

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



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Committee on Health

HB 2053, HD1, RELATING TO AGING

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

Thursday, February 20, 2014; Conference Room 308

12:00 p.m.; Agenda #2

EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the intent of this measure, provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's supplemental budget request.

Purpose and Justification: This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Health's (DOH) Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch to establish and fill a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position. The source of funding for this position is the Trauma System Special Fund.

The position will work closely with EOA, the Falls Prevention Consortium, and other key stakeholders to implement a comprehensive statewide program to reduce falls and their consequences. While the DOH has recognized the seriousness of the problem of falls in older adults for some time, and has implemented strategies to date, much more needs to be done. Establishing this position will assure a continued focus on prevention of falls in our community and ultimately result in longer, healthier lives for our aging population. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

House Committee on Finance

The Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair

The Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

The Hon. Aaron Ling Johnson, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2053

Relating to Aging

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 20, 2014, 12:00 pm, Room 308

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 2053, establishing a fall prevention and early detection coordinator.

Elderly residents comprise the fastest growing segment of the population here in Hawaii. Among them, falls are the leading cause of fatal injuries and injury related hospitalizations in the state. Cumulatively, these falls account for a yearly average of eighty-two deaths and eighteen hundred hospitalizations, representing a total of over \$65,000,000 per year. This is a growing concern for both the health and financial stability of Hawaii, and needs to be addressed as such.

For these reasons, the HPCCA supports this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 3:15 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: speedy_bailey@amr-ems.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2053 on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM*

HB2053

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American Medical Response	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Cc: sandymccul@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2053 on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM

HB2053

Submitted on: 2/18/2014
 Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BRUCE McCullough	HARA -PABEA	Support	No

Comments: A Falls prevention coordinator will go a long way toward reducing falls in our community .

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2053 on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM

HB2053

Submitted on: 2/18/2014
 Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill. It is necessary to have a coordinator responsible for tracking, training and public education on fall-prevention to avoid falls of the elderly that require hospitalization where they could have been prevented by simple measures.

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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House Committee on Finance

HB 2053 HD1, RELATING TO AGING

Testimony of David Sakamoto, MD, MBA
Deputy Director, Health Resources Administration

Thursday, February 20, 2014, 12:00 pm

1 **Department’s Position:** The Department of Health supports HB2053, provided that its passage does
2 not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget, and offers comments.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funding for use by DOH.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure is significant as falls and fall related injuries among older
5 adults impose an enormous burden on individuals, society, and Hawaii’s health care system. Among
6 adults 65 years of age and older, falls are by far the leading cause of injury-related deaths (45% of the
7 total), hospitalizations (83%), and EMS attended injuries among older adults (82%). Direct medical
8 charges for fall and fall-related injuries among older adults amount to nearly \$95 million annually, an
9 amount that could be doubled if you were to include the costs of rehabilitation and long term care. Falls
10 impact the quality of life and independence of older adults. Over half of those hospitalized from a fall
11 are discharged to a nursing facility or rehabilitation center and many never regain full independence.

12 However, falls are not an inevitable part of aging and can be prevented. The Department is
13 committed to addressing this critical public health issue and has already taken some steps to address fall
14 injuries among older adults in Hawaii. These efforts include coordinating the implementation and

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness



1 evaluation of the “Hawai`i Falls Prevention State Plan, 2013-2018” to prevent falls and reduce the
2 severity of fall-related injuries in collaboration with the Hawai`i Fall Prevention Consortium.

3 Considering the magnitude of falls among older adults and the anticipated increase in this age
4 group in the next 20 years to over 18% of Hawaii’s population, the current level of dedicated resources
5 for fall prevention are insufficient. The fall prevention and early detection position proposed in this bill
6 will enable the Department of Health to support a coordinated state-wide approach that is needed to
7 prevent and reduce the impact of falls among older adults. The Department is prepared to carry out the
8 duties as described in the bill in collaboration with community partners.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Fall Prevention Consortium

Protecting our kupuna, from the mountains to the sea

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

- Consortium Members**
- Hawaii Executive Office on Aging
 - Injury Prevention Advisory Committee
 - Maui Fall Prevention Coalition
 - Rehab Hospital of the Pacific
 - The Queens Medical Center
 - Straub Hospital and Clinic
 - Ohana Pacific Rehab
 - Project Dana
 - Comforting Hands Senior Care Hawaii
 - Generations Magazine
 - Life Care Center of Hilo
 - Honolulu Gerontology Program
 - At Home Modifications
 - Catholic Charities Hawaii
 - UH - Center on Aging
 - Windward Productions
 - AARP
 - Kuakini Health Systems
 - Kaiser Permanente
 - Elderly Affairs Division-C&C Honolulu
 - KCC-Kupuna Education Center
 - Attention Plus Care
 - Tai Chi for Health Institute
 - American Medical Response
 - Mountain Pacific Quality Health
 - Hawaii Fire Department
 - UH - JABSOM - Family Medicine
 - Honolulu Home Care
 - Maui Memorial Hospital
 - Hawaii Healthcare Professionals
 - Hilo Medical Center
 - St. Francis Home Care
 - UH Hilo-College of Pharmacy
 - Kashiwabara Physical Therapy
 - Aloha Angels Caregivers
 - UH Department of Public Health
 - Hawaii Optometric Association
 - Agency on Elderly Affairs-Kauai
 - Maui County Office on Aging
 - Hawaii County Office on Aging-ADRC
 - The Plaza
 - Hawaii Department of Health

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair – Committee on Finance
 Representative Scott Nishimoto Vice Chair - Committee on Finance
 Representative Aaron Ling Johanson Vice Chair- Committee on Finance

Honorable Chair Luke, and Vice Chairs Nishimoto & Johanson and Members of your House Committee,

Subject: Support for HB2053 HD1

The Fall Prevention Consortium supports HB2053 HD1 that would establish a fall prevention and early detection coordinator within Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB), and appropriates funds to implement this measure.

The Hawai'i Fall Prevention Consortium was formed in 2003. Its purpose is to provide organizations, professionals, caregivers, advocates and interested individuals involved in fall prevention the opportunity to network, share information and collaborate on projects that reduce the incidence and severity of fall injuries in our aging population. Passage of this bill would enable the Consortium to work directly with the state to increase its implementation of the Hawaii Falls Prevention State Plan 2013-2018 co-authored with the Executive Office on Aging and the EMSIPSB.

Falls are preventable. The data confirms that fall injuries among our seniors are epidemic. Every year in Hawaii an average of 7,560 seniors are treated for injuries from falls in Hawaii hospitals. That is almost one every hour, and is increasing every year with the Silver Tsunami. We must curb this terrible impact on their lives and our medical system. A fall prevention and early detection coordinator can use the best available research evidence to help seniors in Hawaii maintain their independence and sustain their quality of life.

Establishing the fall prevention and early detection coordinator is an intelligent response to the senior fall injury epidemic. We urge you to pass HB2053 HD1, because this measure will save lives and prevent disabilities.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely on behalf of the Consortium,

Chair *BJ Tang*

**Testimony Submitted Tuesday, February 18, 2014
Finance Hearing February 20, 2014 12:00 PM**

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair – Committee on FINANCE

**Honorable Chair Luke, and Vice Chairs,
and Members of your Senate Committee,**

Subject: Support for HB2053 HD1

Aloha,

I am a 73 year old fall survivor, submitting testimony as a private citizen. I know first-hand how difficult life can be after a fall injury. When I fell, I was lucky to have decent medical insurance that could cover the basic costs of surgery and hospitalization. However, there was nowhere to turn for assistance for the countless things an old person needed to recover properly. At that time no agency, no facility, could be found that dealt with fall prevention. Rehab was brutal, painful and very hard.

Thankfully there are now a couple of organizations that recognize the severe problems associated with fall injuries. However, they have no budgets and no funded leadership to create a process to prevent the injury in the first place.

This bill appropriates enough dollars to fund a coordinator. It is a great start, because with a coordinator, that individual should be able to help implement the fantastic Hawaii Fall Prevention State Plan created by our Department of Health Injury program and the Executive Office on Aging.

As a senior I can confirm...the need is great, and our population is aging. The fall injury epidemic we have today will turn into a disaster for our seniors and our medical system if nothing is done

A plan is only as good as the investment made in its implementation, so please pass this bill, HB2053 HD1 and fund a coordinator to help prevent falls in our Hawaii.

Sincerely

Stan Michaels

225 Kaiulani Ave #602

Honolulu, HI 96815



LATE

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair of House Committee on Finance
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair of House Committee on Finance
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair of House Committee on Finance
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Committee Chair and Vice Chairs of the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **Support for HB 2053 HD1**

The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee supports HB 2053 HD1. This bill includes establishing the fall prevention and early detection coordinator within the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB), and appropriates funds to implement this measure.

Established in 1990, the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injuries in Hawai'i. The IPAC membership include representatives from public and private agencies, physicians and professionals working together to address the eight leading areas of injury, including fall prevention among older adults.

Fall prevention is essential for maintaining quality of life and keeping our kupuna at home. Falls are the main cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and EMS attended injuries among adults 65 years and older. Every year in Hawaii an average of 7,560 seniors are treated for injuries from falls in Hawaii hospitals, which is equivalent to almost one every hour. More than half of the EMS-attended falls occurred in the home or residence of the patient, and this proportion was significantly higher among seniors (71%) compared to other age groups. A fall prevention and early detection coordinator is necessary for coordinating statewide efforts, and together with the Fall Prevention Consortium, implementing and evaluating programs and policies that are based on the best available evidence to prevent and reduce the severity of falls among older adults.

The EMSIPSB is the focal point within the State for implementing, evaluating and disseminating multifaceted prevention measures for injury prevention. Therefore, establishing the fall prevention and early detection coordinator within the EMSIPSB is reasonable and prudent. We urge you to pass HB 2053 HD1 because this measure will save lives and help to maintain the health and independence of our senior population.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely,

Deborah Goebert
Chair
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee