



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 12, 2008

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION

#### Senate Bill 2049, SD1 - Relating to Taxation

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2049, SD1 relating to a tax credit to taxpayer caregivers who care for qualified care recipients with a recommended change.

DCAB supports the efforts of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving and its efforts to provide policy support to families who provide very much needed care for elders who require long term care. Within our community we do not have the resources to either provide or pay for more expensive care in nursing homes or long term care facilities. We simply do not have the beds or the financial resources to pay for all the beds, even if they were available. We also know that most individuals prefer to stay in their home or familiar family-like environments for their long term care needs.

We are pleased that Senate Draft 1 incorporated our recommendation to include individuals with disabilities over the age of 18 in addition to the elderly.

We defer to the Department of Taxation on the appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA M. NIELSEN  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008

**THE SENATE**

Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 224  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008; 9:25 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2049, SD1  
RELATING TO TAXATION**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2049, SD1, which provides a tax credit to taxpayer caregivers who care for qualified care recipients, equires the Executive Office on Aging to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the program after three years, makes an appropriation to the Department of Taxation to disseminate information on caregiver support information and services.

Home and community-based care is becoming increasingly the preferred method of providing long-term care to the frail elderly and disabled who are unable to take care of themselves, partly because institutional care is so costly but mostly because the elderly and disabled prefer to remain in their own homes. Such care, however, requires willing and able family caregivers who sacrifice much to provide care to their loved ones. Not only must they often forgo their own family's needs to care for another, some even experience financial sacrifice as they are forced to take paid or unpaid leaves of absence and even early retirement.

By providing a tax credit, S.B. 2049, SD1 offers a small gesture to recognize the invaluable service provided by these caregivers. If not for their sacrifices, many more frail elderly and disabled persons would require nursing home care that eventually would cost taxpayers dearly in increased Medicaid and pass-through costs.

We also suggest that the Committee consider increasing the tax credit if the taxpayer provides care to more than one care recipient. The tax credit for a second care recipients can be less than the initial tax credit and tax credits can be limited to care provided to no more than two recipients. This amendment would recognize that many family caregivers provide care to more than one parent and more than one in-law.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2049, SD1 with or without the suggested amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and concerns.