



To: Joint House Committee on Human Services and Health
Representative Mizuno, Chair
Representative Yamane, Chair

Date: January 28, 2010 - Conference Room 329 – 9:30am

Re: **HB 2144, RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES**

Chairs Mizuno and Yamane, and Committee Members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with 150,000 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+.

AARP Hawaii supports this measure. This bill establishes a Joint Legislative Kupuna Caucus in statute to address issues facing the aged and elderly.

AARP Hawaii has been appreciative of the Legislature's leadership in improving the quality of life for Hawaii's seniors and their family caregivers by establishing the Kupuna Caucus and Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place. These two legislative committees have done excellent work; however, they are temporary in nature. Furthermore, the Legislature does not currently have a subject matter committee on aging and issues of concern to seniors. In light of the aging tsunami that our state and counties will face in the near future, this proposal to statutorily establish a Joint Legislative Kupuna Caucus represents significant progress.

We thank you for your commitment to Hawaii's kupuna and family caregivers, and recommend passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans AFT Hawaii Retirees HGEA Retirees HSTA Retired
c/o AFSCME · ILWU Retirees Kokua Council Machinists Union Retirees UPW Retirees, ADA
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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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

DATE: Thursday, January 28, 2010. TIME: 9:30am

PLACE: Conference Room 32

SUPPORT

HB 2144 RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES

Establishes a joint legislative keiki caucus and a joint legislative kupuna caucus.

HARA supports this bill because:

... both of the caucuses provide access to citizens to the legislative process ... provide a forum for working out problems ... educate the community, providers and administrators of issues of concern to the community.

Ke hana like nei na` ku`puna i ʻŌi loa aʻe ʻŌo Hawaiʻi Senior citizens working together for a better Hawaiʻi