

# LATE TESTIMONY

Larry Geller  
Honolulu, HI 96817

HB2581  
HSH/HLT  
Thursday February 7, 2008  
8:45 a.m.  
Room 329

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES &  
HOUSING

Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

February 6, 2008

**Re: HB2581— Provides special license plates for motor vehicles registered to long-term care facilities to allow such vehicles to be used to park in handicapped stalls while transporting disabled patients under the facility's care**

In Opposition

This is a very well-intentioned bill and I see that it has many sponsors. But it also has some major problems, and so I recommend that it not be passed.

People with disabilities use the accessible parking spaces to enter and exit their vans. These spaces are in very short supply as it is, and it's quite common that they become unavailable because unpermitted cars use the reserved spaces illegally. Making special license plates or placards available to nursing home drivers will further reduce the pool of spaces available to people who really need them.

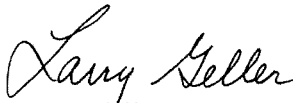
The drivers of nursing home vehicles do not themselves require an accessible parking space. Also, if a passenger meets the eligibility requirements, the driver can use their placard. So the issuance of license plates or placards to nursing home vans is only a convenience.

Unfortunately, if these vans are issued permits, abuse is almost certain. Since the permits go with the vehicle, staff will most likely use them when on errands such as shopping. The driver does not need an accessible parking space to carry out those errands, and the space is taken away from those who need it.

It will be impossible to control the use of these permits.

Finally, this bill is in contradiction to the clear intent of federal and state statutes that reserve accessible parking place for the use of persons with disabilities who truly need them.

Accordingly, I recommend to the committee that this bill not be passed.

  
Larry Geller

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

FROM: Cassandra Tesoro  
 Cassandra Tesoro, Executive Director

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

RE: Support of HB 2425, Relating to Senior Centers

Kapahulu Center is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing supportive community based services to elders for approximately 26 years and currently serves approximately 450 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Kapahulu Center has been servicing the elderly approximately 26 years. The Center was originally administered through the University of Hawaii at Manoa and later by the Moiliili Community Center. In 1996 the Kapahulu Center became a 501c(3) non-profit organization. The Center provides a range of educational and recreational services, including:

- Over 4 educational courses, such as Japanese and Korean Languages.
- Over 5 exercise courses, such as Aerobics and Tai Chi.

- Over **20** recreational courses, such as Ukulele, Line Dance and Japanese Minyo Dance.
- Health and wellness activities, such as monthly blood pressure checks, Exercise Your Brain classes, and more.
- Annual Bon Dance for recreation purposes.
- Monthly excursions for educational and recreational purposes, such as Pacific Aerospace Museum and miniature golfing.
- Opportunities for over **30** older adults to contribute their time and skills to the community through more than **500 hours of volunteer service** annually.

The Center serves senior citizens, age 60 and older, throughout Oahu, primarily within the community and surrounding areas.

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.

Kapahulu 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 808-737-1748 or via email at [ctesoro@hotmail.com](mailto:ctesoro@hotmail.com). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

I am 90 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

*Aerobics  
Bing Along  
Quilting  
Tri them*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

*Very lonesome.  
I don't watch TV*

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

*J. Janda*

Address:

*3472 Campbell Ave*  
*Hon HI 96815*

I am 82 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

Hawaiian Quilting  
Mahjong

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

Just stay home and watch TV  
and nothing to challenge me mentally

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Betty J. Tamaha

Address:

3411 Alua St

Hon 96815

I am 86 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

*Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.*

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

*Hawai'i Guild  
Aerobic*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

*Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!*

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Herveine Teramata

Address: 3414 Louisa St

Hon. HI 96822

I am 79 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

*Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.*

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

*Paint, Hula  
Aerobic*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

*Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!*  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Janet Fujikawa

Address:

1645 Ala Wai Blvd # 1101  
Hon. HI 96815

I am 89 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

*mak jong  
Knitting  
quilting*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

*I stay home and watch T.V.*

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

*Joselyn Grogan*

Address:

*3233 Hayden St*  
*Hon. HI 96815*



I am 69 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

yoga  
Tai Chi  
mahjong

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

probably not have opportunities  
to socialize with others on a regular basis

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Barbara Tanigawa

Address: 1713 A 10<sup>th</sup> Ave

Hon 96816

I am 66 years old and a member of the  
Center.

Kapahulu

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

yoga  
aerobics }  
mahjong } classes + fellowship  
excursions to legislature, med school, + others  
receive newsletters

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

participate in fund raising, Christmas Party, bon dance  
not have a neighborhood exercise, health + social center  
not have made many friendships  
not have taken excursions to Oahu sites, the most meaningful  
being the UH Med Center + legislature Opening Day

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Gertrude E. Luoka

Address:

3750 A Harding Ave

Hon 96816

I am 75 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER.

**Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.**

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

Yoga  
Aerobics

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

Be sitting at home watching T.V. Couch Potato.  
Now I walk 2 Blks back & forth to classes  
which gives me extra exercise. With my  
Asthma these exercises really helps me.

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Evelyn M. McKeon

Address: 3410 Keolu Ave #101

Hon, HI 96815

I am 71 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

Yoga

Mah jong

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

Not be able to see my friends as often  
not be able to play mah jong  
not be able to do yoga

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Betsy Olson

Address: 3229 Martha St.

Hon

I am 80 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities: *Quilting, excursion & socializing.*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would: *just stay at home to watch TV all day long.*

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Edna H. I. Kudo

Address: 545 Queen St #401  
Honolulu, HI 96813

I am 73 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

*I enjoy doing yoga*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

*look for other places but I find this place is convenient as I am getting older -*

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Sarah Lum

Address:

740-B 87th Ave

Hon HI 96816

I am 73 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

Yoga

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

I would die

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Edean Iwanaga

Address:

3348 Campbell Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96815

I am 81 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

*Japanese Ukulele  
Yoga*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

*have a less stimulating life. My classes help me to keep <sup>me</sup> mentally and physically fit. Without them my health & well-being would decline more rapidly.*

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Anita B. Edwards

Address: 1304 Kalaniki St.

Honolulu, HI 96821



I am 80 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

*Stretching*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

*find other sources*

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

*Harriet Schubert*

Address:

*2439 Kaulaia Pl*

*Hon HI 96843*

I am 84 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

YOGA  
AEROBICS  
MAHJONG  
SAMBO DAHN (KOREAN EXERCISE)

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

STAY HOME & WATCH TV

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: BETTY K. MATSUMOTO

Address: 611-B 7<sup>th</sup> AVE

HON, HI 96816

I am 64 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

Yoga 2x wk

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

not be able to attend a convenient and affordable  
yoga class 2x week  
this would adversely affect my health

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Lekurani Plamau

Address:

896 Hao St

Honolulu, HI 96821

I am 86 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

Hawaiian Quilt making  
Excursion  
talk story

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

stay home watch T.V.  
at my age I cannot walk far -  
Handi Van at the center takes me to all the appointments

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Mildred A. Ino

Address:

3346 Hayden St. 96815

I am 76 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

YOGA AEROBICS MAHJONG

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

STAY HOME AND NAP

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: ROSE YAMADA

Address: 1568 ALA MAHAMOE ST  
HON HI

I am 80 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

1. *Knitting + Crocheting on Wednesday*
2. *Hawaiian quilting on Thursday.*

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

*Be bored and become senile. I love the comradeship with other seniors, and I especially enjoy going on excursions.*

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Lunika K. Moresate

Address: 683 Huanalewa St

Honolulu HI 96816

I am 70 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

*Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.*

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

Quilting class

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

Although I only take <sup>one</sup> class, I enjoy socializing with all the ladies in this class.

Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Mary Jones

Address:

3247 George St.

Honolulu, Hi, 96815

I am 62 years old and a member of the KAPAHULU CENTER

***Please support the Kapahulu Center and its membership of nearly 400 senior citizens with additional State funding in the amount of \$80,000.***

I participate in the following Kapahulu Center activities:

aerobics - twice a week  
line dance - once a week  
tai-chi - twice a week

If there was NO Kapahulu Center, I would:

not be able to get my weekly exercise which promotes my overall health and brings balance and harmony to my life, the social contacts that I have made with many seniors have made me aware that you have to stay very active physically and mentally to maintain your independence. I would not be able to do community service by sitting on the Site Council for the Center to keep members of my class informed and to give feedback on activities, programs; to help raise funds with our annual fundraisers - chicken sale, Bon Danu, and Senior Fair.

**Please make additional funds for senior centers, like Kapahulu Center, a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community!**

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: Jeani Kawamura

Address: 3112 Kaunaoa Street

Honolulu, HI 96815