

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 2, 2010
Testimony Providing Information on HB2939 Relating to the Long Term Care Commission

May it please the Committee.

I am Stuart Ho, chairman of the long term care commission ("LTCC") created by Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008.

I appear solely to provide information that might be helpful to the Committee in considering HB2939. My testimony should not be considered an approved action of the LTCC. Notice of the hearing of this bill did not provide sufficient time to call a meeting of the LTCC to consider the bill. Nonetheless, the information provided below may be useful to the Committee in its deliberations.

The following is a summary of how the LTCC has organized its work:

- The LTCC in March 2009 adopted a **two-year work plan** in March 2009 (amended in April and June), financed solely by non-state government sources.
- The plan divides the work of the LTCC into **two phases, each a year in duration**.
- The aim of **Phase I** is to deliver to the 2011 Legislature a report assessing the current state of long term care in Hawaii (and other states); project future needs; recommend ways and means to meet near-term and future demand for long-term care services; and solicit the opinion of the public.
- The aim of **Phase II** is to deliver to the 2012 Legislature a report on "**financing alternatives and recommend [sic] an equitable solution to financing the needs of the long-term care system.**" The Phase II report will produce "a five-year action and financing plan" for the Legislature to consider. [Emphasis added]
- LTCC has engaged the services of **RTI International** of Raleigh, North Carolina, to assist the LTCC in producing these deliverables. The RTI International team is already at work and is led by Dr. Joshua M. Wiener, an internationally-eminent expert on long-term care.

Hence, any "financing alternative" can be considered by the LTCC, including the financing alternatives proposed by HB2939. If the Legislature desires that such alternatives be considered through the enactment of HB2939, then certainly the LTCC will consider such alternatives among other alternatives coming to its attention. The time for the LTCC to consider financing alternatives and equitable solutions is still far into the future and no serious discussion of the subject has yet occurred, but we welcome ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stuart T.K. Ho
Stuart T.K. Ho, Chairman
Long Term Care Commission



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Hawaii Restaurant Association

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January 30, 2010

Rep. Ryan I Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health
House of Representatives
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Members on the Committee on Health,

Re: HB 2939 Long Term Care Commission

The Hawaii Restaurant Association commends you for looking into addressing the Long Term Care issue here in Hawaii but opposed strongly to the language in Section 1 (6) singling out the study's financing option to the increase of the excise tax on food and drugs.

We believe that if the commission is to study this issue, you should not limit the scope and option to just food and drugs because this is discriminatory against our industry.

Thanks you for giving us the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,

Victor Lim
Past Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 1:50 PM
to: HLTtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB2939 on 2/2/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 2/2/2010 10:00:00 AM HB2939

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
Organization: Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs Legislative Committee
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board of Elder affairs, which is an appointed Board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of EOA but of the Board.

PABEA he strongly supports the intent of House Bill 2939, which is to extend the life of the state's long-term care commission, in order to allow the commission time to complete its important work. When the commission was first established by statute, the law contained an appropriation, but funds for this purpose were never released by the Governor. As a result, the commission found it necessary to spend time seeking private and other funding. It accomplished this task successfully, and was able to employ one of the nation's most outstanding long-term care research organizations to do the studies needed for the commission to accomplish its primary task, i.e.,, developing a five-year plan to achieve the state's long-term care policy goals. These research activities are now under way, and it is critical that they be completed, to provide the factual basis for the long term care plan.

However, I would personally recommend that the legislature delete the following sentence in item 6, Section 1, "the fund would be financed by imposing or increasing the general excise tax on food and drugs and commence on January 1, 2012." I believe that the commission should be allowed the opportunity to suggest its own proposed funding plan. Furthermore a tax on food and drugs is in itself regressive and would have serious negative affects on those who could afford it least.

Currently, state government supports many kinds of activities related to chronic illness and long-term care. These include such things as managed care for older Medicaid recipients and funding Kupuna care services for low income elders who are not on Medicaid. Most state Medicaid funding goes to institutional care, but the national consensus is that the focus should be on home and community-based services. Our long-term care financing and service provision results from many different initiatives and funding sources. The lack of comprehensive planning is evident and badly needed.

Please give the long-term care commission the opportunity to complete its work by supporting 'B 2939.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.