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House Committee on Finance

SB 2830 SD 2 HD1, RELATING TO CAREGIVING

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

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

2:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) has concerns regarding SB 2830
2 SD 2 HD1 as certain provisions in the bill would negatively impact the Executive supplemental
3 budget priorities.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** There is an unspecified amount of general funds to be appropriated to the
5 Senate and House of Representatives to contract with a qualified consultant to conduct a cash and
6 counseling project and to EOA to expand the KUPUNA CARE program and to continue its respite
7 inventory project with UH School of Social Work for State Fiscal Year 2008- 2009.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** Your Committees have amended this bill by inserting a new "PART
9 VI" to this measure to increase payments for the level of care for adult residential care homes
10 types I and II, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster
11 family homes, and certified adult foster homes by seven percent from \$641.90 to \$686.83 for level
12 I and from \$749.90 to \$802.39 for level II.

13 SB 2830 SD 2 HD1 is the family caregiver omnibus bill which:

1 Extends the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving; changes the committee's name to
2 the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place; expands the committee's mandate to include
3 aging in place issues related to family caregiving; requires the Aging and Disability Resource
4 Center to report to the committee; requires the Joint Legislative Committee to develop a model for
5 a cash and counseling project; appropriates funds to the Joint Legislative Committee; allows
6 Kupuna Care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, as well as provide grants to
7 caregivers and for home modification; appropriates funds to the Kupuna Care program; establishes
8 a task force to focus on the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren; appropriates
9 funds to the Executive Office on Aging to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration
10 with the University of Hawaii.

11 EOA appreciates this proposal. Through Act 204, SLH 2007, EOA had contracted with
12 the University of Hawaii to coordinate family caregiver support services and policies statewide.
13 We are pleased to have worked in partnership with the University, the Joint Legislative
14 Committee, and community stakeholders to have contributed to the research that was cited in this
15 bill. Additionally, we will continue to work together to strengthen and expand KUPUNA CARE
16 services to meet the needs of Hawaii's older adults and their family caregivers. It should be noted
17 that Act 204, SLH 2007, already appropriated an additional \$525,000 to EOA for Kupuna Care
18 services in fiscal year 2008-2009.

19 EOA would be pleased to continue working with the School of Social Work to expand the
20 current respite inventory as long as any appropriations do not negatively affect the Executive
21 supplemental budget priorities. EOA also supports the establishment of a task force to focus on the
22 needs of and issues facing grandparents raising grandchildren. EOA is pleased to be named as a
23 member of the Task Force, and we will participate to our full extent.

24 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.