

# LATE TESTIMONY



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
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Legislative Testimony

**SB 2152 AND 2350** RELATING TO THE TASK FORCE ON AGING  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

January 29, 2008  
016

1:30 p.m.

Room

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is providing testimony in support of SB 2152 AND 2153. Our interest in this issue is primarily based on our concerns that there are approximately 26,000 elderly Hawaiians residing in Hawaii, many whom are confronted with a myriad of challenges that may prevent them from living out the rest of their lives in safety, comfort, and dignity. More troubling is that in three years, when many of the post World War II "baby boomers" reach the age of 65, the population of elderly Hawaiians will likely triple in size, as will the elderly numbers within the general populace.

As such, OHA believes the State would be wise to look at ways to address and bring more focus to the needs of this ever increasing population. Ensuring that our elderly are properly cared for is of utmost importance to OHA, and we would welcome the opportunity to participate and work closely with a task force that would be established by this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to present testimony.

**LATE**

<b>TO:</b>	<b>Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing</b> Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair
<b>FROM:</b>	Harry Mattson, Member PABEA Legislative Committee
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SB 2152 and SB 2350</b> Relating to the Task Force on Aging
<b>HEARING:</b>	1:30pm Tuesday January 29, 2008 Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Establishes a task force on aging to study the need for and feasibility of establishing a department of aging. Requires the task force on aging to submit findings and recommendations to the legislature. Appropriates finds for the task force on aging.
<b>POSITION:</b>	<b>PABEA supports SB 2152 and SB 2350</b>
<b>RATIONALE:</b>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ In 1980, older adults comprised 12% of the State's total population. By 2000, the population nearly doubled, with over 270,000 older adults, or 16% of Hawaii's total population. And, according to the Executive Office on Aging, by 2020, persons age sixty and older will constitute nearly one-third, or thirty per cent, of Hawaii's adult population.</li><li>▪ Publicly-funded programs and services serving the older population in the areas of health care, disability services, insurance, long-term care, caregiver support, medicaid, medicare, and institutional and community-based adult care, for example, are scattered among state departments.</li><li>▪ These programs and services help to meet the multi-faceted needs of older adults and are provided by various county, state, federal, private, and not-for-profit entities but can be challenging for care recipients, caregivers, and families to navigate.</li><li>▪ The EOA coordinates some of the programs and services available to Hawaii's older population; however, the scope and magnitude of overlapping issues facing the elderly necessitate department-level attention. A departmental agency could better focus resources and personnel by directly addressing with top-level policy makers the multi-faceted needs of Hawaii's older population.</li></ul>

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

Tuesday, January 29,  
1:30 pm.  
Conference Room 016

SB 2152 Task Force on Aging

**In Support**

Hawaii needs to study via a task force or commission and determine which departments and programs should be included in a new department of Aging.

The study should include in-put from Senior Advocacy Groups and nonprovider agencies.

Study should include information & reports of other state that have already formed a state Department of Aging with their pros and cons.

The study should include recommendations for all agencies that should be included in this Department of Aging.

Also, a timetable with implementation schedule should be part of their report.

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**LATE**

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2008

THE SENATE  
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
Tuesday, January 29, 2008; 1:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2152 AND S.B. 2350  
RELATING TO TASK FORCE ON AGING**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2152 and S.B. 2350, which establishes a task force on aging to study the need for and feasibility of establishing a Department of Aging.

A crisis is looming as our aging population increases. Hawaii is not prepared for the huge numbers of those over 65 who will soon be upon us, much less those who are over 80, who will soon be the fastest growing segment of Hawaii's population. As people age, health deteriorates and the need for long-term care and other services increases. The State's resources in the form of taxes will potentially diminish with fewer people in the workforce.

Currently, many agencies and programs address the aging population within state government. These services are scattered and sometimes work at cross-purposes. A Department of Aging may not be the answer, but studying its potential to bring resources and ideas together is worth doing. The task force proposed by S.B. 2152 and S.B. 2350 is intended to do that.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2152 or S.B. 2350. Thank you for considering our views.