

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

LORETTA FUDDY, ACSW, MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



STATE OF HAWAII  
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## Committee on Health

### SB105, SD2, RELATING TO HEALTH

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

Wednesday, March 13, 2013; Conference Room 329

8:30 a.m.

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports this measure.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** An unspecified amount is appropriated to the Department of Health's
- 3 Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch to establish and maintain a
- 4 statewide fall prevention and early detection program.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** The funding requests are \$39,277 for FY14 and \$78,555 for FY15
- 6 for a Health Educator IV position to focus on fall prevention for older adults. The position would
- 7 be housed within the Injury Prevention and Control Section of the Department of Health (DOH).
- 8 The source of funding for this position is the Trauma System Special Fund.
- 9 The position will work closely with EOA, the Falls Prevention Consortium, and other key
- 10 stakeholders to implement a comprehensive statewide program to reduce falls and their
- 11 consequences. While the DOH has recognized the seriousness of the problem of falls in older
- 12 adults for some time, and has implemented some strategies to date, much more needs to be done.
- 13 Establishing this position will assure a continued focus on prevention of falls in our community

- 1 and ultimately result in longer healthier lives for our aging population. Thank you for the
- 2 opportunity to testify.



Attention Plus  
Care

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Chair – Representative Della Au Belatti

Wednesday March 13, 2013  
8:30 AM  
House Conference Room 329

I am in SUPPORT of Senate Bill SB105 SD2

My name is Eileen E. Phillips, RN, and I have been making the community aware of Falls in the Senior Population here in the State of Hawaii since 2004. The company I work for has gone to facilities, community centers, churches and community senior groups to get the word out regarding this problem. We do our own research and review data from the CDC and the State Department of Health. The numbers are shocking, and the senior community is VERY concerned about it. This group of people 70, 80 and 90 years old is growing fast. NOW is the time to make sure this bill passes!

SD105 SD2 outlines the severity of fall injuries for our island kupuna, their families, our community in general and our health care system. I realize you see tons of statistics and data every day, however in this case, each fall injury/statistic represents a major impact on an individual and their family. The losses in Hawaii are staggering. As our population ages and the Baby Boomers peak, the number of injuries will continue to skyrocket. It must be stopped. Falls are not inevitable just because people mature. Falls are preventable. However we just do not have enough resources. Even more interesting is that our senior populations do not want to “become” seniors. Research and a major survey shows they do not listen to advice about what a “senior” can do to prevent injuries, because they do not want to identify with being “seniors.” It means that any program designed to help...must work harder to find a different way to communicate our ideas. This bill gives us a fighting chance with a genuine program where all of the facts, information, interventions and ideas can come together into a working solution. This is so vital. We have needed this for a long time. We cannot wait any longer. The crisis is now. We need a fall prevention program. Please pass this legislation. Pass this bill.

I respectfully support the passage of SB105 SD2

Sincerely,  
Eileen E. Phillips, RN  
Client Service Director  
Attention Plus Care  
1580 Makaloa Street, #1060  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2013 11:28 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jbrann@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB105 on Mar 13, 2013 08:30AM

**SB105**

Submitted on: 3/11/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Brann	Maui Falls Prevention Coalition	Support	No

Comments: As coordinator for the Maui falls Prevention Coalition, our volunteer group includes first responders, care providers, Maui County Office on Aging, Hawaii Dept of Health and others. We have been meeting for over a year to develop and implement coordinated referral and response interventions that both address fall risks before they occur and provide options for intervention after a fall occurs to reduce reoccurrence and further injury. Funding is greatly needed to develop community capacity to reduce falls in Maui.

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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**TO:** Chair – Representative Della Au Belatti  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

3/11/13

**FROM:** Kevin Lockette PT

**RE:** Support of Senate Bill SB105 SD2

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Wednesday March 13, 2013  
8:30 AM  
House Conference Room 329

I am in SUPPORT of Senate Bill SB105 SD2

My name is Kevin Lockette and I am a private practice physical therapist and the vice president of the National Parkinson Foundation- Hawaii Chapter.

SD105 SD2 outlines the severity of fall injuries for our island kupuna, their families, our community in general and our health care system. Falls for seniors are too frequent and can have devastating consequences including loss of independence and in the case of hip fractures from falls- eventual death. The economic impact is also huge as the consequences of falls can cause a significant financial burden on families and the state in general.

The positive is that many falls can be prevented and there is much evidence that supports the effectiveness of fall prevention programs. The positive social and economical consequences of an organized approach to falls at a state level is nearly unmeasureable.

I respectfully support the passage of SB105 SD2

Sincerely,

*Kevin Lockette*

Kevin Lockette PT

To: Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti Chair

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: Conference Rm. 329

Testifier: Eudice Schick, Member Falls Prevention Consortium

Bill: SB105 SD2  
In Strong Support

Chair Belatti thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB105 SD2.

I am Eudice Schick. SD105 SD2 outlines the severity of fall injuries for our Kupuna, their families, our community in general and our health care system. The statistics for falls represents a major impact on an individual and their families. In Hawaii, as our population ages and the Baby Boomers peak, the number of injuries will skyrocket. With the proper resources and educating our kupuna a great many of falls can be prevented. Most seniors do not want to recognize that they are seniors. This being a very true fact it is much more difficult to convince our Kupuna to listen and become knowledgeable on how they can prevent falling. With the passage of this bill we will have the opportunity to have a genuine program where all the facts, information, intervention and ideas can come together in a working solution. We are now in crises mode and cannot wait any longer.

Please pass SB105 SD2.

Sincerely,

Eudice Schick



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

**Chair Della Au Belatti**

**Health Hearing Wednesday March 13, 2013**

**8:30 AM Room 329**

My name is Stan Michaels and I am in full support of SB 105 SD2

For the first time our Legislature has the opportunity to make a difference in reducing the catastrophic injuries suffered by our kupuna from falls. This bill creates a program and incorporates ideas and concepts that have succeeded in other states, and nothing could be more valuable. Falls are not the inevitable result of aging. They are indeed preventable. The CDC and many other organizations have determined which interventions work, and this bill will give our state an opportunity to create and expand those interventions and even more important make our kupuna aware that they are at risk.

Each year approximately 100 kupuna die as a direct result of a fall injury. However over 5,700 are treated at Emergency Rooms every year with a high percentage of them never returning to independent living. The amount of suffering is immense. It is an enormous burden on their families, on the individual and even more stunning...on our health care system.

Please pass this measure. Kupuna need our help...and this bill creates the first step in bringing some assistance to their need.

Sincerely in SUPPORT of SB105 SD2

Stan Michaels