

SB 2048
RELATING TO
CAREGIVING

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LATE TESTIMONY

Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

SB2048, RELATING TO CAREGIVING

**Testimony of Noemi Pendleton
Director of Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

Thursday, January 24, 2008.

1:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging supports the intent of SB2048 to have
2 the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with
3 the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social Work as long as any proposed appropriation
4 does not adversely affect the Executive supplemental budget priorities.

5 **Fiscal Implication:** There is an unspecified appropriation of general funds for fiscal year 2008-
6 2009 to the Department of Health.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure asks the Executive Office on Aging to continue its
8 respite inventory project in collaboration with the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social
9 Work.

10 EOA had contracted with the University of Hawaii School of Social Work to work on several
11 projects, including the development of an inventory of respite care services that was required
12 pursuant to HCR 187, HD1 (2007). This inventory identified the name of the agency, the type of
13 respite (on-site or off-site), method of payment (private pay, Medicaid, Medicare, free, insurance),
14 whether or not there was a waiting list, the population served (elders, people with disabilities,

TO : SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Sen. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2048 Relating to Caregiving**

HEARING: 1:30 pm Thursday, January 24, 2008
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: This bill appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Aging to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with the UH-Manoa School of Social Work.

POSITION: **PABEA strongly supports this bill to continue the respite inventory project as a basis for developing proposals by the Legislative Joint Taskforce on Family Caregiving.**

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. I am also a professor of medical sociology at UH-Manoa who has worked with elderly services in Hawaii for more than 20 years.

- § Respite services for family caregivers has been shown to decrease the stress of caregivers and to increase the willingness of persons to continue family caregiving. There are several types of respite, including planned, regularly scheduled services, short-term services, and emergency respite.
- § The 2007 statewide family caregiver survey completed for the Taskforce showed that respite services are a top priority need requested by family caregivers in Hawaii.
- § The inventory project began in 2007 and a report was given to the Joint Legislative Committee in December 2007. However, additional work needs to be completed to assess the needs for different kinds of respite and to answer other questions.
- § In addition, the Legislative Reference Bureau completed a report for the Taskforce during 2007 which examined the respite program provided in by other states. A number of such programs were identified, and work information is desired regarding the financing of these programs, the types of services provided, and who performs the respite services. This information may be useful in developing policy appropriate to Hawaii.

Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Thursday, January 24, 2008
Conference Room 016; 1:30pm

Aging
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
ra 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

ry Mattson
kua Council

RE: S.B. No. 2048, RELATING TO CAREGIVING.

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wes Lum and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition (HAAC). **HAAC supports this measure but recommends that these provisions be added as another part to S.B. No. 2042.**

This bill appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Aging to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social Work.

Respite care addresses one of the most pressing needs identified by families, namely temporary relief to reduce the strain that caregivers experience on a day-to-day basis. Respite services are primarily to provide substitute support for care recipients in order to provide a period of relief or rest for the caregiver. Respite care can allow time for the caregiver to, for example, address their own personal needs, attend a class to learn caregiving skills, participate in a support group, take care of other business, or attend to an unexpected emergency.

Family caregivers must have access to affordable, readily available, high quality respite care as a key component of the supportive services network. This bill is integral to educate caregivers about the types of respite services that are available throughout the state.

We recommend that this measure be added as another part to S.B. No. 2042, Relating to Caregiving, as both of these measures are recommendations of the Committee. Additionally, integrating this bill into the Family Caregiver Omnibus bill would make it easier for the public to track.

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