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Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

SB2103, RELATING TO CAREGIVER RECOGNITION DAY

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

Thursday, February 7, 2008

1:15 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging supports this bill as this establishes an
2 annual Caregiver Recognition Day on the first Saturday of November.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) believes that caregivers, both
5 formal and informal, are the backbone of our long-term care system. Caregivers in Hawaii should
6 be recognized, supported, and valued by the community. We are pleased that the Legislature
7 chose to designate the month of November to annually recognize caregivers, as November is also
8 designated by the federal government as National Family Caregiver Support Month.

9 EOA is also pleased that the Legislature has such a high regard for caregivers that, in
10 Hawaii, these heroes will be recognized twice a year. Via the passage of S.C.R. No. 204, S.D. 1
11 (2006), the Legislature currently recognizes March as "Caregivers' Month." Last March, the
12 Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition sponsored Caregiver Awareness Day at the Capitol, and this
13 year, the Coalition will be coordinating a Family Caregiver Health and Resource Fair at the
14 Capitol on March 14, 2008.

1 EOA respectfully requests that on page 1, line 11, the word “control” be changed to
2 “assistance” which reads physical assistance. Also, we ask that instead of listing 17 types of care
3 giving facilities and to prevent the possibility of excluding another type of care giving institution,
4 the words “ long-term care facilities and community home based institutions” be inserted on page
5 1 of line 17 and delete the list of items #1-17 on pages 1 and 2.

6 The designation of the 1st Saturday of November as Caregiver Recognition Day embraces
7 the spirit of gratitude and respect that caregivers deserve. Therefore, EOA supports this measure.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



All America Chapter - Hawaii Division
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To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING

From: Lyn Moku, Division Manager Phone: 532-0806

Date: Thursday, February 7, 2008

Subject: **Support of SB2103 RELATING TO CAREGIVER
RECOGNITION DAY**

The National MS Society supports the concept of SB2103 Relating to Caregiver Recognition Day. November is recognized across the nation as National Family Caregiver Month. It is a recognition event that has been organized by the National Family Caregivers Association for many years, and is endorsed by the National MS Society.

According to National Family Caregivers Association's website, "...Family caregiving is the bedrock upon which this country's healthcare system depends. The services provided by family caregivers represent 80% of all home care services and are conservatively valued at \$306 billion a year, more than twice the amount spent on paid home care and nursing home services combined."¹ *Family caregivers* are comprised of family, friends, partners, and neighbors. They are not paid for the services they provide to their loved ones. As important as they are, they are often unrecognized. November is the time to pay tribute to them.

The Society recognizes the importance of those in need to have access to a wide range of long-term care services which includes family caregivers, professional and para-professional care providers, and many other service providers.

We support SB2103 and National Family Caregiver Month. Thank you.

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¹ National Family Caregiver Association website, "What is Family Caregiving?"

TO : COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara , Vice Chair

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2103 Relating to Caregiver Recognition Day**

HEARING: 1:15 pm Thursday, February 7, 2008
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Establishes an annual Caregiver Recognition Day on the first Saturday of November.

POSITION: **PABEA supports approval of HB 2138 which would establish a Caregiver Recognition Day.**

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.

- § Family caregivers provide informal care for our disabled and frail elderly population without any public recognition or compensation. Their care is the equivalent of millions of dollars to our state. The care often entails financial sacrifices and psychological and physical burdens which compromise their own quality of life and well-being.
- § Because carework is carried out in private, the larger community is unaware of the positive contributions of these persons and unaware of their problems and needs.
- § Establishing a Caregiver Recognition Day will create public visibility to the value of informal family caregiving and increase awareness of the need to support family caregivers in this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

To The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, who have scheduled a public hearing on Thursday, February 7, 2008 @ 1:15 p.m. in Room 016

Aloha mai kakou,

I am in support of S.B. 2103, which establishes an annual Caregiver Recognition Day on the first Saturday of November. In the aging network, November is designated, nationally and locally, as "Family Caregivers Month" and we already have local commemorations and events in support of Family Caregivers, who are officially recognized as part of the mandated client-base of the federal Older Americans Act, as reauthorized and amended in 2006. I believe the entire aging network is in support of this recognition.

Me ka mahalo pono,

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