

# SCR153

Measure Title:  
SUPPORTING THE "DIVIDED WE FAIL" CAMPAIGN.

Report Title:  
Divided We Fail Campaign

Companion:  
SR83

Introducer(s):  
CHUN OAKLAND

Current Referral:  
HTH/HSP/IGM



**To: Senate Committee on Health**  
Sen. David Ige, Chair  
**Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing**  
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
**Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs & Military Affairs**  
Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair

**Date: March 28, 2008**  
**Conference Room 016**  
**1:30 pm**

**Re: SCR 153 / SR83, SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN**

Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and Members of the Committees:

My name is Stuart Ho, State President of AARP Hawaii. AARP supports SCR 153 / SR83.

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 / SR83 Supporting The Divided We Fail Campaign

TO: Senate Committee on Health  
Sen. David Ige, Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs & Military Affairs  
Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair

DATE: March 28, 2008  
Conference Room 016  
1:30 p.m.

RE: SCR 153 / SR 83 SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and members of the committees:

My name is Colette Browne, Professor of Social Work and Chair of the Gerontology Concentration at the School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I write to you as a private citizen and as a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153 and SR 83.

You will no doubt received many emails that speak of Divided We Fail, 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. AARP seeks your support of their efforts to find answers in finding 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 of all ages must 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. For many, the American dream is eroding along with this security. AARP does not want this to happen, and believes that we must act now. I agree. As a parent, I do want my children to be members of the first generation in American history to be less well off than their parents.

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 allowing me to testify before your committee.

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TO: Senate Committee on Health  
Sen. David Ige, Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs & Military Affairs  
Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair

FROM: Christine Olah - Resident, State of Hawaii, AARP member/advocate

DATE: March 28, 2008  
Conference Room 016 - 1:30 p.m.

RE: SCR 153 / SR 83  
SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and members of the committees:

**I strongly support SCR 153 and SR 83. Your affirmative vote is requested.**

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.

*FACT: 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 to know you will work for bi-partisan solutions to solve the impending crisis of an aging society. Please act now and approve SCR153 and SR 83..

Thank you for allowing me to testify before your committee.

Sincerely,  
Christine Olah – Resident, State of Hawaii  
AARP, member and advocate  
[TropicalHawaiiUSA@gmail.com](mailto:TropicalHawaiiUSA@gmail.com)

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Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and members of the committees:

My name is Alice Mello and I strongly support SCR 153 and SR 83.

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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 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. 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.

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.

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RE: SCR 153 / SR 83 SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and members of the committees:

My name is Charlotte K. Lum, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153 and SR 83.

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Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and members of the committees:

My name is Albert E Beeman of Hilo, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153 and SR 83.

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RE: SCR 153 / SR 83 SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and members of the committees:

My name is Aimee Shinsato, a Social Work student at the University of Hawaii. I strongly support SCR 153 and SR 83.

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RE: SCR 153 / SR 83 SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and members of the committees:

My name is Anita Loando-Acohido, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153 and SR 83.

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## testimony

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**From:** manis [manis@lava.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2008 12:06 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** SCR153/SR83 for 3/28

Testimony for SCR153 / SR83 Supporting The Divided We Fail Campaign

**TO:** Senate Committee on Health  
Sen. David Ige, Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs & Military Affairs  
Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair

**DATE:** March 28, 2008  
Conference Room 016  
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**RE:** SCR 153 / SR 83 SUPPORTING THE DIVIDED WE FAIL CAMPAIGN

Chairs Ige, Chun Oakland, Inouye and members of the committees:

My name is Laura Manis, a member of AARP. I strongly support SCR 153 and SR 83.

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