

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

THE SENATE

Committee on Human Services

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Sen. Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee on Health

Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair

Sen. Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

LATE

State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Tuesday, February 10, 2009; 1:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 817
RELATING TO SENIOR CENTERS**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 817, which makes an appropriation for certain senior centers on Oahu.

The four senior centers which would benefit from this appropriation are Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, Kapahulu Senior Center, Moiliili Community Center, and Waikiki Community Center. All of them have a range of programs to help keep seniors healthy and active. The funding will allow these seniors to remain in the community and not be institutionalized.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 817. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Child and Family Service
91-1841 Ft. Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

LATE

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| Bill No: SB 817 | Title: Relating to Senior Centers |
| Committee: Committee on Human Services, Committee on Health | Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 1:15pm Place: State Capitol, Room 016 |
| Submitted by: Name: Howard Garval Title: CEO | Contact Information: Phone: 681-3500 Fax: 681-1449 |
| Testimony in: (X) SUPPORT () OPPOSITION of proposed bill. | |
| <p>Child and Family Service supports SB 817 in support of Senior Centers.</p> <p>Child and Family Service Gerontology Programs are a part of the greater Aging Network on Oahu. We serve the frail, isolated and low income seniors. Our goal is to help them maintain their independence in their home to prevent premature institutionalization.</p> <p>We view the Senior Centers as a vital link in the Aging Network. Senior Centers provide a valuable service both in the areas of prevention and support.</p> <p>Senior Center participants gather to socialize, to learn, to obtain services, and to stay active. Recreational, health, and educational activities help to maintain physical as well as psychological wellness. Services provided include information and referral, telephone reassurance, escort and transportation. They may get the only hot meal of the day while there. Though many believe that they serve only healthy seniors, we know that they serve a variety of seniors with a range of abilities and disabilities. Because of their regular contact with seniors and they notice changes that indicate potential problems which need to be addressed. They are then able to link the senior to services thereby preventing further decline.</p> <p>We also are aware that if the Senior Centers did not exist there would be an even greater impact on the Aging Network. Most home and community based programs have waitlists for services. Those seniors who lose the Senior Center would add to this growing problem and many will decline unnecessarily waiting for help. This in turn would create an even larger impact on our institutions due to increased hospitalizations or placement in our institutions.</p> <p>We support the appropriation of funds to support the operations of certain senior centers so that they may continue to enhance the quality of life for seniors in their respective communities.</p> | |