



To: House Committee on Health
Representative Josh Green, MD, Chair
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair

House Committee on Human Services & Housing
Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Date: April 16, 2008
Conference Room 229
11:30 am

Re: SCR 153, SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

My name is Stuart Ho, State President of AARP Hawaii. AARP supports SCR 153.

Divided We Fail is AARP's national effort to raise the voices of millions of Americans who believe that access to affordable, quality health care and lifetime financial security are the most pressing domestic issues facing our nation. Together, we are calling for action and answers from our nation's leaders to find common-sense, bipartisan solutions that recognize that individuals, business and government each have a role and a responsibility in providing access to affordable, quality health care and lifetime financial security.

We recognize that we can't do this alone. That is why, on the national level, AARP has joined with Business Roundtable, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) to call for an end to partisan gridlock and demand common-sense, and bipartisan solutions that provide access to affordable, quality healthcare and lifetime financial security for Americans of all ages. In addition to our four diverse organizations, dozens of national organizations that represent a broad cross-section of views have endorsed the Divided We Fail platform. You may also be interested to know that Hawaii was the first state in the nation to have their entire Congressional delegation endorse the Congressional Divided We Fail Platform in 2007.

Hawaii's People Need Affordable, Quality Health Care

As you already know, many people in Hawaii are uninsured. In 2005, 9% of Hawaii's people did not have health insurance. Between 1991 and 2004, personal health care expenditures in Hawaii grew an average of 5.9% per year and the average total single health insurance premium rose from \$2,317 in 1997 to \$3,020 in 2003 for employees enrolled at private firms in Hawaii that offered health coverage. This was an increase of 30 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars.

Hawaii's People Need Lifetime Financial Security

In 2003, one out of seven of Hawaii's residents (15%) received Social Security. In 2000, Social Security constituted at least 50% of the total income of two out of five Hawaii residents age 65+ (40%) and one out of six people (17%) in Hawaii age 65 or older relied on Social Security as their only source of income. On average, more than one out of four (28%) of Hawaii's residents age 65 or older would have lived below the poverty line in 2000 through 2002 if they had not received Social Security.

All Americans should have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that their futures will be financially secure. Yet millions of Americans worry about their health and long-term financial security. For many, the American dream is eroding along with this security. We can't let this happen. We must act now and if we don't, the next generation will be the first in American history to be less well off than their parents.

AARP, the Business Roundtable, SEIU, and NFIB are stepping up to this challenge with Divided We Fail so that Americans can achieve long-term financial security and get the health care they need. We want our policymakers and business leaders to work to:

- strengthen Social Security;
- make affordable, quality health care available for all;
- make prescription drugs more affordable for all;
- create incentives to save for retirement; and
- expand job opportunities so people can keep working and contributing to society as they get older.

We believe all Americans should have access to affordable, quality health care, and peace of mind about their future health and long-term financial security. We ask that you please work to find common ground to seek health care and financial solutions that we all need in Hawaii and the Nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

Testimony for SCR153, Supporting The Divided We Fail Campaign

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RE: SCR 153, SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

My name is Charlotte K. Lum, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153.

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RE: SCR 153, SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

My name is Carolyn Lancaster. I am from North Kohala on the Big Island and an active member of AARP, as well as a member of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Steering Committee and Mayor Harry Kim's Healthcare Taskforce. I strongly support SCR 153.

As you know, Divided We Fail is AARP's national effort to raise the voices of millions of Americans who believe that access to affordable, quality health care and lifetime financial security are the most pressing domestic issues facing our nation. Together, we are calling for action and answers from our nation's leaders to find common-sense, bipartisan solutions that recognize that individuals, business and government each have a role and a responsibility in providing access to affordable, quality health care and lifetime financial security.

Hawaii's people should have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that their futures will be financially secure. Yet many Hawaii residents worry about their health and long-term financial security, as well as the looming Health Care Crisis here in Hawaii.

PLEASE work to find common ground to seek health care and financial solutions that we all need in Hawaii and the Nation. I am doing what I can at the Grassroots and County level here on the Big Island, PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN THERE AT THE CAPITOL!

Thank you for allowing me to testify before your committee.
Sincerely,
Carolyn Lancaster

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Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

My name is Al Beeman of Hilo, HI , a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Beeman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

mizuno1-Edgar

From: manis [manis@lava.net]
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2008 4:45 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Testimony SCR 153

Laura Manis Testifier, 597-8838

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

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

Wednesday, April 16, 2008: 11:30 a.m. Conference Room 229

RE: SCR 153 SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

My name is Laura Manis, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153

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Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

My name is Rodlyn Brown, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153.

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Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

My name is Jerry Scroggs, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153.

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Chairs Green and Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

My name is Esther Ueda, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153.

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