

SCR 31



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Testimony by: Avis Sakata, OTR

SCR 31/SR 24, Extending the Deadline for the Home for Life Task Force to Report on its Findings and Recommendations for Reducing Barriers to Aging in Place and Facilitating Multigenerational Living.

**Senate HMS Hearing – Tues. Feb. 16, 2010
Room 016 – 1:15 pm**

Position: Support

Chair Chun Oakland, and Members of the Senate HMS Committee:

I am Avis Sakata, OTR and president of the Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii, (OTAH), which represents 507 occupational therapists (OTs) licensed in Hawaii. OT's work in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, prisons, skilled nursing to private facilities and community-based programs.

Occupational Therapy is a science driven, evidenced-based profession that enables people of all ages, from infants to the elderly, to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health and prevent or live better with illness, injury or disability. Occupational Therapists are recognized members of the Healthcare Rehabilitation team which is comprised also of physicians, nurses, physical therapists, speech therapists, social workers and others. As a healthcare provider, OTs provide, but are not limited to: 1) assessment and evaluation of our patients/clients needs and development of an appropriate treatment plan, 2) interventions focused on daily living skills (including self-care), work readiness, play or educational performance skills, 3) and interventions that include sensorimotor, neuromuscular functioning, cognitive or psychosocial components.

OTAH supports the extending of the Home for Life Task Force reporting deadline and supports empowering the existing Task Force members to fill the positions that have not yet been appointed by the Governor. The work of the Home For Life Task Force is an important foundation for meeting the needs of our elders and their desire to live at home for as long as possible.

OTAH's national organization, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) has ventured into a partnership with AARP and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) to collaborate to provide solutions to address this growing societal need of aging in place. Over the past 2 years, AOTA along with AARP and NAHB have jointly presented seminars at many conferences across the U.S. Three percent of NAHB's designations for Certified Aging in Place Specialists (CAPS) are filled by occupational therapy practitioners.

Occupational Therapy practitioners evaluate the skills of the patient/client and the environmental factors that support or limit performance of skills at home. Based on patient/client assessment, occupational therapists recommend modifications that will improve the environment to support independence and safety within the home.

In addition to supporting this measure, we offer our expertise to the Home for Life Task Force. I can be reached at 522-4602 if further information is needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OTHERS

February 14, 2010

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

From: Lyn Moku, Board of Directors

Hearing: February 16, 2010 at 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Subject: **SUPPORT of SCR 31 and SR 24 EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR
THE HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE**

Kokua Council, one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups, supports both SCR 31 and SR 24 requesting extending the deadline for the Home for Life Task Force to report on its findings and recommendations for reducing barriers to aging in place and facilitating multigenerational living.

Access to barrier-free community living must be available to people of all ages regardless of where they live. When a person is frail, elderly, has a chronic disease or is living with a disability, the whole family is affected. In the same way that new parents "baby-proof" their homes, we need to build and redesign homes so they are accessible by people of all ages. People should be supported to remain at home and in the community for as long as possible. Nursing home residents should be able to transition back to community living from residential care when appropriate and feasible. We need to ensure the availability of appropriate and accessible housing, transportation and communities.

The Home for Life Task Force was charged with coordinating research and action to reduce barriers and facilitate multigenerational living. Legislators have appointed members to the Task Force, but the Governor has not made her appointments. We need to take action now.

Kokua Council supports extending the deadline for the Task Force to report its findings, and giving the Task Force the authority to select any vacant positions due to non-appointment by the Governor. We ask you to vote in favor of SCR 31 and SR 24. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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chunOakland5 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 5:37 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR31 on 2/16/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/16/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR31

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
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Submitted on: 2/12/2010

Comments:
Senator Chun Oakland and members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am testifying on behalf of the Home for Life Interest Group in support of SCR 31, as well as SR 24. These Resolutions are both designed to extend the life of the Home for Life Task Force and to allow members already named by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to appoint additional members as necessary, and to officially convene the Task Force. These steps are necessary, inasmuch as the Governor has failed to make her appointments to the Task Force as required by SCR 7 (2009), thus making it impossible for the group to officially begin the work called for in the Resolution.

The Home for Life Interest Group consists of persons named to the Task Force by the Speaker and the President in 2009, as well as others interested in accessible housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities; multigenerational housing; and universal design. The group has held two informal meetings, and has begun exploratory work in six areas. However, it is difficult to get persons with all of the needed expertise to participate without the assurance that the group has official standing, and that its work will be reported to the Legislature.

I therefore respectfully request that this Committee pass SCR 31 and SR 24.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.