



LATE

A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

E-Mail: HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Regarding: HLT/HUS Hearing
Hearing on: 3-17-09; 10:45 am; Rm. 329

HAWAII FAMILY FORUM BOARD

Francis Oda
President

Austin Imamura
Vice-President

Gill Berger
Secretary

Brogan, Mary Lou
D'Olier, H. Mitchell
Pace, Dr. Nancy
Paty, William
Pflueger, Nancy
Tsujiimura, R. Brian
Young, Sandra

HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE BOARD

Most Reverend Clarence Silva
Bishop of Honolulu

Alexander, Very Rev. Marc
Andrade, Eva
Chung, Sr. Earnest
Coleman, David
Downes, Patrick
Himenes, Dr. Carmen
Ignacio, Carol
Larson, Betty Lou
Pilar, Prudencio
Rauckhorst, Jerome
Tong, Myron
Yoshimitsu, Walter

Date: March 17, 2009
To: House Health and Human Services Committees
From: Dennis Arakaki
Executive Director
Hawaii Family Forum / Hawaii Catholic Conference
Re: LATE TESTIMONY: In Strong Support – HCR 14/HR18

Honorable Chairs Yamane and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Brower and members of the House Health and Human Services Committees, I am Dennis Arakaki, **representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.**

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

I wish to speak in strong support of HCR 18/HR14 that requests appropriate exemptions for grandparents caring for grandchildren to remain in Senior Housing until suitable housing is obtained. Given the downturn in the economy and the related shortage of affordable housing, this is one option that should be provided for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. My wife and I help to raise our grandchild in our home and while we are blessed with homeownership, there are many others who are struggling to find and/or keep their home. We also know that many more are caring for their grandchildren because of family problems that make it safer and more nurturing to live with grandparents. It is not a situation that grandparents/retirees choose to do but rather forced to accept.

For the sake of the children, we need to place them in nurturing care and in most cases, environments that can bring joy and life to both the young and the elderly. I would only suggest that appropriate agreements be drafted to make it clear that the grandparents are liable and responsible for the actions of their grandchildren

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this measure.

LATE

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: on behalf of HLTtestimony
To: Jacqueline T, Chong
Subject: RE: Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Jacqueline T, Chong [mailto:chongj001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 3:12 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: Re: Committee on Health & Human Services

HCR 14

Please deliver to Committees on Health & Human Services for Testimony on March 17, 2009

10:45am Conference Room 329

SUPPORT

*Jacqueline T. Chong, Chair
Na Tutu, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
48-488 Kamehameha Highway, Kaneohe, HI 96744
Email: chongj001@hawaii.rr.com*

*Committees on Health and Human Services
Tuesday, March 17, 2009
10:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329*

My name is Jacqueline Chong, and I am the chair for the Na Tutu, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Coalition. I am also a member of the Hawaii Task Force for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and speak on behalf of this resolution. The Na Tutu has supported many issues relating to grandparents who suddenly find themselves the primary caregiver of grandchildren. In Hawaii, where hanai and Ohana systems were once a cultural practice, we find that these systems no longer exist in our society, especially in the area of housing.

There are senior citizen residence complexes throughout the state, funded by the federal government and although the fair housing act specifically says no discrimination based on familial status, there are conflicting policies and procedures regarding this issue. In a senior citizen complex, no residents under the age of 18 are allowed, although grandchildren can visit for a short period of time. When a grandparent suddenly finds themselves with a grandchild(ren) to care for, an eviction notice just as suddenly appears. A grandparent must now decide on giving the child up, or find another place to live, where the rental rates are much higher than at the senior complex; or live on the beach in Waianae or Kapiolani Park, Waikiki.

The housing authorities once sent a memo to all the resident managers requesting that residents be given a time to try to solve their problems of caring for a grandchild, or if the situation cannot be solved, then be placed on the waiting list for a family unit on a priority basis. However, not all managers adhered to the memo and

problems still existed. This resolution calls for stronger action to be taken, that all seniors, living in public and private senior citizen complexes, who are caring for their grandchildren, be identified and that exemptions be made in policies, procedures, and house rules to allow seniors to remain in their units until suitable housing is available.

Grandparents raising grandchildren is a growing population throughout our country, and Hawaii is the leading state in the nation of grandparents raising grandchildren. In Hawaii, grandparents have always cared for their grandchildren, its part of our culture and we must do all we can to help these grandparents raise another generation of children, remove the stumble blocks that keep them from enrolling their grandchildren in school and participating in parent/teacher consultations; allow grandparents to seek all medical services that will provide for a healthy child; and allow grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren to keep a roof over their heads.

Thank you and I ask for your full support.

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 8.0.237 / Virus Database: 270.11.15/2003 - Release Date: 03/15/09 14:07:00

LATE

SUPPORT

**House of Representatives
Committees on Health and on Human Services**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2009

TIME: 10:45 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329

HCR14 Status/HR 18

**REQUESTING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES TO MAKE APPROPRIATE
EXEMPTIONS FOR GRANDPARENTS CARING FOR GRANDCHILDREN TO
REMAIN IN SENIOR HOUSING UNTIL SUITABLE HOUSING IS OBTAINED.**

As a member of the Na Tutu Coalition I support HCR 14 HR 18

Grandparents raising grandchildren are increasing rapidly in the United States as well as Canada and many other countries. Unfortunately, as they take on this task they are often retired with limited financial resources. The seniors have been told to leave their Senior Housing when a grandchild shows up for their help because the parents are unable or unwilling to care for their child or children. Alternate housing is either unavailable or too costly for them until they can request additional resources.

Please help these grandparents raising grandchildren.

I and Na Tutu asks for your support of HCR14 Status/HR 18 which is an important outcome of the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force.

Carole Mulford
Na Tutu Member
47-350 Waihee Rd Kaneohe HI 96744
808-239-5521
e-mail: mahoe7779@hotmail.com

TO: HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov.