



**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**

HONOLULU

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of Barry Fukunaga  
Chief of Staff—Office of the Governor

Before the

House Committee on Legislative Management

Wednesday, March 19, 2008  
2:00 PM

SB 868 SD2

Chair Magaoay and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 868 Senate Draft 2. The Lingle-Aiona Administration does not support this bill as its purpose and motivation are unclear.

Current policy does not restrict boards and commissions from communicating with the Legislature. In fact, our boards routinely submit testimony to committees and actively participate in the legislative process.

There are over 160 boards and commissions in this State with over 1,300 members. Given the magnitude of these numbers, it is both practical and efficient to coordinate communication with the Legislature through the appropriate department. This does not mean that the opinions and perspectives of board members are in any way censored or repressed. Individuals selected to serve on these boards are highly respected in their fields and represent the diversity of our state. It is for this reason members have been selected to serve—we value their input.

The introduction of this bill insinuates that the current method of communication is deficient. This is simply not the case.

I respectfully request that you hold this bill.

TO: COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT  
Representative Michael Y. Magaoay, Chair  
Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice chair

FROM: Sandy Rongitsch, Medical Social Worker  
Wailuku, Maui

RE: **SB 868, SD2, RELATING TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 423

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. As a member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) for almost 4 years – 2 years on the legislative committee - I do not support SB 868, SD2 which would potentially change the advisory nature of this board to one with total autonomy.

Speaking as a community-minded citizen with experience as a board member on state and county advisory committees, when I “signed on” to be on the state advisory board it was with clear understanding that my role would be to advise and make recommendations to the director.

Thus far, I have found my efforts and participation on PABEA to be rewarding on a personal level and humbling to have a voice on an advisory board that raises the public and legislators’ consciousness of elderly issues. I also have a strong conviction about being an independent thinker and have exercised my right to speak out and submit testimony as a private citizen when I disagreed with the director of the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) or with PABEA.

I encourage you to not change the role and goal of boards and commissions but to support a closer working relationship between the director and the board or commission. I don’t believe that a state board’s advisory capacity and effectiveness as an advocacy body are mutually exclusive.