

LATE

**SB 2045
RELATING
TO
CAREGIVING**

**S
B
2
0
4
5**

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for S. B. 2045 Relating to Caregiving

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services in public hearing at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2008 in Room 016

Aloha kakou,

I write to support this bill, which seeds to establish a task force to focus on the needs of and issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren or GRG. As an Area Agency on Aging, established under the auspices of the Older American Act (OAA) as Reauthorized and Amended in 2006, we are keenly aware of the growing number of GRG in our jurisdiction and through the Hawai'i Nei. The aging network, statewide, is formally identifying and engaging with more GRG and their growing numbers on our caseloads are allowing us to know, first-hand, their unique issues and needs. This task force will greatly assist us, and the aging network, to understand these issues and needs, and better serve this population, as mandated by the OAA. More importantly, the task force will assist us in identifying those areas of our aging and other helping networks that need systemic, fiscal, resource and even cognitive changes and "paradigm shifts". I don't think it would take each of you long to identify a GRG that you know.

Me ka mahalo pono,
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW
Maui County Executive on Aging
808-270-7350
john.tomoso@mauicounty.gov