



**SB 2830, SD2 RELATING TO CAREGIVING**

House Committees on Health and Human Services & Housing

March 12, 2008  
329

8:00 a.m.

Room

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs is providing testimony in **strong support of SB 2830, SD2**. Our interest in this issue is primarily based on our concerns that 52% of the children placed in foster care in Hawai'i are of Native Hawaiian ancestry, and that Hawaiian grandparents are assuming more responsibility as the primary caregivers for their grandchildren.

In Hawaii, more than fourteen thousand Hawaiian grandparents have assumed this caregiving role. It is a cultural practice of Native Hawaiians to care for their family members, especially when it involves minor children. It is an endearing custom in Hawaii for grandparents or "Kupuna" to raise or "hanai" their grandchildren or "mo'opuna." Such a practice can start as early as the birth of the child and may continue well through young adulthood. Stability, security, nurturing, and cultural identity all occur within the context of an extended family by blood or marriage that knows and is connected to the child. This practice is accepted as responsibility or "kuleana" by the grandparent and is undertaken with genuine love and commitment to the child's well-being.

Native Hawaiian grandparents will provide protection and guidance. In addition, they will pour their knowledge and wisdom of life into the hanai process with their grandchildren. As such, the basic necessities of the child are met but deeper qualities of living are passed on and preserved for generations. These intrinsic Hawaiian values make for stronger Native Hawaiian families and by extension, stronger communities.

However, in today's society, these new responsibilities place great emotional and financial stresses on many grandparents. Yet, these grandparents go unacknowledged and worse,

unsupported by government policies and services that are conducive to maintaining these familial relationships. For example, the Hawaii Statutes currently relating to elderly housing penalize grandparents who choose to raise their minor grandchildren. These adults are usually on a fixed income and may have one or more health conditions. They live in elderly housing in order to survive and make ends meet. Elderly relative caregivers to minor children need assurance of knowing their housing is secure so that they can focus on tending to the needs of children entrusted to their care.

Because of these concerns, OHA has addressed these issues in several ways. Over the past three years, OHA has participated on the Governor's Advisory Board on Native Hawaiian Foster Parents as a means to advocate for policy changes that will support the efforts of these grandparents to keep their families intact.

We also provide community grants to the following: Kokua Ohana, a program of the non-profit organization, Partners in Development (PID), that is actively recruiting and providing support services to Native Hawaiian foster parents; Hawai'i Family Services, Inc., an organization that provides support services to Native Hawaiian grandparents who are caring for grandchildren on the Leeward Coast of O'ahu; ALU LIKE, Inc.'s E Ola Pono No Na Kupuna Program that provides transportation, social/cultural activities, and meals to kupuna statewide; and PID's Tutu and Me Program, which also provides transportation and support services to kupuna.

OHA has also been in contact with Native Hawaiian families of incarcerated individuals or "Pa'ahao." When a parent is incarcerated, it often impacts families with minor children. These families experience a wide range of stresses that include emotional, financial, mental and medical challenges. We are aware that many of these families move in with grandparents or bring them into their homes to assist with the care of the children. In extreme cases where the biological parent or adoptive parents are unwilling or unable to serve as the primary caregiver for the child, grandparents become the next, and sometimes only, option for care-giving.

From our experiences, we believe stable housing, financial support, and respite services are the greatest needs of the grandparents, with affordable, stable housing being of the utmost priority. Several years ago, OHA addressed the housing problem of elderly Hawaiians by contributing

\$3.75 million towards the development of the Kulanakauhale Maluhia O Na Kupuna, also known as Waimanalo Kupuna Housing, a project developed by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Unfortunately, in 2005, OHA's Human Services staff had to provide advocacy support to an elderly household with a minor child that was confronted with an eviction from the housing because of the child's presence in the apartment. Response to unmet family needs brought this grandchild and grandparent together into the grandmother's home. Sadly, though we were able to stave off the eviction of the grandparent, she had to be separated from her grandchild. This kind of outcome only inflicts unnecessary suffering for all involved and may eliminate viable options for kinship foster placement.

OHA considers solutions to these problems faced by grandparents to be of utmost importance and feels that the extension of the joint legislative committee is needed to continue the focus on exploring problem-centered solutions. We are also very supportive of the bill because in addition to the committee's extension, it provides for policy changes and funding support to improve and expand kupuna care programs.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to present testimony.

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LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

CHIYOME L. FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



STATE OF HAWAII  
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**House Committee on Health**

**House Committee on Human Services and Housing**

**SB 2830 SD 2, RELATING TO CAREGIVING**

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

**Wednesday, March 12, 2008**

**8:00 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the intent of SB 2830  
2 SD 2 as long as any proposed appropriation does not adversely affect 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:** SB 2830 SD 2 is the family caregiver omnibus bill which:  
9 Extends the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving; changes the committee's name to  
10 the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place; expands the committee's mandate to include  
11 aging in place issues related to family caregiving; requires the Aging and Disability Resource  
12 Center to report to the committee; requires the Joint Legislative Committee to develop a model for  
13 a cash and counseling project; appropriates funds to the Joint Legislative Committee; allows

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1 Kupuna Care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, as well as provide grants to  
2 caregivers and for home modification; appropriates funds to the Kupuna Care program; establishes  
3 a task force to focus on the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren; appropriates  
4 funds to the Executive Office on Aging to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration  
5 with the University of Hawaii.

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

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

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
March 12, 2008

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
House Committee on Health  
and  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representatives Green and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

**SUBJECT: SB 2830 SD2 – RELATING TO CAREGIVING**

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Department of Health.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS SB 2830 SD2**. The purpose of the bill is to: 1) extend the work of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving (JLCFC) for one year; 2) change the name of the joint legislative committee to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging In Place and expand the committee's mandate and focus to include aging in place issues relating to family caregiving; 3) require the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to provide an update on the physical site in Hawaii County and the "virtual" site planned for the Honolulu City and County; 4) require the committee to develop a model for a cash and counseling project and appropriate funds for this purpose; 5) appropriate funds to the Kupuna Care Program to address the waitlist and expand the program; 6) allow Kupuna Care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, and grants to caregivers for home modifications; 7) establish a task force to focus on the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren; and 8) appropriate funds to the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with the University of Hawaii (UH).

The JLCFC created by Act 285, SLH 2006, was established to address the needs of family caregivers who provide unpaid, informal assistance to a person 60 and older with physical or cognitive disabilities or a grandparent who is a caregiver for a grandchild 18 or younger or 19 or older with physical or cognitive limitations. Act 204, SLH 2007, allowed JLCFC to continue its work during the 2007 Interim and report to the Legislature. Special Committee Report Number 1 provides the background to JLCFC, a

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The Honorable Josh Green, M.D.  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
Page 2  
March 12, 2008

summary of the studies and surveys conducted, including the Family Caregiver Needs Assessment, and the findings and recommendations of the committee.

The Council believes that family caregiving plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of the increasing elder and disability populations needing long-term care services and supports in the community and supports the efforts of JLCFC to continue to develop a support system for family caregivers that includes: coordinated services and policies, training and education, respite services, financial incentives, policies on balancing work and caregiving, and exploring the establishment of a paid family leave program for family caregivers who take time off from work to care for a seriously ill family member.

The Council defers to EOA on the appropriation necessary for FY 2008-2009 to implement and expand the Kupuna Care Program and to continue its respite inventory project with UH.

The Council is a member of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, JLCFC, and ADRC Advisory Council and looks forward to continued involvement in efforts to provide support for family caregivers providing care for their family members in need of long-term care and supports in the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of **SB 2830 SD2**.

Sincerely,

  
Waynette K.Y. Cabral  
Executive Administrator

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## mizuno1-Edgar

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**From:** manis [manis@lava.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2008 12:54 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** SB 2830 SD2

**Attachments:** SB 2830 Sd2 caregiving omnibus



SB 2830 Sd2  
caregiving omnibus..

Attachment is the same as below in case you can't open it. Thanks, Laura Manis  
Kokua Council: Laura Manis Testifier

Hearing of the House Committees on Health and Human Services & Housing

March 12, 2008, 8 a.m. Conference Room 329

Chair Josh Green, MD., and Members of the HLT Committee, and Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro  
and Members of the HSH Committee

SB 2830 SD2 RELATING TO CAREGIVING. Extends the joint legislative committee on family caregiving; changes the committee's name to the joint legislative committee on aging in place; expands the committee's mandate to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving; requires the aging and disability resource center to report to the committee; requires the joint legislative committee to conduct a cash and counseling project; appropriates funds to the joint legislative committee; allows kupuna care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, as well as provide grants to caregivers and for home modification; appropriates funds to the kupuna care program

SUPPORT

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of Kokua Council whose mission includes advocating for the elderly and those vulnerable populations who can not advocate for themselves.

We are pleased to support this bill for the following reasons. Changing the name of the task force acknowledges the reality that frailness includes being unable to do chores such as housekeeping, shopping, yard work, all of which enables people to stay at home. This will expand the scope of this very valuable committee and help relieve the pressure on caregivers as well as the burden on long term care facilities.

The other components of this omnibus bill cover existing gaps in services, such as Kupuna Care for emergencies, overnight and weekend care and help with financing home modification. We also support financing existing programs (Kupuna Care) to shorten wait lists, and to continue and implement the valuable work of the joint committee on caregiving and the one-stop resource center for aging and disability.

Support for Home and Community based care is financially prudent for the state since this care is much less costly than institutional care. 80 to 90% of care in institutions are supported by Medicaid for which the State must provide 50%.

We ask that you will support this bill.  
Laura G. Manis, Legislative Chair, Kokua Council  
tel. 597-8838



# Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans  
c/o AFSCME · 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

AFT Hawaii Retirees  
HGEA Retirees  
HSTA – Retired  
ILWU Retirees  
Kokua Council  
Machinists Union Retirees  
UPW Retirees  
ADA/Hawaii

(Submitted by email to [HLTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HLTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov) March 8, 2008)

Joint statement of Al Hamai, President, and Carol Nitta, Legislative Committee Member, Supporting SB 2830, SD2, Relating to Caregiving

## **Hearing of the House Committees on Health and Human Services & Housing**

**March 12, 2008, 8 a.m. Conference Room 329**

Chair Josh Green, MD., and Members of the HLT Committee, and Chair Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and Members of the HSH Committee

We are submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA). HARA represents 17,000 retirees, members of the above organizations and individuals. We are a chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA), a national advocacy organization for retirees.

HARA supports SB 2830, SD 2 and considers this a very high priority bill. The joint legislative committee on family caregiving has performed a great service to the legislature and to our community in identifying and seeking solutions to support the thousands of family caregivers, who daily take care of their loved ones. This bill extends the life of the joint committee and expands its role to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving and also appropriates funds to support family caregivers and the Kupuna Care Program.

The members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving (JLCFC) are commended by HARA for working during the interim to achieve its responsibilities set forth in Act 204, SLH 2007. HARA concurs with SB 2830, SD2, as amended by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, SSCR 2790, and urges your two committees to approve it so it can be enacted into law. Mahalo.

*Ke hana like nei na kupuna i 'oi loa a'e 'o Hawai'i*  
Senior citizens working together for a better Hawai'i

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**TO :** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

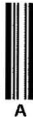
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING  
Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

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

**SUBJECT: SB 2830 SD2 RELATING TO CAREGIVING**

**HEARING:** 8:00 am Wednesday March 12, 2008  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** An omnibus bill to support the work and recommendations from the Joint Task Force on Family Caregiving, including broadening the name



to  Aging in Place and the scope to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving; requires the Aging and Disability Resource Center to report to the taskforce; undertakes to develop a cash and counseling project; expands kupuna care to include overnight, weekend and emergency respite and grants to caregivers for home modification; and appropriates funds to Kupuna Care; establishes a taskforce to focus on grandparents raising grandchildren, and appropriates funds to the EOA to continue the respite inventory project in collaboration with UH.

**POSITION: PABEA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE CONTINUED WORK OF THE JOINT TASKFORCE AND SUPPORTS ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**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.

PABEA is grateful for the dedicated work of the Joint Taskforce for undertaking to develop a comprehensive set of policies to support family caregiving and aging in place.

 The aging tsunami facing Hawaii requires that we put in place policies and programs to protect family caregivers and our frail elderly. The focus on  aging

in place requires creating an infrastructure of home and community-based care and reducing reliance upon institutional/residential care facilities;

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Because the needs are so multi-faceted, the taskforce is taking a comprehensive approach and this bill addresses multiple ways of meeting the many different

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care situations, including support for modifying homes, providing emergency respites services,

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developing a cash and counseling program for caregivers, and addressing the issues faced by grandparents raising grandchildren. Funds are also needed to continue data collection on the need for more respite services, and also to address the wait-lists and enable expansion of the Kupuna Care program.

|||  
\$

SD 2 amended the bill by removing the appropriations to the Executive Office on Aging Kupuna program with the intention that these funds would be requested in the Supplemental Budget, especially for Kupuna Care services which is an ongoing program. We agree that these funds should be included in the budget.

Thank you for considering these requests and we urge your support for this bill.

# Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition

## Testimony to the Joint House Committee on Health and Human Services and Housing

Wednesday, March 12, 2008  
Conference Room 329; 8:00am

### Founding 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  
Debra 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

Harry Mattson  
Kokua Council

### RE: S.B. No. 2830, S.D. 2, RELATING TO CAREGIVING.

Chairs Green and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Joint Committee,

My name is Wes Lum and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition (HAAC). **HAAC strongly supports this measure.**

This bill reflects many of the recommendations of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving (Committee). In making its recommendations, the Committee examined the research and data provided by the studies conducted during this past legislative interim, and focused on addressing the immediate needs of family caregivers, as well as facilitating the development of a comprehensive, community based family caregiver support system.

We applaud the Committee for its excellent and thorough work, and for submitting a final report that was done well.

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

2299B Round Top Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Email to wes.lum@doh.hawaii.gov or hmattson@hawaii.rr.com


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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

Representative Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services & Housing

FROM:   
Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 (8:00 a.m., Room 329)

RE: **Support of SB 2830, SD2 Relating to Caregiving**

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH), is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 60 years. The Agency has also been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves approximately 5,000 older persons each year. **We strongly support SB 2830, SD2, Relating to Caregiving, particularly as it pertains to additional funding for Kupuna Care services.**

We ask that these **factors be considered when determining a funding level for Kupuna Care services:**

1. The **wait list** referred to in Part III ((Kupuna Care), Section 9, **is only one component of the overall community need for services for elders.** Therefore, funding cannot be based only on the wait list figures that have been provided to the Legislature. Kupuna Care providers on Oahu are currently working together to provide more comprehensive data regarding the need that exists for senior services.
2. The addition of new services (overnight/weekend/emergency respite, home modification) and service approaches (cash and counseling) will require **funding beyond the level of funding needed for current Kupuna Care services.**

Catholic Charities Hawaii has provided transportation and housekeeping services, both State-funded Kupuna Care Services, for a number of years. In addition, we have been partners with other aging network providers who also provide essential State-funded Kupuna Care Services such as home-delivered meals, case management, bathing service and more.



State-funded Kupuna Care currently funds a set of basic, essential services that help frail elders remain independent and avoid institutionalization or homelessness. In addition, these services support family caregivers who are providing support to frail elderly relatives who still want to maintain their independence but require supportive services, from family and the community, in order to do so.

**The Consequence of Not Providing More Funding for State Kupuna Care Services: Missed opportunities to keep elders out of costly institutions.** At a cost of approximately \$7,000 a month per person for nursing home care, it is much more cost effective, and humane, to keep elders as well as possible in the communities in which they want to remain. For example, **additional funding of \$750,000 for State Kupuna Care will provide additional services for hundreds of seniors. This same amount could only support about nine elders in nursing homes for a year.** The cost of institutional care eventually becomes a burden on taxpayers and government since State-funded Kupuna Care program targets those in greatest need.

**Catholic Charities Hawaii asks for your support of SB 2830, SD2, Relating to Caregiving. Thank you.**



**To: House Committee on Health  
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice-Chair**

**House Committee on Human Services & Housing  
Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair**

**Date: March 12, 2008  
Conference Room 329  
8:00 am**

**Re: SB 2830, SD2, RELATING TO CAREGIVING**

Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

My name is Ed Thompson and I am the Associate State Director for Advocacy for AARP Hawaii. We are a membership organization for people 50 and older with 156,000 members in Hawaii. AARP provides access to services and information, meaningful volunteer opportunities, and the opportunity for our members to create positive change in their lives.

AARP supports SB 2830, SD2.

This bill extends the life of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving; changes the committee's name to the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place; and expands the committee's mandate to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving.

Family caregiving plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of our senior and disabled populations that need long-term care services and support in the community. As an alternative to institutional care, many of Hawaii's people have expressed a desire to remain living in their homes and to receive care from family members, friends, and professional caregivers. Hawaii's people should have choices for their care needs.

AARP Hawaii has been an active participant throughout the work of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving. We will continue to offer our support to help Hawaii's family caregivers and to help determine how their needs can be supported through public policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committees.

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To: Representative Josh Green, MD, Chair  
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Maile SL Shimabukuro, Chair  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

From: Lyn Moku, Division Manager  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Phone: 532-0806

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008

Subject: **SUPPORT OF SB2830 SD 2 RELATING TO CAREGIVING. Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving; Kupuna Care; Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force; Respite Care; Appropriations**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports SB2830 SD2 related to Caregiving which extends the joint legislative committee on family caregiving; changes the committee's name to the joint legislative committee on aging in place; expands the committee's mandate to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving; requires the aging and disability resource center to report to the committee; requires the joint legislative committee to develop a model for a cash and counseling project; appropriates funds to the joint legislative committee; allows Kupuna care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, as well as provide grants to caregivers and for home modification; appropriates funds to the Kupuna care program; establishes a task force to focus on the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren; appropriates funds to the executive office on aging to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with the University of Hawaii.

The Society has long been concerned about the needs of people with multiple sclerosis and other chronic diseases, the elderly, and people with disabilities for quality, accessible, affordable and comprehensive long-term care services. The Society supports the:

- Expansion of public and private long-term care options, especially those that keep individuals in the community, and functioning at the highest possible level.
- Development of a coordinated approach to the delivery of an individual's care to help assure that the best combination of health care and other services is provided.
- Establishment of programs to help the caregiver cope with constant, often overwhelming duties.

Please support SB2830 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

###

Lyn Moku  
Division Manager  
**National Multiple Sclerosis Society**  
All America Chapter, Hawaii Division  
418 Kuwili Street, #105  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
tel +808-532-0806  
fax +808-532-0814



National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society

JOIN THE MOVEMENT  
[nationalMSSociety.org/hih](http://nationalMSSociety.org/hih)

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING  
Rep. Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Conference Room 329  
March 12, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

**Testimony in support of SB 2830 SD 2.**

I am Coral Andrews, Vice President of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2830 SD 2, which extends the joint legislative committee on family caregiving, changing its name to the joint legislative committee on aging in place. The bill also takes various other steps to support family caregivers.

The relatively good health of Hawaii's population means that there is a large proportion of elderly people. Currently, 17% of the population is 60 years or older. The baby boomers will start to turn 65 by 2011, and by 2030 over one-fourth of the state's population is projected to be older adults. The proportion of those age 85 years and older is growing more than twice as fast as the older population as a whole. Many older people have chronic conditions and need assistance with their care.

As an alternative to institutional care, consumers have expressed a desire to remain living in their homes and to receive care from family members, friends, and professional caregivers. This bill seeks to strengthen the alignment of existing and future organizations whose focus is the development of policies and programs that support family caregivers. As summarized in the SCR 198 Waitlist Task Force Report to the 2008 Legislature, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii supports efforts that enable the work of family caregivers to successfully care for their loved ones at home.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2830 SD 2.

# HAWAII COALITION OF CAREGIVERS

P.O. Box 2441, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

March 11, 2008

## MEMBERS 2007-08

**Maria Etrata**  
Founder and President  
*The Primary Care  
Providers*

**Myriam Tabaniag**  
President  
*Alliance of Residential Care  
Administrators*

**Esther Pascual**  
President  
*United Group of Home  
Operators*

**Lani Akee**  
President  
*Adult Foster Home  
Association of Hawaii*

**Myriam Guerrero**  
President  
*Alliance of Residential Care  
Administrators - Big Island  
Chapter*

**Daniel Marcos**  
President  
*Adult Foster Home  
Association of Hawaii - Big  
Island Chapter*

**Myriam Guerrero**  
President  
*Alliance of Residential Care  
Administrators - Big Island  
Chapter*

**Mila Medallon**  
Advisor

**Bryan P. Andaya**  
Advisor

Testimony in Support of SB 2830 – HLT/HSB - Mar. 12, 2008, 8:00 a.m., Rm. 329

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Hawai'i State Legislature:

The Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (HCCG) supports SB2830 SD2 relating to the extending the joint legislative committee on aging in place and appropriating necessary funds. HCCG supports efforts to strengthen the elderly and disabled health care system in Hawaii that recognize the contributions of caregivers and the benefits of their work conferred on the elderly and disabled.

As the legislature is well aware, Medicaid-waiver reimbursement rates have remained static for caregivers at a flat-rate of \$1,200 per month for 24/7 care 365 days a year, which calculates to approximately \$42 per day or \$1.67 per hour. With these static and low reimbursement rates, the skyrocketing costs of providing care to the elderly and disabled make it nearly impossible to operate.

From this \$1.67 per hour, caregivers must pay for all expenses associated with caregiving such as mortgage, electricity, water, sewer, property taxes, general excise taxes, income taxes, food, automobile, gasoline, insurance, entertainment, and kitchen, bathroom, and laundry supplies. Under these circumstances, HCCG supports the work of the joint committee and office of aging in assisting caregivers in providing higher levels of service without raising the cost of providing services.

Moreover, providing higher standards of care to the elderly and disabled without increasing costs to caregivers would result in better health, safety, and welfare to residents unable to care for themselves.

With the increasing number of elderly and disabled in need of long-term care, along with the rising costs of providing for such care, HCCG supports the joint committees efforts to strengthen and streamline the health care delivery system for the elderly and disabled that ultimately results in greater support for caregivers and better care for those in need.

Very truly yours,  
The Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (HCCG)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan P. Andaya

TO: JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Representative Josh Green, Chair  
Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

FROM: PAT SASAKI

RE: S.B. 2830 S.D. 2, RELATING TO CAREGIVING

HEARING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008  
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 329  
8:00AM

POSITION: SUPPORT

My name is Pat Sasaki. I am testifying in support of S.B. No. 2830, S.D. 2, Relating to Caregiving.

Mahalo to Hawaii Legislators for sustaining your commitment to the issues and needs of Hawaii's fast-growing older population. From the plight of children lacking responsible parents to the day-to-day economic struggles of working families, older adults play critical roles in the lives of Hawaii's citizens.

Supporting the aging network of services means providing just that bit of extra help that sustains a family's ability to function and avoid abandoning or neglecting older adult family members.

Older adults themselves keep many of Hawaii's families going. They share their life savings to help pay for living and education expenses. They provide childcare for working parents that includes transportation, feeding, and nurturing. They are also the ones who assume child-raising responsibilities and costs when parents are absent or incapable.

I urge your passage of S.B. No. 2830, S.D. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**TO:** House Committee on Health  
House Representative Jose Green, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services and  
Housing  
House Representative Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair

**FROM:** Carole Milner

**RE:** S.B.2830 S.D. 2, Relating to Caregiving

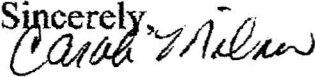
**HEARING:** Wednesday, March 03-12-08 at 8:00 AM

**POSITION:** Support

My name is Carole Milner. I am a bachelor of social work student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. I am testifying in support of S.B. No 2830, S.D.2, Relating to Caregiving.

Hawaii's Legislators have my admiration for their desire to assess and address the needs of our elders and their families. For over 20 years I have been an RN working in long term care facilities in Hawaii. I know first hand the demanding, 24/7 tasks of caregiving.. With a network of community supports, such as those being proposed in S.B. 2830, family members would be the recipients of more affordable services and financial assistance. Research has demonstrated that such networks help to alleviate caretgiver stress and burn-out which is a major factor in admissions of elders to costly, and isolating long term care facilities.

I strongly urge your passage of S.B. No. 2830, S.D. 2. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
  
Carole Milner

**IN SUPPORT**

Testimony for the Record

Tot the Committee on Health, Representative Josh Green, M.D., Chair, Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair and Committee Members, and Committee on Human Services & Housing, Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair and Committee Members, Regarding Hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 8:00 a.m., Conference Room 329.

From: From Patricia Urieff, MSW, ACSW, LSW, employed with twenty-four years of experience providing social work services to children and families, including grandparents raising grandchildren.

REGARDING:

SB 2830, RELATING TO CAREGIVING.

SD2  
(SSCR2790) Extends the joint legislative committee on family caregiving; changes the committee's name to the joint legislative committee on aging in place; expands the committee's mandate to include aging in place issues related to family caregiving; requires the aging and disability resource center to report to the committee; requires the joint legislative committee to develop a model for a cash and counseling project; appropriates funds to the joint legislative committee; allows kupuna care to include overnight, weekend, and emergency respite, as well as provide grants to caregivers and for home modification; appropriates funds to the kupuna care program; **establishes a task force to focus on the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren**; appropriates funds to the executive office on aging to continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with the University of Hawaii. (SB2830 SD2)

Grandparents who respond to a family crisis by caring for their grandchildren usually don't plan on raising those children. Yet when those children have a need for a permanent home (because parents are either absent or lack capacity to provide a safe home), the grandparents care for children 24/7. The Hawaii drug crisis during the past 15 years is a real factor.

"Over 14,000 grandparents are the primary caregivers for 33,000 grandchildren in the state of Hawaii. They are saving 17 million dollars a month caring for grandchildren outside of the foster care system." 2007 *Needs Assessment (for the Office of Aging) by College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources, University of Hawaii.*

Grandparents are either senior citizens living on a fixed income or about to become a senior citizen. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren are committed to caring for the children. This is the stage of life when health issues arise. Those grandparents will go without new glasses, their visits to the dentist, give up their dream to travel etc. They make sure that the children's needs are met, including sports equipment, and other things that support youth development. This is a great group of senior citizens setting a good example while they raise Hawaii's children. **Needed is increased public awareness. Awareness is the first step. A Task Force to discuss issues related to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren makes good sense. Such a Task Force should exist for a minimum of two years for identifying issues, existing resources, examining systems, and reporting back to the legislature.**

To: The Honorable Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
The Honorable Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Health  
And  
The Honorable Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair  
Member of the Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana

Subject: Testimony of SB 2830, SD 2 (SSCR 2790) Relating to Caregiving

I strongly support SB 2830, SD 2 Relating to Caregiving. This particular Senate Bill includes appropriating funds to the Kupuna Care Program; consider various options for overnight, weekend, and emergency respite; grants to caregivers as well as other elderly needs.

The elderly would prefer to age in place in their homes. However, many of Hawaii's Kupuna need additional assistance from the State of Hawaii in order to remain at home.

Kupuna Care: Additional funding is so much needed to assist elderly in managing their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's) and/or their Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's) enabling them to live independently in the community. Services which Kupuna Care provides are responses to basic needs that add to the quality of life for frail elders. Many seniors are isolated, lonely, helpless and need some assistance in coping with daily living.

Caregiving Services/Options: Caregiving is everybody's business and at some point in everyone's life, one will be faced with challenging caregiving responsibilities. Relief assistance and caregiving support are essential to avoid physical and emotional stress to both the caregiver and the frail elder. The caregiving crunch is facing us very seriously.

Funding for SB 2830, SD 2 (SSCR 2790) from the State of Hawaii is imminent as assistance for chronic care and caregiving are two of the most needed services. I urge you to strongly support and approve the funding of much needed services. Hawaii's elders need your sensitive support. Thank you very much.

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