

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JANUARY 28, 2010
Testimony in Support of SB2286**

May it please the Committee:

I am Stuart T.K. Ho, chair of the long term care commission created by Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008. I appear to support the passage of SB2286 relating to long-term care.

The long term care commission agrees with the purpose and intent of SB2286, to wit, to amend Act 224 so as to extend the life of the commission and to change the interim and final report dates set forth in Act 224.

The reason for the changes we have requested is owing to the delay in securing adequate funds from non-state government sources to support the work of the commission. The appropriation provided by Act 224 could not be funded from state sources. Hence, the delay made the extension and changes provided by SB2286 necessary.

The Committee may be interested to know that following a nation-wide search, RTI International of Raleigh, North Carolina, was selected by the commission to conduct much of the commission's plan of work. RTI International's team is led by a nationally-eminant expert on long-term care, Dr. Joshua M. Wiener, and work has already begun. RTI International's and the commission's plan of work have been scheduled and integrated so as to be able to satisfy the reporting requirements of SB2286.

There is one amendment of SB2286 that we would recommend. There appears to be some confusion in the description of the funding history of Act 224. This can be easily clarified by amending SB2286 as follows:

1. Amend SECTION 1 by deleting the third and fourth sentences, *i.e.*, respectively, the sentence beginning, "The appropriation of. . ." and the sentence beginning, "However, the long term care commission. . ."
2. Substitute in place of the deleted sentences, the following three sentences: "Delays in obtaining the funds necessary to support the work of the commission made it impossible to meet the reporting dates specified by Act 224. In time, funding from non-state sources was secured and a work plan was adopted by the commission, but with new interim and final reporting dates. The commission believes the interim report called for by Act 224 can be timely submitted to the 2011 legislature, and the final report called for by Act 224 can be timely submitted to the 2012 legislature."

I would be happy to answer any questions.

FOR THE LONG TERM CARE COMMISSION
/s/ Stuart T.K. Ho
Stuart T.K. Ho
Commissioner and Chair

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From: Tony Lenzer [Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 1:47 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Noemi Pendleton
Subject: SB 2286

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a Professor Emeritus of Public Health and former Director of the Center on Aging at the University of Hawaii. 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 strongly supports the intent of SB 2286, 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 to seek 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.

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 SB 2286.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.