

LATE TESTIMONY

March 3, 2011

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Honorable Representative Gilbert S.C. Keith-Aragan, Chair  
Committee On Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Reference: HB 1465 - Relating to Power of Attorney, Requires that a Power of Attorney be Signed by Two Witnesses and Acknowledged by a Notary Public

Aloha, Chair Keith-Aragan and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony this afternoon. Mr. Chair, please accept my testimony as being in total agreement with HB 1465, and hope the committee will concur with me. My name is Glenn Oamilda; I have been active member in the 'Ewa Beach community over twenty-five years, being involved in many social and political activities, boards and associations.

Let me preface my testimony by saying that the community of 'Ewa Beach is one of the oldest communities in the 'Ewa region where many citizens are retirees and older. I am concerned about the elderly and the people that prey on them. I can attest that our elders are the most vulnerable to scrupulous and heartless people. These people continue to prey on the weak by slowly moving in. Then, apply the tactics of isolation and control - isolating an elder in his or her home, avoiding contact with the outside world, and gradually control his or her and eventually the entire estate. As a concerned citizen, I must advocate for more controls over predators by enactment of stricter laws and penalties; however, HB 1465 gives me consolation that it's a start in reigning in predators.

Mr. Chair, no doubt, as of this moment, in your community or mine, the elderly are being preyed on as I speak. If you allow me to cite one example, in my community of 'Ewa Beach, the only other living person to have served longer than me on the 'Ewa Beach Community Association Board is now in his eighties with degenerating hearing and vision loss. He was a well loved and respected man, who garnered awards, thanks and praises from all segments of the community; people in the community referred to him as "the mayor of 'Ewa Beach"; he was even recognized by governors, by mayors, and every politicians, since he first got involved in the late '70s, for his outstanding work as a community volunteer and organizer. And now, he is the latest victim.

On Friday, August, the 20, 2010, concern over his personal health and welfare, I

stopped at his house hoping to see him and chat with him for awhile. As I approached the front, a voice hollered at me, acknowledged my presence, and asked if he could be of any help. I followed the direction from which the voice from coming from, peeked in the kitchen window, and recognized two individuals, a man and a lady, sitting and eating at the dining table. I asked the man if I could visit with the elderly gentleman. He questioned my reasons. I simply told him I was interested in answers to questions regarding the 'Ewa Beach Community Association (EBCA). He said he was sorry but couldn't allow me access, but would have to get permission from one of two other individuals whom, as stated, had the power of attorney over him and his estate. The answer by one individual was quick, "he was sick and not feeling well!"

On Monday, August 23, 2010, I called the Hawai'i State Adult Protective Service, who took my complaint over the phone. I just wanted that agency to know that this elderly man were being preyed on by known individuals who have a past history of taking advantage of old people. Investigation by the HSAPS proved negative that sided with the perpetrators. Results of that investigation, in my mind was totally rigged, and the answer was not to my satisfaction. These rigging of the system by these ill-mannered individuals goes on every day.

August 24, 2010, as a parallel complaint, I called Mr. Hugh Jones at the Hawai'i State Office of the Attorney General because of the possible improper handling and disbursement of EBCA funds were questioned, with a written letter that followed. As of this date no word from the Office of the Attorney General.

Hopefully, Mr. Chairman, HB 1465 will afford me and others an open and transparent tracking of these over zealous individuals. I ask that the Judiciary Committee overwhelming pass this Bill.

For equal justice,

