

SCR26

Measure Title: ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.

Report Title: Fall Prevention Task Force; Kupuna Caucus

Description:

Companion:

Package: Kupuna

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, DELA CRUZ, ESPERO, GABBARD, GALUTERIA, HEE, IHARA, RYAN, SHIMABUKURO

SCR26

Measure Title: ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.

Report Title: Fall Prevention Task Force; Kupuna Caucus

Description:

Companion:

Package: Kupuna

Current Referral: HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, DELA CRUZ, ESPERO, GABBARD, GALUTERIA, HEE, IHARA, RYAN, SHIMABUKURO

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WRITTEN
ONLY

LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**SCR26, ESTABLISHING A HAWAII FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY
DETECTION TASKFORCE**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Interim Director of Health**

March 10, 2011, 1:15pm

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this measure to establish a Hawaii
2 Fall Prevention and Early Detection Taskforce to develop a coordinated statewide approach to
3 reducing falls among older adults.
4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
5 **Purpose and Justification:** Falls and fall related injuries among older adults impose an
6 enormous burden on individuals, society, and Hawaii's health care system. Among adults 65
7 years and older, falls are by far the leading cause of injury-related deaths and hospitalizations,
8 and by far the leading cause of EMS attended injuries. Falls among older adults are also a
9 leading contributor overall to injury-related deaths and hospital, emergency department and EMS
10 use. Falls impact the quality of life and independence of older adults. Over half of those
11 hospitalized from a fall go to a care home or rehab center and many never regain full
12 independence. Direct medical charges for fall and fall -related injuries amount to \$82.8 million,
13 an amount that does not include the costs of rehabilitation and long term care, which is
14 undoubtedly far greater.

1 Fall related injuries can be prevented and are not an inevitable part of aging. The
2 Department has already taken some steps to address fall injuries among older adults as a critical
3 public health issue in Hawaii, including organizing a 65-member Fall Prevention Consortium
4 that initiates collaborative efforts to address fall prevention. Considering the magnitude of falls
5 among older adults and the anticipated increase in this age group in the next 20 years to over
6 22% of Hawaii's population, these efforts and the current level of resources are not sufficient.
7 The taskforce proposed in SCR26 elevates fall prevention for older adults as a policy priority for
8 the state by bringing together the leadership and expertise from key agencies and organizations
9 to determine the most effective means to prevent and reduce fall-related injuries and deaths. The
10 Taskforce builds on the efforts of the Hawaii Fall Prevention Consortium.

11 The Department agrees with the changes to SCR26 proposed by the Executive Office on
12 Aging in their testimony, and is prepared to carry out the duties as described in the resolution in
13 collaboration with state, county, and community partners.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



WESLEY LUM, PhD, MPH
DIRECTOR

LORETTA FUDDY, ACSW, MPH
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Committee on Human Services

SCR 26, ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETCTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.

**Testimony of Wes Lum
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

Thursday, March 10, 2011

1:15 p.m.

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports this measure and asks that the
2 resolution be amended as specified below.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** Among the elderly, falls in Hawaii are the leading cause of fatal
5 injuries, injury-related hospitalizations, injury-related emergency department visits, and injury-
6 related emergency medical service calls. Fortunately, falls are a public health problem that is
7 largely preventable and, therefore, EOA appreciates the opportunity to chair and provide staff
8 support for the Task Force.

9 EOA requests that this measure be amended as follows:

10 (1) Designate EOA, rather than the University of Hawaii Center on Aging, to convene the
11 Task Force (page 2, lines 9-10).

1 (2) Reduce the number of Task Force members to four members appointed by the
2 Governor, four members appointed by the President of the Senate, and four members
3 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives (page 3, lines 1-4).

4 (3) Correct references to the county offices on aging to read:

5 a. Page 3, lines 29-30: The County Executive of the Maui County Office on
6 Aging, or the County Executive's designee.

7 b. Page 3, lines 32-33: The County Executive of the Kauai Agency on Elderly
8 Affairs, or the County Executive's designee.

9 c. Page 3, lines 35-36: The County Executive of the Hawaii County Office of
10 Aging, or the County Executive's designee.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ALAN ARAKAWA
Mayor

JO-ANN T. RIDAO
Director
Housing & Human Concerns

JAN SHISHIDO
Deputy Director
Housing & Human Concerns



DEBORAH ARENDALE
Executive on Aging

PHONE (808) 270-7755

FAX (808) 270-7935

E-MAIL: mcoa.adrc@mauicounty.gov

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING
AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING

ONE MAIN PLAZA
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 547
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

Committee on Human Services

**SCR 26, ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY
DETECTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO
REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.**

Testimony of Deborah Arendale
Executive on Aging, Maui County Office on Aging

Thursday, March 10, 2011

1:15 p.m.

MCOA's Position: The Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) supports this measure and asks that the resolution be amended as specified below.

Fiscal Implications: None.

Purpose and Justification: Among the elderly, falls in Hawaii are the leading cause of fatal injuries, injury-related hospitalizations, injury-related emergency department visits, and injury-related emergency medical service calls. Fortunately, falls are a public health problem that is largely preventable.

MCOA joins the Hawaii Executive Office on Aging (EOA) in requesting that this measure be amended as follows:

- (1) Designate EOA, rather than the University of Hawaii Center on Aging, to convene the Task Force (page 2, lines 9-10).

- (2) Reduce the number of Task Force members to four members appointed by the Governor, four members appointed by the President of the Senate, and four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives (page 3, lines 1-4).
- (3) Correct references to the county offices on aging to read:
- a. Page 3, lines 29-30: The County Executive of the Maui County Office on Aging, or the County Executive's designee.
 - b. Page 3, lines 32-33: The County Executive of the Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs, or the County Executive's designee.
 - c. Page 3, lines 35-36: The County Executive of the Hawaii County Office of Aging, or the County Executive's designee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Acting Director

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 446
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

SCR26

**ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND
EARLY DETECTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH
TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS**

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Human Services

Thursday, March 10, 2011, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

I am Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. The Bureau appreciates this opportunity to submit the following written comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 26:

- (1) S.C.R. No. 26, among other things, and creates a task force to develop a statewide approach to reducing falls among older adults.
- (2) Paragraph (3) of the sixth "Resolved" clause of the measure directs the Legislative Reference Bureau to assist the task force in drafting any proposed legislation recommended by the task force for submission to the Legislature.

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of the measure, but notes that, as the measure is presently drafted, the functions required of us appear to be manageable and we would undertake them to the best of our ability.

Thank you again for allowing us to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services
Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

By

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

And

Dr. Colette Browne, Professor and
Interim Director, Center on Aging
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**SCR 26, ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY
DETECTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO
REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.**

Good afternoon, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the committee, my name is Colette Browne, and I serve as the Interim Director for the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Center on Aging. The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SCR 26. Falls are serious problems for older adults, and can lead to great individual, family and public health costs.

Upon further discussion of this measure with Dr. Wesley Lum, Director of the State Executive Office on Aging (EOA), we request the following amendment:

Designate EOA, rather than the University of Hawai'i Center on Aging, to convene the Task Force (page 2, lines 9-10).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 10, 2011, 1:15pm

The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

Dear Chairman Chun Oakland and Committee members,

Subject: **Support for SCR 26**

The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee strongly supports SCR 26. This Fall Prevention and Early Detection Task Force Resolution supports the formation of a high-level task force to assess the impact of falls in Hawaii, identifies gaps in prevention and early detection services and programs, and makes recommendations to address the devastating injury burden of senior falls in Hawaii. This resolution is important because falls are the leading cause of injury death for our kupuna.

Established in 1990, the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injury in Hawai'i. IPAC members include public and private agencies, physicians, and professionals working together to address the eight leading areas of injury, including falls.

Every five hours in Hawaii a senior is injured so severely by a fall that the senior must be hospitalized, often never returning home. Nationwide, one third of all seniors suffer a fall, and in Hawaii where we lead the nation in longevity, our seniors are suffering at a high rate. On average in Hawaii, emergency room, and hospitalization directly related to senior falls total \$82.8 million dollars per year, which can easily double if you include the necessary rehabilitation and long term care required.

Falls are preventable. We strongly support the formation of the task force and the passage of SCR 26.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely,

Bruce McEwan, Chair
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee

Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 26

HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair

Thursday March 10, 2011

1:15 PM

Conference Room 016

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara and members of the Human Services Committee.

I strongly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 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

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

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.
POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)

HEARING: 1:15 pm Thursday March 10, 2011
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: SCR 26 Fall Prevention Taskforce

POSITION: As a member of The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, I **support** SCR 26, which create a Hawaii statewide taskforce for early detection and fall prevention

RATIONALE:

Falls are one of the principle causes of disability and deaths for elder adults. Most of the falls are preventable. If we could identify persons at risk for falls through an early detection program and develop a fall prevention program, we could greatly reduce this risk for disability and death and also avoid the costs associated with these incidents.

Thus, it is prudent for the state to create a taskforce to explore measures for early detection and fall prevention which could be implemented on a statewide basis. I strongly recommend approval of this resolution to establish such a taskforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
 Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
 Phone 808.681.3500
 Fax 808.681.5280
 Email cfs@cfs-hawaii.org
www.childandfamily.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shelley B. Thompson
 CHAIR

Kathy Inouye
 FIRST VICE CHAIR

Rann Watumull
 SECOND VICE CHAIR

Christine Camp
 SECRETARY

Mark Yamakawa
 TREASURER

Robert Fujioka
 IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Howard S. Garval
 PRESIDENT & CEO

- Stephanie Ackerman
 Carol Ai May
 John L. Arizumi
 Justine Balauro
 Kyle Chock
 Micki Esslin
 Russell Figueiroa
 David Haverly
 Alan L. Hoffman
 Stanley Hong
 Tim Johns
 General (Ret.) Dwight Kealoha
 Anton Krucky
 Frances P. Lui-Kwan
 Lori Lum
 Gayle Marumoto
 Steve Metter
 Terri Motosue
 Maurice Myers
 Gina Pohlalabel
 Djuan Rivers
 Michele Saito
 Joanie Shibuya
 Jonathan Steiner
 Earl Stoner
 Richard Wacker
 Colleen Wong

PROGRAM RESOURCES

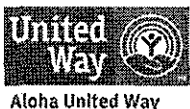
JoAnn Freed
 Early Childhood Consultant

ACCREDITATION

Council on Accreditation

AFFILIATIONS

- Alliance for Children
 and Families
 Hawaii Island
 United Way
 Maui United Way
 Kauai United Way



Bill No: SCR 26	Title: ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION TASK FORCE
<u>COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES</u> Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair	Hearing Date/Time: DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2011 TIME: 1:15PM PLACE: Conference 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.	

Child and Family Service supports SCR 26 calling for the creation of a fall prevention and early detection coordinator.

The mission of Child and Family Service is **strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children**. We do this by providing services from our youngest Keiki to our oldest Kupuna. Hawaii's strength comes from its `Ohana which includes our elders. We believe that fall prevention will prevent premature institutionalization which would increase the state dollars needed to pay for long-term care for our Kupuna.

We have served the Kupuna of our community in the area of fall prevention for 30 years. Our exercise groups, using evidence based programs, have a proven record of improving seniors 'balance thereby preventing falls. We have also been a member of the Falls Consortium. This group has helped bring together a diverse group of people from different professions focused on fall prevention. Instead of each of us working alone and in our own direction, we have come together, pooling our resources and coordinating our efforts in the area of fall prevention. This has resulted in fall screening at the Senior Fair, information being disseminated across the islands and a better understanding of the issues. There is a need to have one person to help coordinate all these efforts and give the group leadership so that we can continue our great work.

For seniors, falls are the number one cause of injury death, the number one cause of traumatic brain injury, and the number one cause of loss of independence. Any dollars spent towards prevention of falls, per the Center for Disease Control (CDC), will reduce the cost each state pays for emergency rooms, hospitalizations, rehabilitation, and long term care. Latest figures show dollar savings equal to 2 or 3 times the amount invested in prevention. On average, Hawaii spends \$393,000 per day on senior fall injuries, that is over \$140 million per year, and a large portion of that is paid by the state.

The effect of a fall on a senior is devastating. Can you imagine having both your arms in a cast? Even worse is the risk for Traumatic Brain Injury. Many people never recover. For others the burden of care is overwhelming.

Please pass SCR 26 to enable us to move forward in a coordinated effort to reduce falls in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Howard S. Garval
 President & CEO

To: Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2011
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Conference room 016

Testifier: Eudice Schick


Bill: **SCR 26**
In Full Support

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **full support** of SCR 26. I am a senior and have attended several work shops on fall prevention. The statistics are staggering when it comes to the number of falls that our seniors suffer from. Many of these falls are the number one cause of death. It is very important that the State of Hawaii establish a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Task Force to develop a statewide approach to reducing falls amongst older adults.

With this in mind I ask for your support of SCR 26.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,



Eudice Schick

Date: March 10, 2011

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Rep: Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 10, 2011

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Hearing Place: Conference room 016 – State Capitol – 415 South Beretania Street

ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION
TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS
AMONG OLDER ADULT

Aloha Chairman Oakland, Vice chairman Ihara and the committee members,

I am Mira Sharma, MSW student from University of Hawaii at Manoa. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee to introduce the bill regarding fall prevention of older adults. I strongly support the SCR26 Bill as several cases of falls have been witnessed in communities every day.

The bill is very relevant to the contemporary society since older population is increasing day by day implying the need of more care homes, nursing homes and health care professionals. These services are becoming very costly. The prevailing healthcare facilities and healthcare professionals might not be able to cope with increased cases of elderly falls in addition to their responsibilities of regular patients. It can be very expensive and inaccessible to fall patients if this rate of fall is not controlled. The more the cases of falls, the costlier it would be to the victims and the family as well also in terms of physical and emotional well being. The cases of fall can be substantially reduced if awareness programs are launched and early warning systems are put in place. I hope this bill will help sensitize each and every individual in the community regarding the fall of older citizens and thereby help reduce falls of older adults.

I strongly urge this committee to pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity given to me to submit my testimony.

Thank You

Mira Sharma

Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 26.

HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

**SCR26 - ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION
TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG ADULTS**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair

Thursday March 10, 2011

1:15 PM

Conference Room 016

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Human Services Committee,

I strongly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 which calls for the formation of a Hawaii State Fall Prevention and Early Detection Task Force. Currently Hawaii has no central organization, agency, individual or program that dedicates full time efforts to reducing senior falls, and that is dangerous as Hawaii leads the nation in longevity. Longevity can be a glorious addition to our community as loving grandparents and great grandparents share their wisdom and kindness with our children.

However, fall injuries take an enormous toll on our kupuna, and their longevity can be cut short. The statistics are staggering and this resolution draws attention to many of them. Every 5 hours a senior is injured so severely in a fall that they must be hospitalized, many unable to ever return home. Dr. Dan Galanis, Hawaii's State Injury epidemiologist most recent figures show that in 2009, \$105.09 million dollars was paid by Medicare and Medicaid/Quest for Fall injuries. That is a horrific \$287,917 dollars per day from we taxpayers. Forget the dollars....the cost in pain and suffering is equally horrendous.

Falls are preventable and are not inevitable due to aging. A high-level, multi disciplinary task force will enable senior-care professionals to exam the entire statewide picture, and then craft a statewide program. They will not have to re-invent the wheel. The task force members, composed of geriatricians, pharmacists, long term care professionals, hospitals, elderly agencies, etc., have the expertise to recommend the best way to not only prevent...but how to access/early detect those at greatest risk of falling. Their combined efforts would give us the best chance to succeed.

The task force is the best way to gather senior care professionals to develop a statewide plan. The task force is the best hope to protect our kupuna.

I urge the committee to pass SCR 26

Sincerely,

Stan Michaels
225 Kaiulani Ave #602
Honolulu, HI 96815
(808) 230-6675
empire41@hawaii.rr.com

Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 26.
HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

SCR26 - ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG ADULTS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair

Thursday March 10, 2011
1:15 PM
Conference Room 016

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Human Services Committee,

I strongly support Senate Concurrent Resolution 26 which calls for the formation of a Hawaii State Fall Prevention and Early Detection Task Force. Falls and fall related injuries among older adults impose an enormous burden on individuals, society, and Hawaii's health care system. Among older adults 65 years and older, falls are by far the leading cause of injury-related deaths and hospitalizations, and by far the leading cause of EMS attended injuries among older adults. Hawaii leads the nation in longevity and as our seniors age the impact of fall injuries has grown enormously.

As a practicing Physical Therapist and a member of the Fall Prevention Consortium, I am well aware that we do not have a statewide coordinated effort to address this ever increasing problem. Currently Hawaii has no central organization, agency, individual or program that specifically targets fall prevention full time. However, fall Injuries are enormous in scope, cost, and physical suffering. The resolution calls for the formation of a committee of senior care professionals and asks that they combine their expertise to formulate a master plan with a statewide approach.

The task force's recommendations will enable the community to understand the importance of fall prevention for our senior population and assist them in knowing what services are available and most effective when this type of care is needed. The recommendations will also zero in on the process whereby we can make best use of all our communities resources to reduce the numbers of fall injuries and the devastating loss of health and well being. It rightly includes the urgency of early detection of a fall to help reduce the severity and long term implications of any subsequent injury.

I strongly support the formation of the task force and the passage of SCR 26

Sincerely,

Billie Tang, MPH, PT, ATC