



To: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Ihara, Vice-Chair

Date: February 2, 2010 - Conference Room 016 – 1:30pm

Re: **SB 2098, RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUSES**

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, 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.

Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

AFT Hawaii Retirees

HGEA Retirees

HSTA – Retired

ILWU Retirees

Kokua Council

Machinists Union Retirees

UPW Retirees

ADA Hawaii

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans

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Laura Manis, Testifier, 597-8838

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

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SUPPORT

SB 2098 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 'oi loa a'e 'o Hawai'i
Senior citizens working together for a better Hawai'i

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