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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 30, 2010 1:25 PM  
**To:** HUS testimony  
**Subject:** HUS; Informational briefing; 4/1/10; 9AM; Rm 329  
**Importance:** High

Informational Briefing on Elderly  
HUS; Chair, Rep Mizuno

Thank you very much for holding this Informational briefing. Unfortunately, it will be a complete waste of time, unless the Legislature recognizes the key problem with elder care in Hawai'i: **THE LEGISLATURE VIEWS THE HANDFUL OF CARE HOME AND OTHER ELDER CARE OPERATORS AS ITS PRIMARY CONSTITUENCY RATHER THAN THE THOUSANDS OF ELDERLY RECEIVING CARE!** For years, the legislature has failed to implement even the simplest regulatory guidelines, thereby allowing elders to receive some of the worst care in the nation.

I know that some state bureaucrats and all operators say Hawai'i has the best care in the nation. **THAT IS COMPLETE SHIBAI.** Our care system may look good on paper, but in actuality, the real care provided to our elders is awful by national standards and by the common sense standards of humane care. I know this as fact: My mother was in a care home in California for many years that was owned and staffed by Filipinos. Many care homes are owned and operated by families of Filipino ancestry here. yet the cost and care provided here versus my mother's home is completely different. My mother's home had two staff members who were on duty 24 hours. Here, almost all care homes are staffed, if we even can call it that, by the very families who own the home. The differences in services are enormous; we completely fail in service provision compared to homes in California.

The real need here is to increase the regulation of all elder care facilities by the state. Take a look at California regulations if you really want information. Do you realize that a bill that was introduced on behalf of the State Ombudsman for the Elderly to make public the ratings of care homes after state evaluations never even was heard? There is no way for families to review ratings and make reasoned decisions about where to put their loved ones.

Again, if you really want change, ask the Ombudsman for advice. Follow that advice. Stop thinking that, because many operators are Filipino, that you will be doing something that discriminates against that ethnicity.

If you fail to move on this issue with appropriate regulatory legislation as recommended by the Ombudsman, then your hearing will also be shibai.

Thank you for reading this testimony and moving forward.

Aloha, joel

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"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."  
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."  
Winston Churchill