



LATE
Testimony

To: Committee on Human Services, Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. in Conference Room 329
Re: HR7 and HCR 13 Relating to the Home for Life Task Force;
Extension Of Report to the Legislature.

Chair Mizuno and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Jackie Boland. I serve as the staff issue lead for AARP Hawaii in the area of housing. I'm writing in support of HR7 and HCR 13 Relating to Extending the deadline for the Home for Life Task Force.

AARP is a membership organization for people 50+ with a membership of more than 149,000 in Hawaii. We strongly believe that Hawaii must prepare to meet the needs of our aging population and that older adults need appropriate and affordable housing options that will allow them to age in their homes and communities.

According to our recent survey, "The 2008 Hawaii Health and Long-term Care Survey," 88% of Hawaii residents would like to remain in their homes and communities as they age. The number of Hawaii residents age 65+ are expected to grow by 40% in the next 10 years and to nearly double in the next 20 years.

The profound demographic shift in Hawaii's older adult population, coupled with peoples' desire to age in place, presents new challenges to our state and communities. The Home for a Lifetime Task Force is an important step in ensuring that Hawaii can meet the needs of its aging population. AARP urges you to support HR7 and HCR 13 as an important step in this direction.



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

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Testimony

March 17, 2010

To: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Lyn Moku, Board of Directors

Hearing: March 18, 2010 at 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Subject: **SUPPORT of HR 7 and HCR 13 EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR
THE HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE**

Kokua Council, one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups, supports both HR 7 and HCR 13 requesting extending the deadline for the Home for Life Task Force to report on its findings and recommendations for reducing barriers to aging in place and facilitating multigenerational living.

Access to affordable and barrier-free community living must be available to people of all ages regardless of where they live and people should be supported to remain at home and in the community for as long as possible. How people respond to changing life circumstances—such as physical or mental disabilities, modifying their home to make it accessible, or moving from a single-family home to a multi-family home—can have a drastic impact on everyone in the family. Most people prefer to remain at home, yet few of us know what to do or where to start when some of these changes have to be made. We need to ensure the availability of appropriate and accessible housing, transportation and communities.

The Home for Life Task Force was charged with coordinating research and action to reduce barriers and facilitate multigenerational living. We will all benefit from their findings. Legislators have appointed members to the Task Force, but the Governor has not made her appointments. We need to prevent further delays and allow the Task Force to convene and finish their report.

Kokua Council supports extending the deadline for the Task Force to report its findings, and giving the Task Force the authority to select any vacant positions due to non-appointment by the Governor. We ask you to vote in favor of HR 7 and HCR 13. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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