



State of Hawaii
 House Committee on Finance
 The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
 The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
 Hawaii State Legislature

April 3, 2012; 6:00 PM
 Room 308

SB 2320, SD2, HD1 Relating to Aging

Good afternoon, Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2320, SD2, HD1. This bill provides continued supplemental funding for home and community based services, previously known as kupuna care services.

Our organizations provide various direct and indirect services to support seniors in their homes. Over the years, we, the providers in conjunction with the area offices on aging (counties), have developed a system of cross referral and mutual support.

While there is always room for improvement, considering the very limited financial resources available, we have assisted thousands of seniors to remain in their homes with dignity, preventing more costly care. Without continued support, we will be faced with further reductions in services for the most isolated and vulnerable seniors in Hawaii.

Please preserve this system of support for our kupuna.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Rauckhorst
 President & CEO
 Catholic Charities Hawaii

Howard S. Garval
 President & CEO
 Child & Family Service

Laura Robertson Smith
 President & CEO
 Goodwill Industries of Hawaii

Marian E. Tsuji
 President & CEO
 Lanakila Pacific

Jan E. Hanohano Dill
 President & Chairman
 Partners in Development Foundation

LATE TESTIMONY

House of Representatives Committee on Finance

Committee Hearing on HB 2320, HD 1 and SD 2

Tuesday, April 03, 2012

6:00 pm, Conference Room 308

Chair Marcus Oshiro and members of the House of Representatives Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of **HB 2320, HD 1 and SD 2**. I am Jill Kitamura, Senior Program Director with the Moiliili Community Center Senior Center Program. I refer especially to **Sections 2 and 5**, and note that we are in favor of both sections.

The opening statements of HB 2320 clearly notes the need to provide essential home and community based services for Hawaii's elderly population, a population that is growing in numbers as the baby boomers join the ranks. The programs noted are important to the well-being of our citizens young and old. The elderly impact their families as caregivers when the need arises, on multi-family units, on individual elders who try to maintain their independence in their own environment. Many of the programs are under non-profits; have been cut from departmental budgets; have received reduced appropriations; or have been at level funding with costs and demand continually rising. Non-profits face uncertainty with a time frame of not knowing until after the legislature closes, and whether any monies will be released as to whether programs can be continued and services provided.

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 costly 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