

SB105

Measure Title: RELATING TO HEALTH.

Report Title: Kupuna Caucus; Department of Health; Statewide Fall Prevention and Early Detection Program; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Permits the department of health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system branch to establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection program and appropriates funds for the program.

Companion:

Package: Kupuna

Current Referral: HTH/HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, ESPERO, GALUTERIA, GREEN, IHARA, SHIMABUKURO

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: deborah.arendale@mauicounty.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB105 on Jan 28, 2013 13:30PM
Date: Saturday, January 26, 2013 1:23:23 PM
Attachments: [MCOA.SB105.01.28.13.doc](#)

SB105

Submitted on: 1/26/2013

Testimony for HTH/HMS on Jan 28, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Arendale	Maui County Office on Aging	Support	Yes

Comments:

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To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Chair – Senator Josh Green
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland

Date: Monday January 28, 2013, 1:30 PM

From: Michael Dowell MBA, ECHM, and
Owner Stay at Home Modifications LLC

Subject: Testimony Supporting Senate Bill SB105

My name is Michael Dowell

I provide home modification services for seniors so that they may live in their homes and communities safely and independently. Falls are a major threat to the independence and quality of life of older adults. Among Hawai'i seniors who are hospitalized for a fall, 34% are discharged to skilled nursing facilities for additional care, and another 11% are moved to a rehabilitation facility. I have seen firsthand how devastating a fall can be not only to those injured, but on families and caregivers.

- Falls are more common than strokes and can be just as serious in their consequences.
- Falls are the most preventable cause of needing nursing home placement.
- Falls lead to problems with daily activities like dressing, bathing, and walking around and the need for more medical care.

Falls are costly. Hospital charges for seniors in Hawai'i average \$53 million a year, with about half (52%) being paid by Medicare. Taking a proactive approach to educate families, caregivers and seniors will surely help to reduce the cost of healthcare and improve the lives of our kupuna. We need to work harder, find a different way to communicate our ideas, and this bill gives us a genuine program where all of the facts, information, interventions and ideas can come together into a program. We have needed a fall prevention program for quite some time and the demand will only continue to grow. Please pass this legislation.

I respectfully support the passage of SB105

Sincerely,
Michael Dowell

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Chair – Senator Josh Green
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland

Monday January 28, 2013
1:30 PM
Conference Room 229

I am in SUPPORT of Senate Bill SB105, My name is Stan Michaels and I am speaking as a private citizen and a fall survivor.

There is statewide data to confirm the enormous physical and fiscal impact of fall injuries on our seniors, families, communities and our health care system. Even more importantly, the “Silver Tsunami” baby boom is upon us with severe ramifications. According to Judy Stevens’ Chief Epidemiologist for CDC, three things appear to be causing a major impact on fall fatalities. First our population is aging. We know it is the fastest growing segment of our population and with that spike comes a population with (1) more chronic health issues which contribute to a host of illnesses that can cause falls, (2) with aging comes less physical strength and a more frail population where even a simple fall can cause much more severe injuries which results in more deaths and severe injuries, and finally (3) research has shown that this “boomer” population does not wish to accept “aging” or any term that signifies “old” therefore they do not listen to information about or concerns that they are at-risk for severe fall injury. Combining risk taking, with more chronic diseases and a considerably more frail physical presence...and you have a severe spike in fall fatalities. We have no reason to question the concerns raised by Dr. Stevens at CDC, as our state data shows a consistent increase in fatalities and severe injuries. We must act now and fund and create a fall prevention program, as research also confirms that falls are not inevitable due to aging. Falls are preventable and we need the tools to put fall prevention interventions and programs into action so as to protect our most vulnerable kupuna. Please pass SB 105. Sincerely,

Stan Michaels, 225 Kaiulani Ave #602, Honolulu, HI 96815 empire41@hawaii.rr.com