

SB 821

Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans AFT Retirees

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans
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HGEA Retirees

HSTA – Retired

ILWU Retirees

Kokua Council

Machinists Union Retirees

UPW Retirees

ADA/Hawaii

Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition

(Submitted by email to: WAMTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov February 25, 2009)

Joint statement of Al Hamai, President, and Carol Nitta, Legislative Committee
Member, Supporting SB 821, SD 1, Relating to Elder Care

Hearing of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 27, 2008, 9 a.m. Conference Room 211

Chair Donna Mercado Kim, Chair, Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui and Members of
the Committee,

We are submitting testimony on behalf of HARA in support of SB 821, SD 1.

This bill seeks to implement the findings of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place to maintain the levels of Kupuna Care Services provided statewide in fiscal year 2007-2008. Kupuna Care is a model program to provide vital services to our elders, administered by the counties. The need for these services is increasing and probably will continue to increase with the downturn in our economy. As of June 2008 there were 242 elders on the waitlist since the counties reported that they did not have sufficient funds to cover these essential services that really promotes the goal of helping seniors age in place. So sad. For some kupuna, it means eating or not eating. Whatever you can do in these hard times, for many kupuna too, will be very much appreciated.

HARA urges the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to approve SB 821, SD1. Earlier HARA submitted similar supportive testimony to the Senate Human Services and the Senate Health Committees. Mahalo.

HARA is a strong voice for Hawaii's retirees and seniors. HARA is an educator, a grassroots organizer, a communicator and a trusted source of information for decision-makers. HARA is a diverse community-based local organization with national roots where our members decide our priorities. We are 21,000 strong and growing.

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Senate Committee on Ways & Means

**S.B. 821, SD1 Relating to Elder Care
Testimony of Noemi Pendleton
Director of Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

February 27, 2009

9:00 a.m. Conference Room 211

1 **Department's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is committed to Kupuna Care
2 and respectfully suggests an amendment to the bill's current language.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the development of
5 a plan to increase voluntary contributions, procedures to manage the waitlist, and policies for
6 applying a cash and counseling approach to service delivery. However, EOA respectfully
7 suggests a change in wording on Page 2, Section 2, Line 3 and 4 as follows: "The Executive
8 Office on Aging shall **lead and work** with the county offices on aging to develop:" to more
9 clearly outline our role.

10 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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TO : SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: SB 821 SD1 Relating to Eldercare

HEARING: Friday, February 27, 2009
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Requests the EOA to cooperate with the county offices of aging to create

- 1) a plan to increase voluntary contributions
- 2) procedures for managing waitlists
- 3) policies for implementing a cash and counseling model for service delivery

The bill also makes an appropriation to maintain funding for Kupuna Care.

POSITION: PABEA STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL.

RATIONALE:

I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board. I am also a professor of medical sociology at UH-Manoa who has worked with elderly services in Hawaii for more than 20 years.

The provisions of this bill are important components of building an efficient and effective infrastructure of home and community based care to support family caregivers, making possible "aging in place" and delaying entry into expensive long-term care institutions.

§ Kupuna Care is the safety-net care for our frail elderly and this appropriation is necessary in order to preserve very basic assistance. It is PABEA's highest priority this year.

§ The program is only able to provide for a portion of those in need, and wait-lists for services are often long. The provisions of this bill which would create procedures for managing the waitlists and for increasing the voluntary contributions would enable the program to more efficiently allocate its resources to serve those in need.

§ Finally, this bill provides for further preparation for a cash and counseling service delivery model, which has been shown to have very positive results in a Medicaid waiver program in other states. Plans in Hawaii are moving forward towards a demonstration project with external funding to develop a program for the non-Medicaid disabled.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.