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LATE

House Committees on Health/Human Services & Housing

H.B. 324, Relating to Senior Centers Testimony of Noemi Pendleton Director of Executive Office on Aging Attached Agency to Department of Health

February 6, 2009

9:00 a.m. Conference Room 329

- 1 **Department's Position:** At this time EOA is not able to support this bill, because of the state's
- 2 declining economic outlook and rising State budget deficit.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the
- 4 sum of \$682,000 for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum for fiscal year 2010-2011 to provide
- 5 grants to the senior centers pursuant to Chapter 42F.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support the
- 7 operations of four senior centers so that they may continue to enhance the quality of life for
- 8 seniors by providing social, educational, and cultural opportunities. EOA acknowledges the needs
- 9 of older adults and their caregivers and is concerned about their well being. EOA is heartened that
- 10 the City and County of Honolulu provides similar opportunities through at least 40 senior clubs
- 11 and other group classes or activities. Thus, additional support to participants of these senior
- 12 centers is available through the County Department of Parks & Recreation in these trying times
- 13 and fiscal constraint.

1 We also note for the record that the definition of the term “grant” in section 42F-1, Hawaii
2 Revised Statutes (HRS), requires the Legislature specify the organization to which the grant will
3 be awarded. The bill must state the correct legal names of the entities to which the grants are to be
4 awarded, not the name under which they may be doing business. For example, our research
5 indicates that the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center is not an incorporated entity capable of
6 entering into contracts in its own name, but instead, is operated by Catholic Charities Hawaii,
7 which is a legal entity. The bill should specify that the grant be awarded to Catholic Charities
8 Hawaii for the operation of the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center. Kapahulu Center, Moiliili
9 Community Center, and Waikiki Community Center appear to be the correct, legally registered
10 names of those entities.

11 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



CATE

To: House Committee on Health
Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

House Committee on Human Services
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair

Date: February 6, 2009 - Conference Room 329 - 9:00 am

Re: **HB 324, RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS**

Chairs Mizuno and Yamane and members of the committees:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 160,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to championing access to affordable, quality health care for all generations, providing the tools needed to save for retirement, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

We strongly support HB 324, which would appropriate funds to support the operations of the senior centers named in this bill (Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, Kapahulu Senior Center, Moiliili Senior Center and Waikiki Community Center) so that they may continue to enhance the quality of life for seniors in their respective communities.

These four senior centers provide an invaluable lifeline to over 4,000 seniors by connecting them to vital services, such as transit, health and well being services, cognitive stimulation and social connectivity and enable them to age in place for as long as possible. Aging at home is the overwhelming preference of our residents.

It also makes good economic sense to keep seniors from entering nursing homes long as possible. The average cost of a nursing home is \$271 per day or an annual cost exceeding \$100,000. Not surprisingly our 2006 AARP survey revealed that 75% of Hawaii residents said they could not afford even one year in a nursing home. This has caused many to look to Medicaid as the payer of long-term care services, which ultimately would increase the financial strain on government.

Further, Hawaii has a woefully inadequate healthcare infrastructure to attend long-term care needs. Hawaii had the 2nd highest nursing home occupancy (94%) in the nation in 2005 and on any given day, the wait-list for nursing homes is on average 200 long-term care patients per day and sometimes as high as 275 on any given day, according to the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and the Department of Health.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the appropriations to the senior centers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Democratic Party of Hawaii
Kupuna Caucus**

February 5, 2009

CATE

Re: Testimony

From: Patrick Stanley, Co-Chair Kupuna Caucus, DPH
To: House Committees on Health and Human Services

Hearing Date: February 6, 2009, 9:00am

Measure: HB 324 Relating to Senior Center Funding

SUPPORTS: The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports this measure to care for our seniors through financial support of Senior Centers. At Convention in 2008, delegates to the DPH State Convention passed Resolution 08-18 calling for adequate health, social, housing and transportation programs for the families of Hawaii's Kupuna, amongst other means. HB 324 is an important part of efforts to do so.



LATE

Board of Directors

February 5, 2009

Carolyn Gugelyk
Chair

TO: The Honorable Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

Rick Egged
1st Vice Chair

The Honorable Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

Susan Todani
2nd Vice Chair

Faye Chiogioji
Secretary

FROM: Joan Naguwa, Executive Director

Linda Lee
Treasurer

RE: **SUPPORT OF HB 324, RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS**

Thomas Barlow, PhD

Hearing Date: Friday, February 6, 2009

Time: 9:00 am

Gregory Boxold

Place: Conference Room 329

Gregory Dunn

David Givens

Dear Chairs Yamane and Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Health

Maki Kuroda

My name is Joan Naguwa, Executive Director of Waikiki Community Center (WCC). Waikiki Community Center **strongly supports HB 324, Relating to Senior Centers**. We thank the Hawaii State Legislature for its efforts to provide needed support for Hawaii's growing elderly population.

David Lewin

Leona Nakaahiki

Waikiki Community Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency which has provided services to Waikiki's elders since 1978 and currently serves over 500 older persons each year. HB 324 provides funding a network of senior centers on Oahu that provide vital fitness, cognitive stimulation, social connectivity, education and case management that enable thousands of older adults to maintain wellness and independence in the community.

Jim Nishimoto

Jessica Rich

Sheri Rolf

Chris Tatum

Noel Trainor

Vivian Tsuji

Rodney Wong

Although all independent nonprofit organizations, we senior centers (Lanakila Multipurpose Senior Center, Moiliili Community Center, Kapahulu Center and Waikiki Community Center collectively provide more than 4,000 older adults with community-based focal point to receive needed services and activities that support their independence and avoid premature institutionalization, thereby saving the State of Hawaii over \$100,000 annually in long-term care costs. Waikiki Community Center provides a wide variety of over 80 educational, recreational and social services, including health screenings, financial education, physical fitness classes, information and assistance, counseling and case management by a licensed social worker.

Joan Naguwa
Executive Director

Waikiki Community Center, as well as its partner senior centers, utilize a preventative health, community-based model for services to older adults, with a focus on 3 major areas that national research documents as imperative to maintaining wellness among older adults: 1) Physical Activity; 2) New Learning or cognitive stimulation; and 3) Social Connectivity.

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The importance of this 3 pronged approach is based on the following evidence: The Bureau of Labor and Statistics states that only 2% of adults aged 75 and older are involved in exercise or recreational activity. Fifty-four (54%) percent spent their time watching TV. It is well-established that physical activity has a positive effect on health, leading to better mental health and cognitive functioning. Exercise also reduces the risk of dementia by 50%, even among people who begin exercise after age 60. WCC provides its seniors with physical fitness opportunities, such as hula, dancing, ping pong, etc.

According to research at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, "Loneliness and Risk of Alzheimer's Disease", loneliness has a negative impact on cognitive health and increases the risk of dementia. In a study of 7 senior centers in 7 states, over 90% of seniors indicate that they have developed important close friendships at the senior center that provide them with needed emotional security. For the elders of Waikiki, this is especially important. Approximately 25% of Waikiki's 20,000 residents are over the age of 60 years old. Waikiki has one of the highest numbers of senior citizens per area density on Oahu. Waikiki elders live alone among a proliferation of secured, mixed residential condominiums, and are especially vulnerable to social isolation. The typical elderly resident is female, mid 70's, living alone, with little or no family support systems nearby. When they become frailer, they have little choices of independent living and are often unaware or confused by services available to support them. Waikiki Community Center's continuum of services, ranging from health maintenance activities to case management and counseling provide the needed support to these elders.

Waikiki Community Center and other senior centers are cost-effective, preventative alternatives to costly institutionalization. The investment in senior centers now by the State of Hawaii will save thousands of dollars of long-term care costs in the future.

We urge your support for the passage of HB 324. Thank you for this opportunity to submit our testimony. If you would like further information, please feel free to contact me at 923-1802 or via email, jnaquwa@waikikicommunitycenter.org.

February 5, 2009

LATE

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamano, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Health
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Karen Van Tine

RE: **Support for HB 324 Relating to Senior Centers**

Hearing Date: Friday, February 6, 2009

Time: 9:00AM

Place: Conference Room 329

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 324, Relating to Senior Centers**. My name is Karen Van Tine and I am a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center. My husband and I are residents of Waikiki and have been going to the Waikiki Community Center for about 7 years.

For me the Waikiki Community Center has provided opportunities for social connections, an emphasis on healthy lifestyle activities, a variety of education opportunities and most importantly an opportunity to learn about and appreciate the uniqueness of the Hawaiian culture. We keep active and healthy by participating in WCC.

Friends I have met at the center have become good friends with whom I share other activities outside of the center. Preventative screenings such as glaucoma, hearing and blood pressure have kept us abreast of subtle changes in our health and given us a way to monitor it.

Many of our friends at Waikiki Community Center are not as fortunate in their aging as we are, facing ill health, emergencies and other challenges which they find confusing, daunting and discouraging. In these and other situations, Waikiki Community Center has offered aid and assistance, providing information, counseling and needed support to elders in distress.

I urge you to support HB 324 and do all you can to help maintain the current services of Waikiki Community Center's necessary program so that Waikiki seniors can continue to have a place to turn to help with their needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

February 5, 2009

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamano, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Health
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

LATE

From: Dawn Ward

RE: **Support for HB 324 Relating to Senior Centers**

Hearing Date: Friday, February 6, 2009

Time: 9:00AM

Place: Conference Room 329

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 324, Relating to Senior Centers**. My name is Dawn Ward and I have been a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center since 2001. I am a retired schoolteacher.

I have been involved in many aspects of the Waikiki Community Center and the impact WCC has had on my life is significant. I feel that it has been my vehicle to introduce me to people and experiences in the community as well as a catalyst for me to volunteer and share my life in a way that benefits others.

I enjoy participating in WCC's many activities and classes. I am an active volunteer with WCC and in the community. I have assisted with New Member Orientation and am a member of the Senior Advisory Council that provides ideas and feedback to WCC staff and works to create meaningful programs for our participants.

The Waikiki Community Center senior program continues to be a vital part of my life and provides me numerous opportunities to keep mentally sharp, socialize, stay physically fit and contribute to the community in which I live.

Please support WCC and the other Senior Centers by approving HB 324. I invite you to visit and talk with the participants and see for yourselves the many healthy, independent individuals who value the services and volunteer opportunities provided by Senior Centers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 324.e

February 5, 2009

To:

From: Jane Murray

LATE

RE: **Support for HB 324 Relating to Senior Centers**

Hearing Date: Friday, February 6, 2009

Time: 9:00AM

Place: Conference Room 329

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 324, Relating to Senior Centers**. My name is Jane Murray and I am a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center. When I first came to the Center about 6 years ago, I knew few people but it was a great way for me to meet people and become involved in the WCC community and the larger community as well.

At the WCC I have participated in helping disabled children, joined "Sit and Stitch" where we made quilts for care homes and other needy individuals. I've volunteered to work on the Newsletter and other special mailings and fundraisers; I'm a member of the Telephone Tree to spread the word about the Center and what it offers.

I've participated in numerous trips and excursions to Maui, Hawaii and Lanai as well as taken excursions to all the Military Bases, the UH Medical School and many others. I currently volunteer at the Army Museum at the end of Waikiki. I've enjoyed in particular the Hawaiian Language classes that I have taken on several occasions.

For me the friendships have been especially important and these were not exclusive to the WCC but also these are individuals I pair up with to take in a symphony or go to the library and other favorite destinations.

I support the WCC and Senior Center and hope you will too.

Thank you,

Jane Murray

February 5, 2009

CATE

To: Rep. Ryan Yamane, House Committee on Health Chair
Rep. Scott Nishimoto, House Committee on Health Vice Chair
Rep. John Mizuno, House Committee on Human Services Chair
Rep. Tom Brower, House Committee on Human Services Vice Chair
Members of the Committees on Health and Human Services

From: Mary Guidroz

RE: **Support for HB 324, Relating to Senior Centers**

Hearing Date: Friday, February 6, 2009

Time: 9:00AM

Place: Conference Room 329

Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 324, Relating to Senior Centers. My name is Mary Guidroz and I am a member, participant and volunteer at the Waikiki Community Center. I am 86, nearly 87 years old, live by myself, and I have been a member for 12 years.

In the past I have participated in many classes including Line Dancing, taken various excursions around the island led by WCC staff and really been kept healthy by joining in the many educational and healthy activities at WCC. I am a diabetic and they bring in speakers to help me keep up with my diabetes. In addition, I really look forward to being with the many friends I have made and meeting new people. This has been a great part of my benefit from the Waikiki Community Center because I know people look for me to be there and look out for me if I don't show up.

The Social Worker helped me last year when I forgot to fill out my Medicaid forms on time and my benefits had lapsed. She helped me get those back right away and she helps me keep my other records current such as Medicare, and Food Stamps. The Waikiki Community Center is so important to me because I count on those services so I can stay living independently.

I support the Waikiki Community Center and I hope you will too by approving HB 324.

Thank you.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 10:39 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: tmumadarang@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB324 on 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT-HUS 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HB324

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: tina marie madarang
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tmumadarang@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2009

Comments:

I am an MSW student from UH Manoa. I am testifying to support our Kupuna's regarding the senior centers. The centers are a place for our Kupuna's to socialize, engage in activities, have services and resources for them to utilize. The kupuna population in our community continues to grow as well as their longevity. The services at the senior centers simply ensure the quality of their well-being.