

LATE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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PETER B. CARLISLE
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DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Community Services

MEASURE:

S.C.R. NO. 26, ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.

COMMITTEE(S):

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HEARING DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2011

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

COMMITTEE REQUESTS 1 COPIES

TESTIFIER(S): Samuel E.H. Moku, Director
(Written testimony only. For more information, please call Elizabeth Bethea, Elderly Affairs Division, at 768-7708.)

Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Community Services (DCS) supports this resolution; provided, however, that we concur with the recommendation of the Executive Office on Aging and the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to designate the Executive Office on Aging to convene the task force.

The City and County of Honolulu's Elderly Affairs Division, within DCS, is Honolulu's designated Area Agency on Aging and operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate, and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

This resolution proposes a Hawaii State Fall Prevention and Early Detection Task Force to develop a statewide approach to reduce falls among older adults by investigating and examining the immediate and long-term dangers of fall injuries for our senior population; to reveal the financial impact of falls by seniors on our health care system; and to make recommendations on appropriate measures to address this issue.

Falls can have as devastating effect on the lives of senior citizens. But falls are preventable, and are not an inevitable result of aging. Many types of interventions, including balance screenings, medication reviews, and vision examinations, can help identify seniors who are at risk of falling.

We respectfully ask that this resolution be passed with the recommended amendment.

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3/10/11

I, Catia Garell, MA, OTR am an Occupational Therapist who strongly supports SCR 11 and SCR 26 to continue to support Hawaii's aging population. I am also very interested in joining your Home for life task force should you require additional support from the community and/or health care perspective for home modifications.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,

Catia Garell, MA, OTR

808-371-8432

Catia77@hotmail.com

BCR 26 Establishing a Hawaii State Fall Prevention or Early Detection Task Force

Testimony of Adele Ching, private citizen
510 Ulukani St., Kailua HI 96734

I strongly support this measure. In addition to the financial costs resulting from falls, there is a huge amount of incalculable cost when a loved one dies from a fall.

I lost my father-in-law two years ago as a result of a fall in his home.

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Supplemental Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 26 From Stan Michaels
For the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair

LATE

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

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

I stand on my written support of this measure with some comments. There are thousands of seniors that suffer falls every year...and there is no central place, no constant message, no unifying program where they can go for help or even just some idea as to what to do.

*My mom fell... *My Dad broke his hip.... Etc.

I was one of the lucky ones. I fell (actually knocked down) a three story escalator. I already had a bad back, now I had a shattered hip socket. The end result after many attempts at fixing...is an artificial hip. I carry about a half a pound of titanium in my Okole.

I also take 85 milligrams of Oxycodone and its time release cousin Opana every day. That amount of pain killer also requires me to try and balance roughage intake and 45 softeners every day. I am catatonic without. What does this have to do with A Task Force?

For another senior a little more frail, For a senior that is trying to gallantly to live a nice life at home alone. For another senior without as many resources or family as I was blessed with...the fall would have resulted in my death. Because if the fall does not kill you... the inactivity will.

Fear of falling dooms many seniors. They disengage from life, stop taking trips to the store or even the mailbox. Subsequent lung incapacity...and pneumonia takes many fall victims months after their fall. And those numbers are never recorded as fall deaths...yet they could easily triple the number of deaths directly related to falls.

The cost is enormous in Dollars and Suffering.. Prevention is the Key...We need central state wide coordination. No one currently works full time to do this. We need this task force to lead us. Prevention and early detection are the key to reducing the carnage.

Final NOTE' Dr. Dan Galanis, Hawaii's Injury epidemiologist, just completed a review of the costs directly related to fall injuries in terms of who pays. His 2009 numbers show a significant increase in the amount paid in 2008 for fall injuries. In a nutshell...Dr. Dan found \$113.12 million dollars for ER and Hospitalizations only--not counting rehab or long term care. Of that...92.9% or \$105.09 million dollars was paid by us...the taxpayer via Medicare, Medicaid and Quest. That is \$287,917.80 per day, every day...out of our pocket.

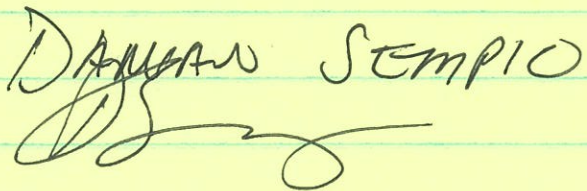
Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Stan Michaels 

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3/10/11

I, DAMIAN SEMPPIO, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
STRONGLY SUPPORT SCR 11, "THE
HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE" EXTENSION
AS WELL AS SCR 26 "FALL
PREVENTION TASK FORCE."

DAMIAN SEMPPIO


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