

# LATE TESTIMONY

HCR 23 ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS. Fall Prevention Task Force; Kupuna Caucus.

Aloha,

My name is Catia Garell, MA, OTR. I am an occupational therapist that works in physical rehabilitation in home health care and skilled nursing. Often times as an OT, I am working with a client after they have had a fall resulting in a costly hospitalization and a dramatic change in their quality of life and ability to participate in their previous functional and leisure tasks. There is an enormous need to advocate for elderly care services, particularly identifying what makes a client at risk through early detection in order to reduce and prevent falls. Which is why I strongly support the efforts of establishing HCR 23.

Maalo,



Catia Garell, MA, OTR

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**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** damian sempio [damiansempio@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2011 8:40 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 23 Room 329 4/1/2011 10:45am

Aloha Representative's on the Committee of Health and of Higher Education,

My name is Damian Sempio and I am an Occupational Therapist who has been working in the area of adults/geriatrics for the past 10 years. Through my experience working with fall victims, I know of the drastic change in quality of life for themselves as well as their family members. Falls of the elderly are the number reason cause of fatal injuries, specifically resulting in broken hips. This leads to a multitude of comorbid diagnosis, all of which could of been prevented through education. I support HCR 23 to be held on 4/1/2011, in an effort to establish a Fall Prevention Task Force.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Damian Sempio, OTR

live simply so others can simply live,

ghandi-

# LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 23

[HLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HLTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Committee on Health

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Dee Morikawa., Vice-Chair

Committee on Higher Education

Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Representative Mark Nakashima, Vice-Chair

Friday April 1, 2011

10:45 AM

House Conference Room 329

Representatives Yamane, and Nishimoto Chair, and Nishimoto and Nakashima, Vice-Chairs,

I strongly support House Concurrent Resolution 23 which calls for the formation of a Hawaii State Fall Prevention and Early Detection Task Force.

Falls are a major threat to the health and independence of older adults. Each year, one third of older adults, 65 years of age and older fall. About one out of ten falls result in a serious injury, such as a hip fracture or head injury, that requires hospitalization. In addition to the physical and emotional pain, many need to spend at least a year recovering in a long-term care facility. Some never return to their homes.

In Hawaii, every five hours, a senior is so severely injured by a fall that they must be hospitalized. In Hawaii, emergency room, hospitalization, rehabilitation and care home charges total \$143.8 million per year. That is equal to \$193,000 per day! In Hawaii the elder population will soon increase to make up 20% of our total population.

Thirty percent of falls are preventable! The Task Force working with health professionals, state and community agencies, and private organizations can organize to bring early detection and fall prevention programs to our attention.

We all have older adults in our lives, perhaps we are one too! Support SCR 26!

Thank you,

Mike Hirano  
Fall Prevention Coordinator,  
Project Dana