

**LATE**



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations  
Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

Date: 02-10-09 9:00 AM in Senate conference room 016

Re: **SB259, Relating to Jury Duty**

Chair Taniguchi and Committee members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization for people age 50 and older with nearly 160,000 members in Hawaii. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for all as we age by leading positive social change and delivering value to members through information, advocacy and service.

**AARP supports SB 259.** The purpose of this bill is to lower the age at which an individual may claim exemption from jury duty service from age 80 to 75 years old.

Seniors would still have the right to serve on a jury without any age limit—a right we believe should be preserved. However, it is not unreasonable to allow seniors who are 75 or older to be offered the flexibility to be excused should they so desire. This bill would provide an easier process for them to decline jury service.

Lowering the age exemption brings it in closer alignment with the federal courts, which currently allows exemptions at age 70 or older.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.