

LATE

To: House Committee on Finance
Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

Date: March 28, 2008
Conference Room 308
3:15 pm

Re: In Support of SB 3255, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO LONG TERM CARE

Chair Oshiro and members of the committee:

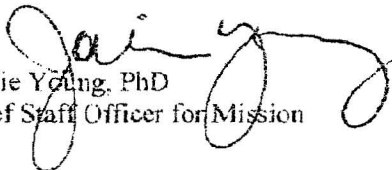
My name is Jackie Young, Chief Staff Officer for the American Cancer Society in Hawaii Pacific. I am writing to support SB 3255, SD2, HD1.

The American Cancer Society strongly believes in supporting measures that will increase timely access to the full range of evidence-based health care necessary to optimize health and well being. Finding long term care solutions for tomorrow may not feel as compelling or urgent as the many competing demands in today's legislature, but in the long run, earnest efforts to reign in escalating health costs and address declining health care quality will both pay for themselves and bring peace of mind to many families in Hawaii.

Hawaii will experience rapid population aging over the next 22 years. It is expected that the incidence of cancer, currently at 6,000 Hawaii residents a year being diagnosed with this disease, will increase to 10,000 a year by 2030. Five out of every six (83%) Medicaid long-term dollars for older people and adults with physical disabilities in Hawaii go toward nursing home care, even though nursing homes serve a relatively small number of people in the state and most Hawaii residents prefer to receive services in their home. Most people (71%) in Hawaii say that it is very important that the state help people pay for long-term care services, and over half (56%) strongly support a state long-term care plan that is available to everyone regardless of income.

A Long Term Care Commission in the 1990s raised the urgency of this issue so this bill is long overdue to address this impending crisis in Hawaii. We must define our long-term care policy goals and recommend a program for a funding mechanism that can provide these services. I strongly support the creation of a long-term care commission to address these problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee.


Jackie Young, PhD
Chief Staff Officer for Mission

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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

The American Cancer Society is the nation's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy, and support.