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LATE

February 26, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Honorable David Y. Ige
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.C.R 33 - REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING,
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES TO CONDUCT A COLLABORATIVE STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND
WORKFORCE SHORTAGES IN THE STATE.

Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.C.R. 33 is to request that the Department on Aging, Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services report and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the infrastructure and workforce shortages in the State, as well as deficiencies in the accessibility and availability of care services and facilities for seniors, veterans, and persons with disabilities in the State.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this resolution to form another task

force relating to long-term care but cannot support this resolution at this time.

As the Legislature is well aware, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Counties, and other State and private community agencies have built strong partnerships through participation in the S.C.R. 144 Task Force which has already begun developing a long-term care infrastructure plan for Hawaii which will ensure public safety while supporting aging in place and has already begun to build momentum towards solving many of the State's shortcomings that the development of the proposed Task Force intends to address.

The Department is also concerned that should the new task force be established, this momentum could be slowed or even halted as a result of questions regarding which task force is responsible for what priorities.

The Department would recommend that support be given to the continuing work of the S.C.R. 144 Task Force to address the issues of concern expressed in this resolution and that members be added to the S.C.R. 144 Task Force who can contribute to the work of the S.C.R. 144 Task Force to work on the concerns expressed in this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Committee on Health

SCR33, REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONDUCT A COLLABORATIVE STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE SHORTAGES IN THE STATE.

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

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

1:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health and the Executive Office on Aging have
2 serious concerns about this senate concurrent resolution and respectfully oppose it.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Unknown

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of SCR33 is to request EOA, DOH, and DHS to
5 conduct a collaborative study and make recommendations relating to infrastructure and workforce
6 shortages in the state. While we appreciate the intent of this resolution, EOA has major concerns
7 about the scope of work, feasibility, and timeline. Each of the 29 itemized goals is a project in and
8 of itself, and requires resources that EOA does not have. Additionally, the timeframe is too short
9 and would only leave 5 months to conduct a comprehensive study.

10 The administration's Long-term Living Initiative, of which DOH, DHS, EOA, and other
11 state agencies are members of, has already started working on issues of long-term care

1 infrastructure and workforce shortages in the State. EOA believes that the goals of this resolution
2 can be integrated into the future projects of the administration's Long-term Living Initiative, and
3 therefore, EOA believes that this resolution is unnecessary.

4 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LATE



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**SCR 33, REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING, THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES TO CONDUCT A COLLABORATIVE STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATION TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND
WORKFORCE SHORTAGES IN THE STATE**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

**February 26, 2008
1:00 PM**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health cannot support this concurrent resolution.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Unquantified.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to effectuate the
4 recommendations of the Maui Health Initiative Task Force and asks the Executive Office on Aging, the
5 Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services to conduct a comprehensive study to
6 determine the feasibility and through what methods the State might accomplish the 29 separate items
7 listed in the measure.

8 The scope of work required by this concurrent resolution is far too broad; it attempts to address
9 too many topics for one study; the proposed timeline for the named principals is far too short to
10 accomplish anything meaningful. Many of the issues itemized in the measure are already being
11 addressed. We very much appreciate that our state – both public and private sectors - must continue the
12 work to find effective and practical solutions to our healthcare infrastructure and workforce needs.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC HOUSING
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Ige, Chair

Conference Room 016
February 26, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Testimony in support of SCR 33 (with an amendment).

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 SCR 33, which calls for a study of infrastructure and workforce shortages in Hawaii.

Nationwide workforce shortages throughout the field of health care are well documented. Those receiving the most attention have been the nursing shortage and the shortage of specialty care physicians on the neighbor islands.

We still have much to do to complete our understanding of Hawaii's health occupations workforce shortages, how these shortages negatively impact our ability to respond to increasing demand for services in traditional and alternative care settings, and to propose solutions in the short and long term to address these shortfalls. Some examples where additional data is needed include allied health professionals (physical therapists, speech therapists), paraprofessionals (home health aides, nurse aides), etc.

In the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's 2007 Report to the Legislature on SCR 198 (Relating to Waitlisted Patients), the waitlist task force summarized many of the same concerns/recommendations that were identified in the Maui Health Initiative Task Force. As such, we support the intent of SCR 33 which encourages key departments within the state to conduct a collaborative study of these issues.

We would like to offer the following suggested amendments:

1. To assign the State Health Planning Department as the Lead Agent since the overall objective of the resolution is to focus on infrastructure capability which will affect planning statewide.
2. To include the Department of Labor in the collaborative study focused on workforce issues.
3. To approach the study from a Statewide perspective as many of the issues the Maui Health Initiative Planning Task Force are applicable across the State.

With the suggested amendments, the Healthcare Association supports SCR 33.