

SR 24



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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