna." Such a practice can start as early as the birth of the child and may continue well through young adulthood. Stability, security, nurturing, and cultural identity all occur within the context of an extended family by blood or marriage that knows and is connected to the child. This practice is accepted as responsibility or "kuleana" by the grandparent and is undertaken with genuine love and commitment to the child's well-being.

Native Hawaiian grandparents will provide protection and guidance. In addition, they will pour their knowledge and wisdom of life into the hanai process with their grandchildren. As such, the basic necessities of the child are met but deeper qualities of living are passed on and preserved for generations. These intrinsic Hawaiian values make for stronger Native Hawaiian families and by extension, stronger communities.

However, in today's society, these new responsibilities place great emotional and financial stresses on many grandparents. Yet, these grandparents go unacknowledged and worse, unsupported by government policies and services that are conducive to maintaining these familial relationships. For example, the Hawaii Statutes currently relating to elderly housing penalize grandparents who choose to raise their minor grandchildren. These adults are usually on a fixed income and may have one or more health conditions. They live in elderly housing in order to survive and make ends meet. Elderly relative caregivers to minor children need assurance of knowing their housing is secure so that they can focus on tending to the needs of children entrusted to their care.

Because of these concerns, OHA has addressed these issues in several ways. Over the past three years, OHA has participated on the Governor's Advisory Board on Native Hawaiian Foster Parents as a means to advocate for policy changes that will support the efforts of these grandparents to keep their families intact.

We also provide community grants to the following: Kokua Ohana, a program of the non-profit organization, Partners in Development (PID), that is actively recruiting and providing support services to Native Hawaiian foster parents; Hawai'i Family Services, Inc., an organization that provides support services to Native Hawaiian grandparents who are caring for grandchildren on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu; ALU LIKE, Inc.'s E Ola Pono No Na Kupuna Program that provides transportation, social/cultural activities, and meals to kupuna statewide; and PID's Tutu and Me Program, which also provides transportation and support services to kupuna.

OHA has also been in contact with Native Hawaiian families of incarcerated individuals or "Pa'ahao." When a parent is incarcerated, it often impacts families with minor children. These families experience a wide range of stresses that include emotional, financial, mental and medical challenges. We are aware that many of these families move in with grandparents or bring

them into their homes to assist with the care of the children. In extreme cases where the biological parent or adoptive parents are unwilling or unable to serve as the primary caregiver for the child, grandparents become the next, and sometimes only, option for care-giving.

From our experiences, we believe stable housing, financial support, and respite services are the greatest needs of the grandparents, with affordable, stable housing being of the utmost priority. Several years ago, OHA addressed the housing problem of elderly Hawaiians by contributing \$3.75 million towards the development of the Kulanakauhale Maluhia O Na Kupuna, also known as Waimanalo Kupuna Housing, a project developed by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Unfortunately, in 2005, OHA's Human Services staff had to provide advocacy support to an elderly household with a minor child that was confronted with an eviction from the housing because of the child's presence in the apartment. Response to unmet family needs brought this grandchild and grandparent together into the grandmother's home. Sadly, though we were able to stave off the eviction of the grandparent, she had to be separated from her grandchild. This kind of outcome only inflicts unnecessary suffering for all involved and may eliminate viable options for kinship foster placement.

OHA considers solutions to these problems faced by grandparents to be of utmost importance and feels that the extension of the joint legislative committee is needed to continue the focus on exploring problem-centered solutions. We are also very supportive of the bill because in addition to the committee's extension, it provides for policy changes and funding support to improve and expand kupuna care programs.

present testimony.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to

March 27, 2008

To: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Senator Shan S. Tsutui, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

From: Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana *Rose Nakamura*

Subject: Testimony for HB 2196, HD2, SD1 (SSCR3031) Relating to Caregiving

As administrator of Project Dana, I strongly support HB2196, HD2, SD1 (SSCR 3031) Relating to Caregiving. This Bill incorporates a set of caregiving needs that impact Hawaii's Kupuna concerns which must be given sensitive support with much needed funds from the Legislature.

Project Dana is a volunteer caregivers program that provides assistance to homebound frail elderly and disabled persons. Aging in place is of utmost importance as Hawaii enjoys the greatest longevity in the country.

Kupuna Care: Project Dana has served as one of Oahu's Kupuna Care Providers Agencies to support and provide services so that Hawaii's Kupuna could enjoy living independently at home and avoid costly institutionalization.

This program is needed to assist homebound frail elders who are coping, often time struggling with personally managing their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's) and/ or their Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's). As the numbers of elderly who need some basic assistance at home are increasing rapidly, so do the numbers of unmet needs. In order to meet and service more elders to live independently in the community, **an additional funds of \$970,861 is requested for FY09 for Kupuna Care service, i.e. case management, home delivered meals, transportation, attendant care, chore, homemaker, personal care and adult day care.**

Many seniors are isolated, helpless, and need some coping with daily living. Wait list occurs for services, and need for emergency requests are not met.

Caregiving Services and Other Options: Caregiving is everybody's business and at some point in everyone's life, one will be "forced" with challenging caregiving responsibilities. Relief assistance and caregiving support are essential to avoid physical and emotional stress to both caregivers and frail elders.

Funding for HB 2196, HD2, SD1 (SSCR 3031) from the state of Hawaii is imminent as Hawaii's population is comprised with an already great and expanding percentage of those 60 years and older. The needs of Hawaii's Kupuna are worthy of your strong support for additional funds. Thank you very much.

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: _____
Jeff Kaplan, Program Director
Waikiki Health Center

DATE: Friday, March 28, 2008 (9:30 a.m., Room 211)

RE: **Support of HB 2196, HD2, SD1 Relating to Caregiving**

Waikiki Health Center, is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 40 years. The Agency has also been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1986 and currently serves approximately 120 isolated, frail elderly persons each year. **We strongly support HB 2196, HD2, SD1 Relating to Caregiving, and urge your support of increased funding for Kupuna Care services.**

Attached is information gathered by Kupuna Care provider agencies on the island of Oahu. This information was sent to Kupuna Caucus legislators, to increase awareness of the urgent need for funding for senior services. **Waikiki Health Center joins with other Oahu Kupuna Care provider agencies to request that an additional 20% increase of \$970,861 be added to the total Kupuna Care Budget in order to address the urgent needs of our Kupuna and enable them to remain at home and prevent premature and costly institutionalization.**

Waikiki Health Center's Friendly Neighbors Program volunteer's provide shopping, reassuring phone calls, housekeeping and various other supportive services. 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 Waikiki Health Center 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 for State Kupuna Care of \$970,861 (20%) will provide services for hundreds of seniors in comparison to providing institutional nursing home care for less than 12 seniors.

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.**

Waikiki Health Center asks for your support of HB 2196, HD2, SD1 Relating to Caregiving, including additional funding for Kupuna Care services. Thank you.