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Chair: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Committee: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Bill No & Title: SB 2314 RELATING TO THE ELDERLY
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 support of SB 2314 which creates the crime of financial exploitation of dependent elders and provides enhanced penalties; requires financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse to the adult protective services and the county police. This bill will also require two signatures of unrelated persons as witnesses to the execution of a power of attorney for health care.

As a provider of senior services for the past 30 years, we have seen firsthand the abuse of our Kupuna through our REACH Program.

A recent presentation to the Kupuna Caucus by staff of DHS noted that of the 1160 intakes investigated, a total of 99 were confirmed abuse. A total of 6% were repeat offenders and 80% were over the age of 60. Financial Abuse accounted for 33% of the total intakes. Additionally we have seen an increase in reports of abuse in Hawaii. The DHS numbers only hint at the extent of the problem as they investigate only the vulnerable adults. Indications are that many seniors feel pressure by family or others to turn over funds or even control over their finances. The scam artists focus on seniors and financial exploitation is seen as a national problem.

This bill puts "teeth" into the crime of financial abuse of an elder. We feel the addition of law enforcement to the current legislation will create a stronger system of protection for adults in Hawaii. We would suggest uniformity of the age of a senior. Page 4 line 1 states the age as "62 years" whereas line 14 on the same page states "60 years".

At Child & Family Service our mission is strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children. **We strongly support HB2192** and ask for your support of this bill to include law enforcement when reporting financial abuse.

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 9:47 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2314 on 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2314

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 10:16 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2314 on 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 1/31/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2314

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

Comments:

LATE 1/31
1:15pm
HMS

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair, and

Committee members

SB2314 – RELATING TO THE ELDERLY

Aloha, Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ihara, and committee members. My name is Lauren Chou and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii's School of Social Work. My focus is on gerontology and I have had the opportunity to work with older adults in a variety of settings including Child and Family Services REACH program which serves clients that are at high risk for abuse.

Unfortunately, financial abuse was one of the abuses I saw way too often during my internship there.

I am testifying in **strong support of SB2314** which seeks to enhance penalties for the financial exploitation of elders and require financial institutions to report suspected abuse. Some institutions voluntarily report when they see red flags, but it is not enough. Seniors on limited incomes that are being financially exploited are not able to meet their basic needs and must be protected against abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Lauren Chou

Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work MSW program

University of Hawaii

LATE 1/31
1:15 PM
KMG

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 11:42 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2314 on 2/7/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/7/2012 1:15:00 PM SB2314

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2012

Comments:

Often there is only one family member left to the family. Opening it up to need two signatures makes an opening to someone who isn't family to make power trips on a couple.