

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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**Committee on Finance**

**SB105, SD2, RELATING TO HEALTH**

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

**Monday, April 1, 2013; Conference Room 308**

**2:00 p.m.**

**LATE**

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  
14 and ultimately result in longer healthier lives for our aging population. Thank you for the  
15 opportunity to testify.