

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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### Committee on Health

## HCR76/HR60 Requesting the Executive Office on Aging to Continue its Research of the Timebanking Concept for Hawaii's Respite System

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

Wednesday, March 27, 2013; Conference Room 329

10:00 a.m.

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports this measure.
- 2 **Purpose and Justification:** Identified in the 2009 report, "Respite Care in the State of Hawaii,"
- 3 the current respite system is fragmented and flooded with several barriers, such as prohibitive
- 4 costs associated with service delivery and virtually no transportation to or from respite sites,
- 5 limiting service use among Hawaii's caregivers. Knowing that these barriers are limiting the use
- 6 of respite services in Hawaii, EOA is exploring alternative forms of currency to support respite
- 7 service delivery, namely, the concept of timebanking.
- 8 Discussed in greater detail in this measure, timebanking offers a unique opportunity for
- 9 Hawaii to leverage our community's natural assets to help meet the needs of our community as a
- 10 whole. To support the continued investigation into the feasibility of a timebanking system to
- 11 strengthen and increase Hawaii's respite capacity, EOA was recently awarded two AmeriCorps
- 12 VISTA members. VISTA members will be assisting us in conducting a theoretical analysis and
- 13 feasibility study, and this document will guide EOA as we consider a timebank demonstration

1 project to increase our State's respite capacity. To further strengthen our efforts, we have  
2 identified several key national stakeholders, many of whom have implemented similar models in  
3 their communities, and these key stakeholders will provide further guidance to EOA as we plan  
4 this demonstration project.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# Community Alliance for Mental Health

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To: The Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Health  
Re: HCR 76 / HR 60

To: The Honorable Representative Belatti and the members of the committee.

Aloha,

The Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help strongly supports HCR 76 / HR 60. We think that this idea is brilliant! We have been searching for a way to increase the availability of respite care in regards to the mental health system.

The idea of time-banking as it is proposed here for the purpose of elder care cannot only be used in its stated fashion it could easily be incorporated into the mental health field. [With the oncoming tsunami of Alzheimer's headed our way the fields of mental health and elder care will become more and more integrated. We hope that the Executive Office on Aging can proceed with this project and we wish them all the best.

Mahalo,  
Scott Wall  
Vice-President