

GM 769

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAEONA MENDELSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Report Title: Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s):

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
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Committee on Human Services

GM769 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mae Mendelson, for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

**Testimony of Wes Lum
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

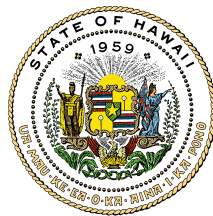
Thursday, April 11, 2013; Conference Room 016

1:00 p.m.

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) **supports** the nomination of Dr. Mae
- 2 Mendelson to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** Dr. Mae Mendelson has a PhD in the Philosophy of Social Welfare,
- 4 specializing in family caregiving, from the University of Hawaii School of Social Work.
- 5 Throughout her career, Dr. Mendelson has championed intergenerational issues in her work as the
- 6 Director of the Intergenerational Center at Chaminade University, Executive Director of the
- 7 Hawaii Intergenerational Network, and Adjunct Professor at the University of Hawaii School of
- 8 Social Work and Hawaii Pacific University. Her volunteer work is numerous, but most recently,
- 9 Dr. Mendelson served as a national board member of AARP, Chair of the AARP Foundation, and
- 10 President of AARP Hawaii. Dr. Mendelson has also been integral in the success of the state Task
- 11 Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias which will be making recommendations to
- 12 the 2014 legislature. For these reasons, EOA supports the nomination of Dr. Mendelson. Thank
- 13 you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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**STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**

NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

April 10, 2013

To: Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2013, Conference Room 016, 1:00pm
Re: GM 769 – Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs – Maeona Mendelson

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 769 that would confirm the nomination of Maeona Mendelson to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

My name is Jody Mishan and I am coordinator of the State Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. I have known Mae since 1993 in various professional collaborations.

When Mae was Executive Director of Hawaii Community Services Council, she had a strong leadership role in creating the Ke Ala Hoku Project – “the children’s vision.” When writing and producing at KHON during that time, I worked with Mae to design a sponsored television campaign. Mae was tirelessly rallying community leaders, inspiring children and youth and people of all ages to bring this visionary grass roots movement to fruition.

Mae is a visionary who loves Hawaii and works from her heart to bring all generations together to improve the lives of our residents, as well as connecting and networking with the rest of the world, broadening our ideas and connections. Her work as Chair of the national AARP Foundation, her forming of the international Youth Congress, her contribution to cherishing the value of our older adults in teaching and mentoring the youngest of our citizens – are all examples of her passion, her brilliant mind, her continuous effort to seek excellence in any task or project. In any role, she will bring these qualities, and more.

For this reason, we’ve been lucky to have Mae in Hawaii to participate as a facilitator and strategist for the Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias Task Force. Her goal and vision is again to strive for excellence, to be inclusive of everyone in the community, to collaborate and network effectively, to connect us to inspiring ideas around the country, to be open minded and creative, to achieve the very best we can as a team.

I urge you to confirm Mae Mendelson’s nomination to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. Her voice and presence will be a gift and asset to their process.

Thank you,

Jody Mishan
Coordinator, State Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®
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KUPUNA EDUCATION CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

April 8, 2013

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Co-Chair
Committee on Human Services
27th Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in **Support of Dr. Meaona Mendelson for PABEA**

Dear Chair Chun-Oakland, Co-Chair Green and members of the Committee of Human Services:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the gubernatorial nomination of Dr. Mae Mendelson to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs. I have known Dr. Mendelson for over 2 decades and have been most impressed with her long, dedicated and creative commitment to elder care issues in Hawaii, in the U.S. and the world. She has been one of the pioneers in creating new initiatives related to intergenerational relations, volunteerism and cross-national training and travel.

Almost all of her career has attempted to find bridges between her interest in young people and old people. Her work in this area goes back at least to the Hawaii Intergenerational Network that she co-founded more than 12 years ago. Today, as the new Director of the Chaminade University Center for Intergenerational Relations, Dr. Mendelson solicited millions in national foundation funding and is now embarking to forge a fresh approach to elder care. All too often, we have viewed aging primarily in terms of sick care and as pathology. She is promoting the need to address aging as an asset and importance of intergenerational relations to strengthen our communities and build social capital for positive social action.

What I have shared just spotlights a small segment of her stature and value for Hawaii. As many of us know, her credentials as a former Board member of the national AARP organization and her 2007 recognition as a national Purpose Prize FELLOW from the Civic Ventures organization for her intergenerational work, speak volumes.

I therefore, strongly recommend her appointment to the PABEA Board for the sake of Hawaii's people.

Aloha,

Cullen T. Hayashida, Ph.D.
Director



Office of the Morocco Honorary Consulate

Honolulu, Hawaii • United States of America



M. Jan Rumi
Honorary Consul

April 9, 2013

Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Honorable Senator Joshua Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
State of Hawaii

Re: Dr. Maeona Mendelson's Nomination to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs

Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Senator Joshua Green and Members of the
Committee,

I am writing to you as an Assisted Living Facility owner/operator, personal friend and other project associate of Dr. Maeona Mendelson for her nomination to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs. I have known her for over ten years and I know firsthand of her dedicated interest and positive contributions to Hawaii's elderly populations. Her expertise is well known here in Hawaii, mainland and internationally especially in the area of Intergenerational Studies and Strategies with the mission of creating and nurturing communities where all generations including elderly can learn and thrive together.

Her State Presidency of AARP - Hawaii is impressive and I was especially proud of her when she was nominated and became a member of National Board of AARP, Washington D.C. and also the Chair of the AARP Foundation in Washington D.C.

Her accomplishments and contributions for the cause of ageing population are too many to list here in this short testimony. With her high integrity, moral character and dedication to the cause of elderly, she is especially fit to serve as a member of the Policy Advisory Board of Elderly Affairs.

I **strongly support** and sincerely urge you to confirm her nomination benefiting all of us here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Jan Rumi
President, Senior Living With Aloha, LLC
and Honorary Consul of Morocco
Honolulu, Hawaii



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

Date: April 11, 2013, Conference Room 016, 1:00 p.m.

Re: **GM 769 – Maeona Mendelson – Consideration & Confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs**

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with approximately 148,000 members in Hawaii. AARP fights on issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; 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+.

AARP **strongly supports** the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Maeona Mendelson, to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). Her experience as a pre-eminent authority on intergenerational issues, as well as her understanding of the impact of public policy in shaping long-term care services and supports make her ideally qualified to serve on PABEA.

AARP Hawaii has worked directly with Ms. Mendelson for over 9 years. She served as the AARP Hawaii State President. After two years in that position, she served on AARP's national Board of Directors for six years, as well as Chair of the AARP Foundation.

Ms. Mendelson's diverse career includes being a self-described "grassroots program person." After her service on the AARP Foundation, she returned to Hawaii and became involved in recruiting drivers for Lanakila Meals on Wheels – then recruited herself as a driver. She is also a professor in residence at Chaminade University of Honolulu and developed the Intergenerational Center, which emphasizes lifelong learning, travel, and volunteer service.

As a strong advocate of intergenerational issues she mentions: "How we can make this time of our lives more exciting. One is giving back and making a difference. One is working with young people."

We urge you and your committee members to support the confirmation of Maeona Mendelson. PABEA and Hawaii residents will be the primary benefactor of Ms. Mendelson's passion and commitment to both younger and older generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

April 3, 2013

The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
State Capitol, Conference Room 16
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony in **Support** of Dr. Maeona Mendelson – Nomination to the Policy Advisory Board
For Elder Affairs, April 11, 2013, 1:00 p.m.


Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

It is my honor to submit this letter of support for Dr. Maeona Mendelson's nomination to serve on the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). I have known Dr. Mendelson very well from serving together as volunteers for AARP Hawaii and the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society's biennial conference planning committee. She is a tireless advocate on aging issues, an educator, entrepreneur, author and a program planner and developer especially in the area of intergenerational programs which builds and strengthens relationships between youth and older adults.

Her 20+ years of professional experience and international travel brings a wealth of knowledge and skills. She has a vital linkage to local, national and international networks of aging experts and practitioners. As a strategic-thinker, Dr. Mendelson is very astute in recognizing opportunities and organizing a collaborative pool of talented individuals and stakeholders to work on common interests and issues. Her participation as a PABEA member will greatly enhance this advisory group's ability to counsel and serve the Executive Office on Aging well.

I strongly support Dr. Mendelson's nomination as a member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

Sincerely,



Audrey Suga-Nakagawa,
ASN Consulting Services

April 4, 2013

Senator Susanne Chun-Oakland, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: Dr. Mae Mendelson's Nomination to PABEA, [GM769](#)

I am writing in support of the nomination of Dr. Mae Mendelson to the Policy Advisory Board of the Executive Office on Aging (PABEA). I am a Professor of Public Health and Social Work at the University of Hawai'i, testifying as an individual.

Dr. Mendelson has many years of experience that she can bring to this position. She has a long history of working in the Hawai'i's non-profit community, creating and implementing health and social services programs for Hawai'i residents. For example, she was Director of Development for the YWCA, Community Planner and Program Director at Hawai'i Community Services Council (HCSC), Program Developer for Elderhostel, and Executive Director of the Hawai'i Intergenerational Network.

She also has worked in academia, teaching classes at Hawai'i Pacific University and at the School of Social Work, University of Hawai'i Manoa. She currently is Director of the newly formed Intergenerational Center at Chaminade University and Professor of Intergenerational Studies in Residence. The purpose of the Center is to integrate older adults into campus life through service, lifelong learning, and travel. The mission of the Center is to create a community where all generations can learn and thrive together.

She is especially well-known in Hawai'i's gerontological community for her service on the National Board member of AARP and for her service as chair of the AARP Foundation and as State President of AARP – Hawai'i. AARP, with 37 million members nationally, is dedicated to enhancing quality of life for people as they age by role modeling positive social change and delivering value to members through information, advocacy, and service. Dr. Mendelson represented our state well on the Board and established connections to a national network of gerontology scholars, practitioners, and policy analysts. Her national perspective and her national connections will serve her well on PABEA.

Dr. Mendelson has won several awards. Three are most relevant to her nomination to PABEA. In 2004, she was honored by a Resolution and Commendation from the House of Representatives, State of Hawai'i for contributions to international affairs, culture, education, and trade on behalf of Hawai'i. In 2007, she won the Purpose Prize from Civic Ventures in recognition her social entrepreneurship in the field of intergenerational work. Also in 2007, she was recognized as Social Worker of the Year in Gerontology by the local chapter of the National Association of Social Work. These awards demonstrate the high esteem in which she is held and reflect her hard work and commitment to improving the wellbeing of others.

In conclusion, I strongly support Dr. Mendelson's nomination to PABEA.

Kathryn L. Braun, DrPH

Ramona K. Mullahey

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland & Senator Josh Green
Chair & Vice Chair, Human Services
c/o State Capitol, Room 226, fax #586-6131
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 3, 2013

Committee Members

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Senator Sam Slom
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi

RE: GM 769: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAEONA MENDELSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Honorable Senators:

I am writing in **support** of Maeona Mendelson's nomination by Governor Abercrombie to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs as both professional colleague and as a personal friend. Mae brings her extraordinary experience and diverse contributions to building community capacity for a better quality of life and future for its residents.

Over the past 30 years, Mae has developed and implemented policies, programs and projects that nurture a community that supports all ages, especially, youth and elders in realizing their value to the neighborhoods they live, work and play. From the Hawaii Community Services Council to the Millennium Young People's Congress and Ke Ala Hoku effort to the development of the Elderhostel programs at Pacific Island Institute and the Hawaii Intergenerational Network, Mae has created strategies and initiatives that provide opportunities for all ages to flourish in their own lives and as valuable contributors to society.

Her current work in establishing the Intergenerational Center at Chaminade University mirrors her lifelong commitment to learning as well as service to the community. Her volunteer work, especially, for AARP National Board is signature Mae: seeking out-of-the-box solutions that enhance the quality of life for all.

This is a desired quality and life philosophy we need to identify how Hawaii can best advocate for its aging residents as well as make a difference in their lives by shaping a more age-friendly community.

Best, *Ramona K. Mullahey*

Advisory Board Member
Chaminade University Intergenerational Center