

HCR 12



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
April 28, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HCR12 – REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO AGING IN PLACE AND TO FACILITATE MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING.**

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Departments of Health (DOH) or Human Services (DHS).

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HCR 12**. The purpose of the measure is to create a Home for Life task force to coordinate research and to reduce barriers to aging in place and facilitate multi-generational living. HCR 12 directs the task force to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the 2010 Legislature and Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place (JLCAIP).

The Council has participated in the meetings of JLCAIP, which is tasked with developing a comprehensive public policy to strengthen support for family caregivers who provide unpaid, informal assistance to persons 60 years of age and older with physical or cognitive disabilities and for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Pursuant to Act 11, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2008, JLCAIP submitted Joint Special Committee Report No.1 indicating a need to explore ways to reduce physical barriers in the home environment to enable people to remain in their homes for as long as possible, to encourage the adoption of universal design principles, and facilitate multi-generational living.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
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The report recommended that a task force be created to address the four major areas or issues included in HCR 12. The Council believes that the findings and recommendations of the task force would be of value in efforts to reduce barriers and establish more housing options to facilitate community living and to accommodate the needs of older adults, as well as individuals with disabilities.

The Council notes that pursuant to SCR 144 SD1 (2006), the DOH Office of Health Care Assurance and DHS Adult and Community Care Services Branch convened a task force to look at the development of a long-term care infrastructure plan that would ensure public safety while supporting aging in place and reported its findings and recommendations to the 2007 Legislature. The task force addressed areas related to DOH and DHS regulations to structural compliance, quality of care, and quality of life to the elderly, the balance between allowing aging in place and the State's responsibility to ensure safety of residents and their quality of care; and inconsistencies, disparities, and non-uniformity in laws and regulations at the State and County levels of government, including current County building and fire codes.

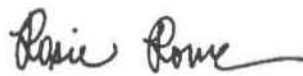
The findings and recommendations in the SCR 144 SD1 report may provide valuable information for the Home for Life task force in its efforts to examine the areas set forth in HCR 12.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present testimony supporting the intent of HCR 12.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral  
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe  
Chair



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

April 28, 2009

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

House Concurrent Resolution 12 – Requesting the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor to Create a Home for Life Task Force to Reduce Barriers to Aging in Place and to Facilitate Multigenerational Living

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a statewide board with seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor, thirteen (13) of whom are persons with disabilities or family members. The Board's mission is to advocate and promote full inclusion, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society. This testimony represents a position voted upon by the Legislative Committee of the Board.

DCAB supports House Concurrent Resolution 12 requesting the creation of a Home for Life Task Force to reduce barriers to aging in place and to facilitate multigenerational living.

Through its numerous phone calls and inquiries, the DCAB staff have observed the difficulties faced by many individuals with disabilities when their physical residence is no longer able to accommodate their mobility limitations. While we review the new construction and alteration of public housing, public-supported housing via tax credits, Hawaiian Home sites, and transient lodging (shelters) these residential arrangements represent a fraction of the locations where people live. We need to also examine single family construction and alteration strategies and promote public policies which allow for living in one's home as long as desired.

The 'aging in place' concept not only refers to people who are elderly and want to 'age in place' but for people with disabilities who want to 'live in place.' Both groups have a common desire to stay in a home that is familiar and avoid more costly institutional care.

We offer the following minor comments:

- 1) The resolution references "multi-generational" homes. We suggest the words "multi-generational or accessible" homes, as some individuals with disabilities are only seeking accessibility features.
- 2) We recommend adding the Disability and Communication Access Board to the list at the end of the resolution for distribution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. FLEMING  
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director



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**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII**

1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Testimony by:

**Virginia Tully, OTR, MBA**

**HCR 12, Requesting the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor to Create a Home for Life Task Force to Reduce Barriers to Aging in Place and to**

**Facilitate Multigenerational Living**

**Sen HMS Hearing – Tues. April 28, 2009**

**Room 229 – 10:00 am**

**Position: Support Intent, with Amendments**

Chair Chun Oakland, and Members of the Senate HMS Committee:

I am Virginia Tully, OTR, and past-president of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, (OTAH), which represents 507 occupational therapists (OTs) licensed in Hawaii. OT's work in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, and prisons, to private facilities and community programs. We work with very young children, ages 0-3, as well as school aged children, adults, and the elderly, seeking to restore or develop social-emotional, physical, cognitive, communication and adaptive behavior challenges.

Through understanding of the effect of the consumer's disability, illness and impairment, the occupational therapist develops a program that will promote development and establish needed skills to be independent in daily living activities. Daily living skills include self-care such a bathing, dressing, and skills required for learning, work or social interaction. Often times, OTs must design/fabricate special devices or suggest modification to the home environment.

Occupational therapy practitioners assist patients/clients with planning and improving their home environment to promote independence within the home. We support the intent of the resolution.

**We understand that from a legislative timetable perspective, the time has passed to amend HCR 12.** However, we believe that it is important for the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, which is an affiliate of the American Occupational Therapy Association, to be part of the Life Task Force.

**Rationale:** Occupational therapy (OT) promotes participation in the home and community by restoring, maintaining skills needed for activities of daily living (ADL). ADL skills include self-care skills, meal preparation, etc. OTs evaluate the skills of the patient/client and the environmental features that support or limit performance of skills at home. Based on patient/client assessment, OT recommends modification that will improve the environment to support independence and safety within the home.

OTs supports environmental design that removes barriers to allow the individual to be independent and safe at home. Occupational therapists assist patients/clients in identifying these barriers and recommend modifications as appropriate.

**Request:** We respectfully ask that the Sen HMS Committee Report include a statement in support of "adding the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, which is an affiliate of the American Occupational Therapy Association as an additional member of the Home for Life Task Force." This is similar to language of the House Finance HSCR 1883 Committee Report, which passed SCR7sd1.

The OTAH offers its expertise and participation in the proposed Task Force. I can be reached at 544-3336 if further information is needed.

Testimony by:  
Lucy Lessard, PT



**HCR12, Requesting the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor to Create a Home for Life Task Force to Reduce Barriers to Aging in Place and to Facilitate Multigenerational Living**  
**Sen HMS Hearing – Tues, April 28, 2009**  
**Room 229 – 10:00 am**

**Position: Support**

Chair Chun Oakland, and Members of the Sen HMS Committee:

I am Lucy Lessard, P.T., and Chair of the HAPTA Legislative Committee and member of the Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA). The Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) is comprised of 300 member physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education and Department of Health systems, and private practice. Our members represent Hawaii at the national American Physical Therapy Association and are delegates for Pediatrics, Women’s Health, Parkinson’s Disease and other issue sections. We are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum function from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

We support this creation of a life task force to reduce barriers to aging in place and to facilitate multigenerational living. As PTs throughout the State, we see Hawaii’s older generation living longer and staying at home more often than in other states. We see that there is a chronic lack of long term care, and it is in our collective best interest to keep these citizens in their homes as long as possible.

However, we also see many elders living in unsafe situations due a combination of their impairments and disabilities and the design of their lodging. Elders have unique impairments that require special design elements above and beyond adaptations in order to keep them safe and prevent injuries. Physical therapists, through training and education, have unique skills in dealing with elders who are healthy, impaired and disabled to keep them supported in their homes.

We are very interested in participating in the Task Force and look forward to working with all stakeholders on this important issue. I can be reached at (808) 547-6292 if there are any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Testimony for HMS 4/28/2009 10:00:00 AM HCR12

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer  
Organization: Individual  
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E-mail: [Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 4/27/2009

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a member of an ad hoc "Home for Life" working group which has been meeting since last summer. The group was originally organized to respond to a question raised by Rep. Marilyn Lee at a meeting of the Kupuna Caucus. Rep. Lee wanted information about how well the Ohana Zoning program was working to allow construction of multigenerational living units in single family residential areas. The working group soon saw that this was just part of a series of larger questions regarding multigenerational housing; aging in place; and use of Universal design principles in both new and retrofitted housing. As a result, the group developed a comprehensive proposal containing five main goals and twenty eight specific tasks. Such a proposal was beyond the capability of an informal working group, and we therefore suggested that the Legislature establish a Home For Life Task Force to undertake these activities. The Resolution you are considering today is the result of that suggestion.

There are many reasons why the work of the proposed Task Force will be of great value to frail elders and persons with disabilities. More than that, however, the Task Force can stimulate production of housing which will be safe, comfortable, and accessible for people of all ages, with or without disability, houses which will truly be, "Homes for Life."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this Resolution.