



TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 2425, RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2008 **TIME:** 9:15 AM

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

Deliver to: Committee Clerk, Room 326, 3 copies

TESTIFIER(S): Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
or Andrea J. Armitage, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

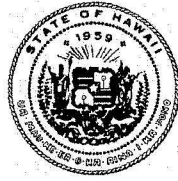
The Attorney General takes no position on the intent of this bill; however, there are legal flaws that will need to be corrected if it is to accomplish its intended purpose.

This measure seeks to give grants to four senior centers pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Two changes are necessary to effectuate this purpose.

1. The definition of the term "grant" in section 42F-1, HRS, requires that the Legislature specify the organization to which the grant will be awarded. The bill must state the correct legal names of the entities to which the grants are to be awarded, not the name under which they may be doing business. For example, our research indicates that the Lanikila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is not an incorporated entity capable of entering into contracts in its own name, but instead, is operated by Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is a legal entity. The bill should specify that the grant be awarded to Catholic Charities Hawaii for the operation of the Lanikila Multi-Purpose Senior Center. Kapahulu Center, Moiliili Community Center, and Waikiki Community Center appear to be the correct, legally registered names of those entities.

2. Further, as a practical matter, the bill must specify the amount to be awarded to each recipient. This information is necessary for the expending agency to be able to properly contract with the recipients pursuant to section 42F-104, HRS. As the bill is currently drafted, it appears that the four organizations will have to split a total amount, and there is no indication of how that amount is to be divided.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

February 7, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2425 - RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS

Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2008, 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2425 is to appropriate funding for the operations of certain senior centers on Oahu that shall be expended by the Department of Human Services.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services appreciates the intent of this bill but cannot support this bill as written.

Senior centers provide our Kupuna with meaningful activities in support of a healthier lifestyle. These programs are consistent with the Executive Office on Aging's goal to allow our Kupuna to remain active, healthy, and socially engaged in order to prevent premature disability and institutionalization.

The Department respectfully requests that the passage of this bill not adversely impact nor replace the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

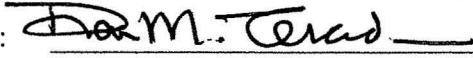
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing (HSH)

FROM: 
Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2008 (9:15 a.m., Room 329)

RE: **Support of HB 2425, Relating to Senior Centers**

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH), is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has 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 this bill, with the following recommended changes:**

- **Change SECTION 2 to read:** “There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of **\$170,000 for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, \$80,000 for the Kapahulu Center, \$85,000 for Moiliili Community Center, and \$81,000 for the Waikiki Community Center** or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to provide funding for grants pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the operations of the above senior centers ~~Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, the Kapahulu Center, the Moiliili Community Center, and the Waikiki Community Center.~~”

Reason: Specifies the amount of funding needed by each senior center.

- **Change 3rd paragraph to read:** “The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of ~~human services~~ **health** for the purposes of this Act.”

Reason: The above senior centers already have funds channeled through the Department of Health, Executive Office on Aging.

This bill will provide funding for a network of senior centers that provide vital health education and screenings, fitness, recreation, case management, and other services to enable thousands of senior citizens to maintain wellness, support independence and avoid costly institutionalization

Catholic Charities Hawaii has operated the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center since 1981. Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is a State owned facility that was built as a model senior center for the State of Hawaii in 1969. The Center provides a range of educational, recreational and social services, including:

- Over **40** educational courses, such as Basic English and Stretch & Tone.
- Over **82** recreational courses, such as Tap Dance and Japanese Minyo Dance.



- Sponsorship of 7 ethnic clubs that perpetuate ethnic traditions and promote cultural sharing.
- Health promotion and screening activities, such as monthly blood pressure checks, flu shot clinics, health fairs, and more.
- Annual special events for education and recreation purposes, such as Candidates' Fair and Aloha Festivals.
- Onsite access to professional counseling and case management services – a Catholic Charities licensed social worker is available to Center members and their caregivers to aid in the transition from independence to interdependence.
- Opportunities for over 350 older adults to contribute their time and skills to the community through more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service annually.

The Center serves senior citizens, age 60 and older, living in the geographic area bounded by census tracts 38-66 (Kakaako - Nuuanu/Punchbowl – Downtown - Liliha/Kapalama - Kalihi/Palama - Kalihi Valley - Moanalua). Its priority is to serve those in greatest economic and social need, with an emphasis on serving low-income, minority elders.

The elderly population, age 60 and older, represents the fastest growing segment of Hawaii's population. By the year 2010, this sector of the population is projected to grow by 70% to 299,500 persons, or one in every five persons. Many of the elders will be aging in place with multiple problems and few support systems. It is imperative for the community to support programs that will assist this growing population to stay independent and avoid premature institutionalization.

Some older adults need minimal service while others need multiple services to remain independent. **It is more cost effective to provide services in the community rather than paying the cost of institutional care.**

For example: The cost of institutional nursing home care is approximately \$7,000 a month (equivalent to \$83,000 a year) for one patient. **For less than the cost of institutional care for three frail elders, Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center can provide a range of activities to serve approximately over a thousand older adults annually to help improve health and maintain wellness.** Providing community-based services also adds to their quality of life since the majority of elders prefer to remain in their own homes.

Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center and other senior center programs are cost-effective, preventive alternatives to institutionalization for older adults and give the State the opportunity to save money and to support the desire of older adults to remain independent in their own homes for as long as it is safely possible.

We ask for your support of HB 2425 with the two recommended changes. 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 for this opportunity to provide testimony.



Board of Directors

February 5, 2008

Carolyn Gugelyk
Chair

TO: The Honorable Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads., Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Jim Nishimoto, AIA
1st Vice Chair

FROM: Joan Naguwa, Executive Director

Rick Egged
2nd Vice Chair

RE: HB 2425 RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS

Sheryl Siu
Secretary

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 7, 2008

Linda Lee
Treasurer

Time: 9:15 am

Place: Conference Room 329

Thomas Barlow, PhD

Gregory Boxold

Faye Chiogioji

Karl Fujii

Jo Ann Mau

Leona Nakaahiki

Jessica Rich

Sheri Rolf

Chris Tatum

Susan Todani

Vivian Tsuji

Rodney Wong

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

My name is Joan Naguwa, Executive Director of Waikiki Community Center (WCC). Waikiki Community Center **supports HB 2425, Relating to Senior Centers**. We thank the Hawaii State Legislature for its efforts to provide needed support for Hawaii's growing elderly population.

HB 2425 provides funding (\$81,000) for Waikiki Community Center's Senior Program as well as that of Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center (\$170,000), Moiliili Community Center (\$85,000) and the Kapahulu Center (\$80,000). Although all independent nonprofit organizations, we senior centers collectively provide more than 4,000 older adults with a place to gather for needed services and activities that support their independence and encourage healthy and engaged aging. Among these four (4) senior centers, the elderly in our communities are able to engage in healthy, productive activities and build social networks that are important to their ability to remain living independently in the community and to deter premature institutionalization, saving the State of Hawaii an estimated \$84,000 a year per senior citizen in long-term care costs.

It is common to find seniors over the age of 90 actively participating in these senior centers' activities. When needed, as these elder grow frailer, case management and counseling services are provided to help them connect with and manage the often-perplexing application processes and services. Support to their caregivers is also provided through information and assistance, counseling and helping them deal with the difficult job of caring for their elderly family members.

In particular, HB 2425 is critical to the continuation of services to the elderly in Waikiki. Approximately 25% of Waikiki's 20,000 residents are over the age of 60 years old. Waikiki has one of the highest numbers of senior citizens per area density on Oahu. Most of them live alone or with an equally older spouse and have little or no family support systems when they become frail. The typical elderly resident is female, mid 70's, living alone. Since most elders live in secured, mixed residential condominiums, they are especially vulnerable to

Joan Naguwa
Executive Director

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30 Years of Service to the Community
www.waikikicomunitycenter.org

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social isolation and difficulty in accessing services when needed. The appropriation through HB 2425 will support the continuation and availability of needed programs and services to elders in the specific communities.

We urge your support for the passage of HB 2425 and respectfully ask for two (2) amendments to this bill:

1. **To include the funding amounts to the specific agencies identified in the bill:**
 - **Waikiki Community Center - \$81,000**
 - **Catholic Charities Hawaii Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center - \$170,000**
 - **Moilili Community Center - \$85,000**
 - **Kapahulu Center - \$80,000**
 -
2. **To assign this bill to the Dept. of Health, rather than the Dept. of Human Services.**
The Dept. of Health, Executive Office on Aging, has previously worked with all senior centers named in this bill and would be in the best position to oversee this appropriation.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit our testimony.

February 5, 2008

TO: The Honorable Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Karen and John Van Tine

SUBJ: HB 2425 RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS

Hearing Date: Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008
Time: 9:15 am
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

We are members of Waikiki Community Center and live in Waikiki. Since we moved here in 2003, we have made many friends through Waikiki Community Center's programs. We keep active and healthy by participating in the many activities at the Waikiki Community Center. Though we are both retired seniors, we are also involved in community volunteer work as an attempt to give back to our island home.

Many of our friends at Waikiki Community Center are not as fortunate in their aging as we are, facing ill health, declining mental powers, housing emergencies and other challenges which they find confusing, daunting and discouraging. In these and other situations, Waikiki Community Center has offered aid and assistance, providing information, counseling and needed support to elders in distress. In these and other situations, Waikiki Community Center has offered aid and assistance, providing information, counseling and needed support to elders in distress.

We urge you to support HB 2425 and do all you can to help maintain the current services of this helpful and necessary program, so that Waikiki seniors can continue having a place to turn to build a support network and to help with their problems and concerns.

February 5, 2008

TO: The Honorable Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Edna Takeshita

RE: HB 2425 RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS

Hearing Date: Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008
Time: 9:15 am
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

My name is Edna Takeshita. I am a member of Waikiki Community Center. Waikiki Community Center has helped me a lot, especially with transportation. The social worker there helped me get the van for me so I can make arrangements to see my doctors. I also take the van to Waikiki Community Center for my line dance class where I volunteer to check people in. If it weren't for the van service, I would not be able to get to the center and visit my friends. I am unmarried so this weekly activity is very important to me because it's when I get to socialize and watch the dancers.

I really appreciate the services and programs at Waikiki Community Center. I know that whenever I need something, the program supports me. Please support HB 2425 so that the program can continue. We, the seniors, really need it!

February 5, 2008

TO: The Honorable Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Dorothy Burns

RE: HB 2425 RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 7, 2008
Time: 9:15 am
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

My name is Dorothy Burns. I am an 84 year old single female resident of Waikiki. I live by myself. I have children but they live in Canada and seldom visit me. So, I often need help with some of my decisions and found Waikiki Community Center to be very helpful.

I have been a member of Waikiki Community Center since the 1990's and participate in their classes and outings as well as volunteer in the community. They help me keep active by offering lots of activities for me to do. When I needed help, they helped me find a new home to move to because I needed to find a cheaper place to live, as my rent keeps going up. They also helped me find a good Medicare D prescription plan for my prescriptions and helped fill out the forms for me. They also asked me if I needed any other help at home, but I don't yet. They are very, very helpful. I don't know what I would've done without them. They are wonderful people.

Please support HB 2425 so they can continue to help me in the future.

February 5, 2008

TO: The Honorable Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Mary Guidroz

RE: HB2425 RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS

Hearing Date: Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008
Time: 9:15 am
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

My name is Mary Guidroz. I am a member of Waikiki Community Center and live in Waikiki. I am 85 years old and live by myself. The Senior Program at Waikiki Community Center is so important to me and my fellow seniors. We can't do without it. Where else could we go? My son lives on Maui, so I'm all alone and don't have anyone to help me. I participate in as many things as I can at the Waikiki Community Center. It keeps me alert and I've made many friends there.

Last spring, I lost my benefits because I forgot to fill out my forms on time and the social worker at Waikiki Community Center helped me to get my benefits back right away. Now she helps me keep all of my records updated, including Medicare, Medicaid and food stamps. And just recently, my rent increased so I had to find a cheaper place to live. She helped me apply for senior housing and I was able to get in. I hope I am able to stay there for the rest of my life.

Waikiki Community Center helps us all. Please support HB 2425 so that the senior citizens like me in all the communities will have a place to go when we need help.

TO: Representative Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services and Housing (HSH)

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2008 (9:15 a.m., Room 329)

RE: Support of HB 2425, Relating to Senior Centers

I am 82 years old and a member of the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center.

Please support the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center and its membership of nearly 2,000 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$170,000.

I participate in the following Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center activities:

*I joined the Hawaiian Senior Club
I play the Ukulele and sing + make new
friends.
I participate in the Show and Sell*

If there was NO Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, I would: *be sad,
I miss the friends that come by.
The fun we find here makes us
happy and some things new to
think about.*

Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: *Salome M. Ohun*

Address: *551 Honana Place
Honolulu, HI, 96817*

Members of Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center in support of HB 2425
(Form testimony)

Bernice Yuen
Yoshiabi _____
Salome W. Chun
Gregory Jeong
Shizuichi Nishizuka
Betty Masaki
Koichi Maraki
Grace Kam
Lilly Y. Uyehara
Betty Garcia
Janet Ito
Shizue Ishihara
Jessie Y. Okajima
Elice K. Masuke
Benjamin Abrantey
Gladys Nike Muromoto
Peggy L. Uze
Edith Fujihara
Mitsuko Horuichi
Felecita Moluka
Harriet Nagamore
June S. Sugihara
Phoebe M. Kimura
Dorothy C. Mau
Tomie Higa
Lurline K. Kim
Betty F. Chinen
Nancy R. Matsunaga
Nobue Akashi
Kamiha Nuyashiro
Richard Arakichi
Kay Ichiguchi
Betty H. Asato

Emiko Yoshida
Irene Yamashita
Helen Hirata
Yoshiko Arakaki
Doris H. Toyama
Mary Jones
Irene Nakashima
Oteme Atta
Patsy Arakaki
Wilma Yee
Nanacy Megia
Alice Miyasato
Vernon Kamiyama
Nobu Yoshioka
Tony S. Malek
Tsurue Kiyuna
Gwen K. Perry
Suzako H. Demola
Jean K. Arakaki
Sakaye Nomura
Norma Oshiro
Kumilo Shimabukuro
Katherine Legis
Tomiko Oshiro
Nancy Ikehara
Stella Okume
Leimomi Bereyam
Michio Oyame
Doris Shiohira
They Tasi
Eleanor T. Miura
Violet C. Ho
Marshall Tanaka
Solomon Kaulakukui
Mitzi Nakamura
Nancy Akamichi
Frank Ikehara
Florence Y. _____
Elizabeth Parker
Lorraine E. Howell

Caroline Tom
Hannah Lee
Masako Oda
Annette Fashelle
Henry Machado
William T. Kiyan
Gloria Shelton
Sally Nakata
Mary Nazarino
Carol Zakemura
John L. Sabey
Maria K. Artis
Helen L. Castillon
Ellen Kong
Mae Kuboyama
Misayo Nihei
Edith Shito
Lynn Sekiya
Shizuko Maeda
Alice L. Heu
Yoshiko Ishikawa
Nancy Beauchamp
Caraline Harano
Winifred L. Lau
Bertha Young
Emmie C. Otake
Jane Higa
Lillian Hahn
Mary Ho Sueda
Sally Joyce
Veronica Ku
Florenda L. Laculat
Anita T. Hasagawa
Isabel Ishimoto
Sakae Nakata
Betty Hasegawa
Ann Feixeira Heiseh
Dolley G.S. Ho
Lily Choy
Gladys Takamoto

Adelina K. Shigaki
William H. Madigan
Cecilia K. Lindo
Lena Keeno
Rose Tanimoto
Thelma Wong
Mabel Kam
Mildren Lum
Edna Low
Elizabeth Lum
Ruth C. Pang
Sally N. Shimabukuro