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From: John Tomoso [mailto:John.Tomoso@co.maui.hi.us]

Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 10:41 PM

To: HSHtestimony

Subject: Testimony on H.B. 2775 Relating to the Executive Office on Aging

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Human Services, who have scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008, @ 8:50 a.m. in Room 329 on H. B. 2775, A Bill to increase the salary of the Director of the Executive Office on Aging.

Aloha kakou,

As the Maui County Executive on Aging, I consider the Director of the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) a colleague and peer. I say this because the Aging Network, as it has been developed since the passage of the Older Americans Act of 1965, has evolved into a finely tuned, tripartite intergovernmental partnership that is statewide and effective, down to the community level. In Hawai'i, as in most other states, the EOA is the head of this network. As such, its head convenes many of our executive and administrative-level meetings and discussions, allowing our state to be in compliance with several important federal mandates. More importantly, the federal Administration on Aging (AoA), liaisons with this head, so as to effectuate federal public policy and administrative rules, as it affects aging and older persons down to the county and community levels. I support H.B. 2775, which increases the salary cap for the Director of the EOA to bring the salary more in line with my own, as a county-level Administrator and to keep state-level administration and leadership that is vibrant, innovative and mutually accountable.

Me ka mahalo pono,  
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County of Maui.

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TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING  
Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

FROM: Michael Sumja, Chair  
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: HB 2775, Relating to the Executive Office on Aging

HEARING: 8:50am on Tuesday, January 29, 2008  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: To increase the salary cap for the Director of the Executive Office on Aging.

POSITION: PABEA **supports** this measure.

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.

As the Chair of PABEA, I would like to offer my support of this bill that makes an appropriation to increase the salary cap for the Director of the Executive Office on Aging, from 69 percent to 80 percent of the salary of the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

Due to the forthcoming onslaught of baby boomers becoming senior citizens, the workload of the Director of EOA will not only become greater, but will also become even more crucial to the welfare of our kupuna. The present Director's salary is woefully inadequate, and faced with even greater responsibilities, this increase is truly warranted. In order to attract and retain the most qualified candidates for this position, the salary must be brought to an appropriate level.

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