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Private, nonprofit since 1899

Chair: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Committee: Committee on Human Services
Bill No & Title: SB2307 Relating to Kupuna Care
Day, Date, Time: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 1:15 pm
Place: State Capitol Conference Room 016

Aloha, Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ihara and Committee members. I am Howard S. Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive human service nonprofit organization with services on every island. Each year we touch the lives of 40,000 Hawaii residents from keiki to kupuna.

I am testifying in opposition of SB2307 which requires the Office on Aging to establish a sliding scale fee schedule for the Kupuna Care program.

As a service provider under the Kupuna Care program as well as other senior programs, we have experienced the system as it was first developed in 1999. In this system for charging clients and/or their caregivers for services received, CFS and other providers found that it became burdensome for service provider agencies to actually collect these fees. It required developing a billing system, as well as a system to collect on bad debts when clients refused or were unable to make payments. Further, it increased the administrative costs for the provision of services, thus reducing the amount of funds available for the actual services received by clients. On Oahu, EAD found that, with at least one service provider agency, the amount collected after the implementation of this fee-based system was less than was collected when relying only on voluntary contributions. Our experience is that our Kupuna do give back to the program and feel a strong connection when they can voluntarily give rather than receive a bill for services. They often struggle between buying medications and buying food. Given making a choice between those options and receiving services, they may choose to not ask for services.

As an agency that is focused on providing quality care to our Kupuna, we feel that although the intent was a positive one to help generate income, we cannot support the method being proposed at this time. We would like to see EOA work with the Area Agencies on Aging and Service Providers to develop a process to increase the voluntary contributions from clients.

At Child & Family Service our mission is Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children. Our Kupuna are supported by a strong family system, one which is knowledgeable about resources available to their loved ones. **We urge the committee not to pass S.B. 2307.**

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

LATE

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:28 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2307 on 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2307

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Individual
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

LATE

ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 10:13 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2307 on 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2307

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 1/31/2012

Comments:

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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

THE SENATE

Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
Tuesday, January 31, 2012; 1:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2307
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 supports with amendments S.B. 2307, which appropriates funds for the Kupuna Care program and requires the establishing of a sliding fee schedule for services.

We are in full support of funding for the Kupuna Care program, which provides services to hundreds of seniors that allow them to remain in the community and avoid institutionalization. However, we do not support imposing a sliding fee schedule for Kupuna Care services.

We understand the need for funding to maintain this program and the Legislature's attempt at making the program somewhat self-sustaining. While a sliding fee schedule may appear fair and feasible, in actuality it may create more burdens for service providers and hardship for seniors.

The program currently accepts donations from clients who receive services and provides to clients recommended donation amounts. Clients who do not donate are not denied services. This system appears to work to maintain the dignity of the client while allowing the services to be provided.

For a sliding fee schedule to truly work, the fee must be relatively high and, sliding or not, may be too much for some clients, who will then drop much-needed services due to inability to pay.

The ILWU urges funding for Kupuna Care but recommends that the bill be amended to delete the proposed sliding fee schedule. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and concerns.

LATE

Senate Committee on Human Services

Committee Hearing on SB 2307 and 2320
Tuesday, January 31, 2012
1:15 pm, Conference Room 016

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services;

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of **SB 2307** and **SB 2320**. I am Jill Kitamura, Senior Program Director with the Moiliili Community Center Senior Center Program.

RE: SB 2307, Relating to Kupuna Care. We are in favor of appropriating the funds for Kupuna Care services which are vital in keeping our seniors at home and independent as long as possible. We are not in favor of the sliding fee schedule as it has been tried before, and it was difficult to implement.

RE: SB 2320, Relating to Aging. We are in favor of all sections.

We wish to amend **Part IV, Section 9** to read: There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of **\$285,000** or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide funding for grants, pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for senior centers and to be distributed as follows:

- (1) Catholic Charities Hawaii for Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, \$175,000
- (2) Moiliili Community Center for Moiliili Senior Center Program, \$50,000
- (3) Waikiki Community Center, \$60,000

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Department of Health's Executive (Office on Aging for the purposes of this part.

The senior center programs at the different community centers help the senior to remain independent at home and in their community, a cost saving alternative to being institutionalized. Being socially involved keeps the mind active, exercise classes help with one's physical fitness, learning new things and the awareness of resources in the community -- all contribute to the well being of the senior. These seniors not only gain personally but contribute back to the community in many ways.

Kupuna Care Services are essential to helping seniors stay in their homes as long as possible. They provide important services, such as case management, transportation, bathing, meals, respite for the caregiver. Seniors can and will contribute for services, but many cannot afford the actual cost of these services. These lower income, gap group individuals will fail very quickly, needing institutional care earlier than if intervention services were readily available.

I urge you to seriously consider programs and services for seniors to be one of your priority areas. Thank you for your kind attention.

Jill T. Kitamura
Program Director
Moiliili Senior Center
Moiliili Community Center
2535 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
Ph: (808) 955-1555

LATE



To: Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Date: January 31, 2012, Conference Room 016, 1:15 p.m.

Re: **SB2307 – RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to championing access to affordable, quality health care for all generations, providing the tools needed to save for retirement, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a sliding fee schedule for the Kupuna Care program, and to appropriate additional funds for the Kupuna Care program from general revenues. **AARP offers comments on that portion of SB2307 relating to the sliding fee schedule, and strongly supports SB2307, as it relates to the Kupuna Care program.**

Sliding Fee Schedule for Kupuna Care

While the proposed sliding fee schedule could generate additional revenues and expand services provided, we believe that any such scale should be set at levels to protect low income beneficiaries and to not exclude individuals who cannot afford to pay fees.

Kupuna Care

This bill appropriates additional funds out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Kupuna Care program. The appropriation amount is not specified in this bill, however, an additional appropriation of \$4.2 million for fiscal year 2012-2013 is needed for the continued maintenance and growth of the Kupuna Care program. This additional appropriation is needed as the current \$4.85 million base budget appropriation has remained unchanged since 2002, even though demand for services has increased as a result of our rapidly aging population.

In 2011, the Kupuna Care program served 4,836 persons statewide, at a cost of \$103 per month, per person. The additional \$4.2 million appropriation is projected to serve up to an additional 3,398 persons depending on the level of impairment, and would provide seniors and caregivers with assurances that they will continue receiving occasional, yet critical respite services that enables them to live in their homes as long as possible.

The appropriation of additional funds for Kupuna Care is vital to support the increasing demand for service from our rapidly aging population:

- Approximately one out of every five (20%) Hawaii residents are over 60 years old.

AARP
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- Hawaii's population over age 65 is increasing rapidly and projected to increase by 71% between 2010 and 2030.
- Approximately 247,000 family caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long-term care system and currently provide nearly \$2 billion a year of unpaid caregiving services.
- The number of family caregivers is declining. The primary family caregiver group is 50-64 years old. This group will decline by 10% by 2030, and cause further strain on seniors and remaining caregivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.