

SCR 194

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SR 93



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

Date: March 25, 2010 - Conference Room 016 – 1:15 p.m.

Re: **SCR 194 REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO AUTHORIZE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON AGING IN PLACE TO CONTINUE TO MEET AND CARRY OUT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.**

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 strongly supports SCR 194. This measure requests the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to authorize the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place to continue to meet and carry out the work of the committee.

Over the past four years, the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place has been a leader in developing public policies to support family caregivers in the areas of coordinated services and policies, education and training, balancing work and eldercare, respite services, and financial incentives. As a result of their work, the Kupuna Education Center at Kapiolani Community College was established, over \$2 million was appropriated for Kupuna Care services to reduce wait lists and expand services, over 10 research studies were conducted to base legislation in hard data, and over \$1 million was appropriated to establish the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

AARP Hawaii supports the continuation of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place and asks for your favorable consideration of this measure.

TO : COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: **SCR 194, SR 93 Requesting authorization for the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place to continue to meet and carry out its work**

HEARING: 1:15 pm Thursday, March 25, 2010
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: **PABEA supports SCR 194 and SR 93 as important to addressing the issues of developing home and community-based care.**

RATIONALE:

I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board. I am also a professor of medical sociology at UH-Manoa who has worked with elderly services in Hawaii for more than 20 years.

- The Joint Legislative Taskforce on Aging in Place has played an important role in examining the challenges of creating public policies to develop a comprehensive system of home and community-based care.
- Hawaii continues to lag behind many other states in reducing institutional care by developing supports for family caregivers and other steps to keep the frail elderly and other disabled persons in the community.
- The Taskforce has sponsored numerous research studies as well as policy analyses of various approaches to addressing the needs in such areas as respite services, cash and counseling programs, financial assistance for employed caregivers and others.
- In view of our aging population, it is very important that the life of the Taskforce be extended to focus on the issues and to develop public policies in support of aging in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 24, 2010

To: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chung Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

From: Lyn Moku, Office Manager

Hearing: March 25, 2010 at 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Subject: **SUPPORT of SCR 194 and SR 93 REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO AUTHORIZE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON AGING IN PLACE TO CONTINUE TO MEET AND CARRY OUT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports SCR 194 and SR 93 requesting the authorization of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place to continue to meet and carry out the work of the committee.

The purpose of the Committee is to develop a comprehensive public policy to strengthen support for family caregivers and to consider providing coordinated programs and services. Local research was conducted on family caregivers and their care recipients, our aging population, and long term care issues. Possible solutions were identified to help people maintain their independence and safety, and to receive the health care and services they need so they could age in place.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. It is not a fatal disease. People with MS have a normal life expectancy. Studies suggest that an estimated 30 percent of people with MS require assistance and care at home, and that about 80 percent of that care is provided by informal, unpaid care givers who are usually family members. This type of care is important if it helps people remain in their homes rather than move to a nursing home. With few exceptions, aging in place is what we want for ourselves.

Studies also show that MS caregivers were older, at an average of 60 years of age, compared to the national average of 46 years of age. Most were male spouses who lived in the same home as the person needing care, and MS caregivers cared for the individual with MS for an average of 13.2 years, compared with the national average of 4.3 years.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports the purpose of the Committee and the issues included in SCR 194 and SR 93. We are concerned about people with multiple sclerosis and other chronic diseases, their families, the elderly, and people with disabilities of all ages. We support Kupuna Care and Preservation of the Safety Net, the Aging and

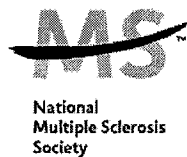
Disability Resource Center, the Home for life Task Force, the Hawaii Center on Aging, et al. At some point in time, all of us will benefit from the studies and the programs and services.

The MS Society supports the:

- Expansion of public and private long-term care options, especially those that keep individuals in the community and functioning at the highest possible level.
- Development of a coordinated approach to the delivery of care to help assure that the best combination of health care and other services is provided.
- Respite services to help all caregivers cope with constant and often overwhelming duties.

Please support SCR 194 and SR 93 and extend the life of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place through June 30, 2012 and urge local government agencies, businesses, and communities to continue assisting the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Hawaii Office, All America Chapter
418 Kuwili Street, #105
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone: 808-532-0806 Fax: 808-532-0814

IN SUPPORT

Providing Testimony for the Record

TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, and Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

FROM: Patricia Urieff, MSW, Licensed Social Worker with thirty years of experience working with children and their families; parent; grandparent, Co-Chair for Legislative Appointed *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force*, August 2008 through December 2009.

For Hearing Thurs, Marsh 25, 2010, 1:15 PM, Room 016, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania St.

SR 93 REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO AUTHORIZE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON AGING IN PLACE TO CONTINUE TO MEET AND CARRY OUT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

Given the projected high numbers of residents who approach the stage of life when they may need all kinds of supports for daily living, the *Legislative Committee on Aging in Place* should continue to exist for the following purposes.

- To be an agent for research and providing findings related to needs of senior citizens in our communities.
- To be a collaborative forum for sharing information and receiving information related to state departments, counties, and community organizations providing needed services; and
- to identify how systems can do better to provide needed services without spending more money.
- To continue to acknowledge *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* as a very large group of family caregivers who save the state approximately 17 million a month by caring for their grandchildren, and to follow-up on the recommendations from the *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force* that specifically identified state departments fully implement Act 99, *Caregivers Consent*,
- To have chair persons and leaders well informed and demonstrating (1) action steps toward state departments making needed changes without spending money, (2) follow-up monitoring for implementation of requested changes, and (3) on-going reports (to the forum) until situations are completed.
- To continue efforts to work with the City and County of Honolulu to change current ordinances that are obstacles and barriers to building comfortable and affordable “aging in place” dwellings on a property so that multi-generational families live there and support frail elders.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 8:27 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR194 on 3/25/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/25/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR194

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 261-2095
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2010

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a member of several senior advocacy groups, all of which have participated in the work of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place. Over the years, this Committee has consistently investigated the needs of older adults and their families, and recommended appropriate action to meet those needs. The Committee has also served to foster awareness of aging issues among fellow legislators, legislative staff, and public officials. Given the many competing interest groups clamoring for Legislators' attention, it is critical that at least one group of legislators speaks out for the interests of Hawai'i's older citizens. Aging issues are not going away. In fact, they will assume greater social significance in the years ahead. In my view, this Committee should have permanent status.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this Resolution.

chunOakland5 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:51 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: wesleylum@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR194 on 3/25/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/25/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR194

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wes Lum
Organization: Individual
Address: 930 Kaheka Street, #1604 Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808-343-2165
E-mail: wesleylum@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/23/2010

Comments:

My name is Wes Lum and I am testifying in support of SCR 194. The Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place has been a leader in developing public policies to support family caregivers. The number of family caregivers will continue to grow as our population ages, which makes the work of the Joint Legislative Committee even more important. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.