

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

### Committee on Health

### SB2346 SD1, RELATING TO AGING

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

Monday, March 10, 2014; Conference Room 329

10:00 a.m.

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

**Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates funds for FY15 for the following:

1. The Kupuna Care Program;
2. The Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC);
3. The Healthy Aging Partnership; and
4. A long-term care education and public awareness campaign.

**Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that three of the appropriations in this bill are priorities of the Abercrombie Administration. These priorities include (1) \$427,937 for the continued development of the ADRCs statewide, (2) a \$4.2 million increase in EOA's base budget for Kupuna Care, and (3) \$300,000 for the Healthy Aging Partnership.

Regarding the funding of the long-term care education and public awareness campaign, we note that the appropriation in this measure is not part of the Governor's supplemental budget

request. Should there be a surplus of funds available for this measure, we would be supportive as we agree with the concept of this initiative as it is consistent with EOA's goals and objectives. If the Legislature deems this program necessary, EOA respectfully requests that the Legislature provide the appropriate resources, rather than supplant existing resources, for this proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MAYOR

PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND  
DIRECTOR

GARY K. NAKATA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY OF PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND, DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Monday, March 10, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

**SENATE Bill 2346 SD1, "RELATING TO AGING"**

**Position: In Support**

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Health

The Elderly Affairs Division (EAD) is Honolulu's designated Area Agency on Aging and operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate, and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

This bill includes funding for important programs that support the needs of the increasing population of elderly residents in Hawaii. The funding included in this bill is essential to maintain the health and welfare of our most vulnerable seniors and their caregivers. We strongly support funding for the following programs in SB 2346 SD1:

Kupuna Care. The Kupuna Care program includes essential services that support the needs of the increasing population of frail elderly residents in Hawaii. These services provide assistance to frail older adults who cannot live at home without adequate help from family or formal services. They include services such as attendant care, case management, chore, home-delivered meals, homemaker, personal care, and transportation.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The ADRC is contained in the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) as amended in 2006. Its vision is "to have Aging and Disability Resource Centers in every community...where people of all incomes and ages can turn for information on the full range of long-term support options and a single point of entry for access to public long-term support programs and benefits." The OAA provided very limited federal funds to develop, implement, or sustain this venture. The \$427,937.00 being requested represents the first stage of state funding needed to create this resource for Hawaii's people in all counties.

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Health  
March 10, 2014  
Page 2

Healthy Aging Partnership Program. Through the Healthy Aging Partnership, EAD implements Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, an evidence-based program that provides education, training, and support groups to persons with chronic conditions to assist them in managing their own care. The Enhance Fitness is an exercise program and focuses on maintaining strength, flexibility, and balance to maintain health and function of older adults. The results of both programs have been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, other evidence-based self-management programs have been introduced for arthritis and diabetes. We would urge the committee to consider funding these programs in light of the rising healthcare costs associated with the rapidly growing elder population in Hawaii.

We urge the Committee on Health to support funding of these vital programs. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**morikawa2-Joanna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2014 7:47 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** deborah.arendale@mauicounty.gov  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2346 on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM\*

**SB2346**

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Arendale	Maui County Office on Aging	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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To: Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Date: March 10, 2014, Conference Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

Re: **SB 2346 SD1 – RELATING TO AGING**  
**Testimony in Strong Support**

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP fights on issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; providing the tools needed to save for retirement; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

**AARP strongly supports SB 2346 SD1 - Relating to Aging.** This bill appropriates funds for various programs and services for Hawaii's senior population. AARP especially supports the provisions of the bill as it relates to the appropriation of funds for a long-term care education and awareness campaign; the Kupuna Care Program, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) from the general revenues for the fiscal year 2014-2015.

#### Long-Term Care Education and Awareness Campaign

AARP strongly supports the appropriation of \$500,000 for a comprehensive education and awareness campaign for fiscal year 2014-2015.

A comprehensive long-term care education and awareness campaign is needed to alert residents to the risks and costs associated with caregiving and long-term care and to encourage them to plan and save for this part of life.

- Many residents are unaware or underestimate the risk of needing long-term care. Approximately 69% of people who turned 65 in 2005 will need long-term care before they die. Individuals needing long-term care will on average need help for 3 years, and spend on average 2 years at home, and 1 year in a nursing or assisted living facility.<sup>i</sup>
- Hawaii residents needing long-term care are faced with long-term care costs that are among the highest in the nation and unaffordable for most Hawaii residents. E.g., the annual nursing home cost (private room) is approximately \$145,270, as compared to the national average of \$83,950.
- Though the majority of Hawaii residents (59%) say they are likely to need long-term care in the future and are not confident that they can afford one-year of long-term care,<sup>ii</sup> few Hawaii residents are planning ahead to meet these needs.
- Solutions to finance long-term care are limited. Medicare is not designed to cover long-term care services. Medicaid pays for long-term care, but only those with limited assets and income.

- Private long-term care insurance does provide substantial coverage for long-term care, but enrollment is limited.

A long-term care education and awareness campaign will complement the anticipated introduction of a public long-term care insurance program in 2015 that helps people with financing so they can live independently longer in their homes.

#### Kupuna Care - Appropriation

AARP strongly supports the appropriation of \$4.2 million for the Kupuna Care Program for fiscal year 2014-2015. Kupuna Care is a state funded program designed to help non-Medicaid elderly residents so that they can continue living at home instead of institutional facilities. Kupuna Care assists families by providing a variety of different caregiving and respite support services.

The proposed Kupuna Care appropriation is needed due to the increasing demand for services by Hawaii's rapidly aging population. However, it still falls short of meeting the demand. In 2013 the Kupuna Care program served approximately 4,848 people (unduplicated persons served that does not include people receiving transportation services, as reported by EOA). There are approximately 277,000 individuals over age 60 in Hawaii.<sup>iii</sup> However, by some estimates, 80% of seniors have at least one chronic health condition and 50% have at least two<sup>iv</sup> who would also be eligible to use these services.

#### Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

AARP strongly supports the appropriation of \$427,937 for ADRCs for the counties to continue their ADRC operations and their management information systems for fiscal year 2014-2015. ADRCs are intended to streamline access to long-term supports and services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and caregivers.

The ADRC is a navigational tool that connects individuals to appropriate long-term care options. Hawaii's ADRC program is in various stages of development in each county. ADRCs are operational in Hilo, Maui, and Kauai. The remainder of the Hawaii county and Oahu needs to be implemented.

ADRCs are in need of improvement. AARP's recently published State Long-Term Services and Support Scorecard ranks Hawaii 41<sup>st</sup> in ability to access long-term care through an ADRC.<sup>v</sup> The ADRCs need to be properly resourced and funded to make ADRCs an effective single point of entry for individuals seeking information on their long-term care options. Critical to the success of an ADRC is ensuring the availability of services (e.g., Kupuna Care) when individuals are directed to them. Otherwise, consumers will be increasingly frustrated when referred to services, and only to find out that they are not available.

We urge you to support SB2346 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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<sup>i</sup> Kemper, Komisar, Alexih, Long-Term Care an Uncertain Future: What Can Current Retirees Expect, 2005. Inquiry 42(4): 335-350.

<sup>ii</sup> AARP Hawaii Survey of Hawaii 50+ Residents on Long-Term Care,2012.

<sup>iii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Demographic Profile Data

<sup>iv</sup> Centers for Disease Control, Healthy Aging: Preventing Disease and Improving Quality of Live Among Older Americans 2003, At a Glance, Department of Human Services

<sup>v</sup> AARP 2011 State Long-Term Services and Supports Scorecard





**House Committee on Health**  
The Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2346, SD1**  
**Relating to Aging**  
**Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer**  
**March 10, 2014, 10:00 am, Room 329**

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2346, providing support to healthy aging programs and services.

Elderly residents comprise the fastest growing segment of the population here in Hawaii. Between 1980 and 2010, the number of adults in Hawaii over the age of 60 grew by 139.8%, over 34% faster than general population growth. By 2035, it is projected that almost 30% of the population will be comprised of individuals sixty years of age and older.

As such, there is an ever increasing need for long term care services. Basic education and awareness about these issues, including the maximization of single living and long term care financing, must be made available for this emerging population. Doing so will serve to both foster a healthier aging population, but also a more fiscally responsible community as a whole.

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

TESTIMONY OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LIFE INSURERS  
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2346, SD1, RELATING TO AGING

March 10, 2014

Via e mail

Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Committee on Health  
State House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Au Bellatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2346, SD 1, relating to Aging.

Our firm represents the American Council of Life Insurers ("ACLI"), a Washington, D.C., based trade association with approximately 300 member companies operating in the United States and abroad. ACLI advocates in federal, state, and international forums for public policy that supports the industry marketplace and the 75 million American families that rely on life insurers' products for financial and retirement security. ACLI members offer life insurance, annuities, retirement plans, long-term care and disability income insurance, and reinsurance, representing more than 90 percent of industry assets and premiums. Two hundred twenty-five (225) ACLI member companies currently do business in the State of Hawaii; and they represent 92% of the life insurance premiums and 90% of the annuity considerations in this State.

SB 2346, SD 1, in part requires the Executive Office on Aging of the Department of Health to conduct an education and awareness campaign on long-term care.

ACLI generally supports legislation for programs which provide information to the public regarding long term care.

Accordingly, ACLI supports SB 2346, SD 1.

LAW OFFICES OF  
OREN T. CHIKAMOTO  
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## Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 536-1951  
Fax (808) 543-2222  
Website: [www.auw.org](http://www.auw.org)



**Aloha United Way**

## Cover Sheet

**Testifying Agency:** Aloha United Way  
Kim Gennaula, President & CEO

### House Committee on Health

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

**Monday, March 10, 2014 at 10:00 A.M.**

**Conference Room 329**

**SB 2346, SD1: Relating to Aging: Testimony in Support**

## Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 536-1951  
Fax (808) 543-2222  
Website: [www.auw.org](http://www.auw.org)



March 7, 2014

House Committee on Health  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Monday, March 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

SB 2346, SD1: Relating to Aging - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa and Committee Members:

Aloha United Way strongly encourages your favorable consideration of SB 2346, SD1 which provides support for various programs and services for Hawaii's senior population.

Aloha United Way especially supports the provisions of the bill relating to the appropriation of funds for senior centers, the Kupuna Care Program, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Senior centers and Kupuna Care services help to meet the overall community goal of helping seniors remain independent in the community and prevent more costly (and often public funded) institutional care. The ADRC is a single-entry point for all families seeking assistance with disabling conditions and provides assessment of needs and connects disabled persons and family caregivers with appropriate services and resources.

While more long-term support is needed to meet the growing needs with one of the fastest growing senior populations with the longest life expectancy in the nation, this measure is a vital part of the solution as it will provide critically needed and more cost effective services for our most isolated and vulnerable elderly neighbors.

We urge you to support Hawaii's Kupuna by supporting SB 2346, SD1.

Sincerely,



Kim Gennaula  
President & Chief Executive Officer



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

FROM: Diane Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Monday, March 10, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Room 329

RE: **IN SUPPORT of SB 2346, SD1, Relating to Aging**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves over 4,000 older persons each year.

**CCH supports SB 2346, SD1, which includes additional funding for Kupuna Care. We also ask that no additional, or restrictive, language be put into statute regarding Kupuna Care eligibility at this time.**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i is a current provider of Kupuna Care transportation services to help support access to necessary medical, nutrition and other services. Through Kupuna Care, CCH Transportation is able to provide hundreds of seniors with needed access to health services, nutrition/food, and financial services/benefits. This also provides relief for caregivers, especially working caregivers who would otherwise have to take time off from work to provide transportation for their elderly relatives.

CCH is particularly concerned that low income elders receive the services they need to remain independent in the community and do not fall into a service gap. Lack of necessary in-home and community based services will result in a rapid spiral into higher and more costly levels of care that is not good for the elder and not good for the taxpayer.

Please be aware that Medicaid provides some of the same type of services as part of their Home & Community Based services (HCBS). However, Medicaid elders do not always qualify for HCBS services under Medicaid. And Medicaid HCBS services are limited to medical need. For example, Medicaid authorizes transportation for medical purposes. They will not authorize transportation for nonmedical purposes, such as nutrition programs, grocery shopping, senior centers, and more.

Kupuna Care services addresses the overall community goal of helping seniors remain independent in the community and prevent more costly institutional care – as well as supporting caregivers. Kupuna Care services provide a safety net for all kupuna and their caregivers who cannot afford to pay for in-home and community based services and are unable to receive these services through other means.



Catholic Charities Hawaii wishes to ensure that there is a safety net in place to “catch” the poorest of our kupuna, as well as those who are trying to keep from becoming impoverished.

Catholic Charities Hawai`i asks for your support of SB 2346, SD1, and requests that no additional, or restrictive, language be put into statute regarding Kupuna Care eligibility at this time. For further information, please contact me at 808-527-4702 or via email at [diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org). Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.  
Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC)

HEARING: 10:00 am Monday, March 10, 2014  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: HB 2346 SD1 Relating to Aging

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC) **strongly supports the entire content of HB 2346 SD1**, which funds four important programs which address the health and long-term care needs of our aging population. **This testimony** focuses on Part 2 Section 7, which requests an additional \$428,000 to bring the total budget to \$1.9 million **for development of the Aging and Disability Resource Centers** by the County Offices on Aging in cooperation with the state Executive Office on Aging.

RATIONALE:

The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, with a membership of more than 20 agencies gives voice in the political process to the issues affecting family caregivers.

HB 2346 SD 1 provides appropriations to the Executive Office on Aging for the following:

- 1) \$4.2 million added to the Kupuna Care Program which provides home and community based services to the non-Medicaid frail elders, enabling them to age in place and supports family caregivers. The program also prevents or postpones the need for more expensive residential placement and enrollment in Medicaid for many persons.
- 2) \$427,937 additional to Aging and Disability Centers. These centers provide a single-entry point for all families seeking assistance with disabling conditions and provides assessment of needs and connects disabled persons and their caregivers with appropriate services and resources.
- 3) \$476,472 for the Health Aging Partnership program. This program uses evidence-based protocols for Enhanced Fitness classes and a chronic disease self-management class. The University of Hawaii Center on Aging has shown that these programs reduce falls, increase strength, reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations and has other positive impacts on health indicators. These results also save health care expenses.
- 4) \$500,000 to the Executive Office on Aging to conduct a public education awareness campaign on long term care in order encourage families to plan for their future needs, correct much misinformation among our citizens, and to educate the public about alternatives for the provision and financing care.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony.

Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D, Chair, Advocacy Committee, Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition.

# **HARA** Voice of Hawaii's Seniors

*Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans, An Affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans  
1953 South Beretania Street, Suite 5C, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826*

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Submitted by email to: [HLTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HLTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Statement of Al Hamai in support of SB2346, SD1, Relating to Aging

## **House Committee on Health**

**March 10, 2014, 10:00 a.m. Conference Room 329**

Chair Della Au Bellatti, Vice Chair Dee Morikawa and Committee Members,

HARA strongly supports SB2346, SD1, which appropriates general funds to provide ongoing financial support to healthy aging programs and services. It also requires the Executive Office on Aging to conduct a public education and awareness campaign on long-term care and appropriates general funds for its support and evaluation.

This bill, along with the similarly focused SB2228, SD2, which was approved by the Senate and also transmitted to the House, is one of the legislative priorities of HARA. The need for strong legislative support for kupuna services and programs is essential to the well being, not only of our kupuna but also of their families and our communities. The issues have been clearly and thoroughly studied by the Kupuna Legislative Caucus over the years and the time for favorable action on SB2346, SD1 is now.

We urge your Committee to approve SB2346, SD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB2346. SD1.

Mahalo and Aloha

*HARA is a strong voice for Hawaii's retirees and seniors; a diverse community-based organization with national roots; a grassroots organizer, educator, and communicator; and a trusted source of information for decision-makers.*



***HARA Affiliates: HGEA Retirees, HSTA-Retired, ILWU Retirees, UPW Retirees, AFT Retirees, Kokua Council, Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition, Kupuna Education Center.***



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Marian E. Tsuji

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State of Hawaii  
House Committee on Health  
The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Legislature

March 10, 2014; 10:00 am  
Room 329  
SB 2346, SD1, Relating to Aging

Good morning, Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Health Committee,

Lanakila Pacific **strongly supports** SB 2346, SD1 Relating to Aging to provide critically needed programs and services for our most vulnerable elderly neighbors. Although our preference is that ongoing support for Kupuna Care be provided in the base budget, this measure provides essential supplemental funding for services designed to prevent more costly institutionalized care.

**However, we have serious concerns** about who has access to Kupuna Care funds. Recent interpretations and direction by the Executive Office on Aging has resulted in the exclusion of Medicaid recipients from the Kupuna Care Program as well as the federally funded Older American's Act, Title III programs. Thus, some **Medicaid recipients are being turned away with no alternative.**

While Medicaid does offer some Home and Community Based Care (HCBC) Services to a segment of its senior population, the eligibility threshold is based upon medical need. The Older Americans Act and Kupuna Care are preventative social service models that enable seniors to age with dignity in their own homes, and delay or avoid the more costly institutional care. Thus, eligibility in one program does not equate to eligibility in the other. Additionally, Medicaid does not offer the same array of support services that Kupuna Care offers.

We fully agree that no one should receive duplicative services; but this is not the issue at hand. We believe that the Executive Office on Aging and Medicaid can coordinate services so that we are able to maximize support to our most vulnerable seniors and avoid higher cost institutionalized care.

**We urge you to support Kupuna Care for all seniors.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji  
President & CEO

Lyn Moku  
Director of Lanakila Meals on Wheels

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2014 8:15 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2346 on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM

**SB2346**

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Lenzer, Ph.D	Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs	Support	No

Comments: To: House Committee on Health Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair From: Anthony Lenzer, PhD, Chair PABEA Legislative Committee Hearing: Monday, March 10, 2014, 10:00 a.m. State Capitol Conference Room 329 Subject: SB 2346 SD 1 – Relating to Aging POSITION: The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) strongly supports the entire contents of SB 2346 SD 1, which contains provisions for funding the Kupuna Care program; the Aging and Disability Resource Centers; the Healthy Aging Partnership; and the public awareness and education campaign on long-term care. All of the above are PABEA legislative priorities for the 2014 Legislative Session. This testimony will focus on the importance of the Healthy Aging Program. RATIONALE: HEALTHY AGING PARTNERSHIP SB 2346 SD 1 is designed, in part, to “provide funding to support community-based programs that incorporate collaborations between health care and social service agencies to provide services necessary for the health and well-being of Hawaii’s kupuna” (Part 1, Section 1). Nothing exemplifies this goal better than the Healthy Aging Partnership, which is a coalition led by the Executive Office on Aging, the four Area Agencies on Aging, the Department of Health, and the University of Hawaii, in partnership with 40 service providers throughout the state. The healthy aging partnership consists of 2 programs: better choices, better health, and enhance fitness. Better choices, better health is a nationally acclaimed program designed for people with chronic diseases to better manage their symptoms and improve their overall health. This six-week program, led by trained facilitators, includes topics ranging from healthy eating and exercise tips, to appropriate use of medications, stress and pain management, effective communication with one’s physician, etc. Workshops are held at senior centers, community centers, churches, health centers, and various other sites throughout the state. Enhance fitness is a group exercise program consisting of 3 classes a week for a 16 week period. The exercise routines address balance, strength, endurance, and flexibility. Both programs were designed and tested by Stanford University researchers, with proven results in weight loss, improve balance, flexibility and mobility. Eight class sites are located on Kauai and Maui. University of Hawaii project evaluators have been monitoring workshop and class attendees and reported the following in 2011: for enhance fitness participants, there were 39% fewer falls; 19% improved their upper body strength; and 11% improved mobility and balance. For better choices, better health enrollees, there was a 7% decrease in number of physician visits; a 19% decrease in hospitalization; a 5% decrease in emergency room visits; a 25% decrease in symptoms such as pain, fatigue and shortness of breath; and a 31% increase in number of days spent in physical activity per week. National studies show that a one-day reduction in hospitalization and 0.2 fewer emergency room visits produce estimated savings of about \$1000 per participant per year. Thus, these programs can result in significant cost savings over both the short and the long run.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2346 SD 1.

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: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.  
POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)

HEARING: 10:00 am Monday March 10, 2014  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: SB 2346 SD1 Relating to Aging

POSITION: The Policy Advisory Committee for Elder Affairs **strongly supports the entire content of SB 2346 SD1**, which funds four important programs which address the health and long-term care needs of our aging population. **This testimony** focuses on Section 7, which appropriates \$500,000 to the Executive Office on Aging for a **community education and awareness program** regarding the risks of needing long-term care and the options for addressing these needs.

RATIONALE:

The Policy Board for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

- Surveys by the 2008 State Long-Term Commission and by AARP have shown that a large proportion of the public have not planned for the provision of long-term care and have little knowledge of their risk and the costs of long-term care. Many also have misinformation regarding the lack of coverage under Medicare and by health insurance and the limited access to Medicaid coverage.
- Between 2007 and 2030, the population 85 and older, more than half of whom need long-term care assistance, will increase by almost 2/3 in Hawaii. Finding the expected resources for this growing need is an urgent problem. The public needs to understand the options, both public and private, which can address the growing care needs.
- Section 7 of SB 2346 SD1 would appropriate \$500,000 to the Executive Office on Aging to undertake a private-public effort to increase attention and awareness of the need to anticipate long-term care needs, the risks of needing care, correct misconceptions and misinformation, and stimulate consideration of the feasible options. The Executive Office on Aging will also evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign.
- This bill addresses one of the 2012 recommendations of the Long-Term care Commission and is considered to be essential to the consideration of the possible role a limited public long-term care insurance might play in achieving affordable long-term care for most of the citizens of Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D., Vice-Chair  
Legislative Committee, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Phone 808.681.3500  
Fax 808.681.5280  
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www.childandfamilyservice.org



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Aloha United Way

March 9, 2014

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair  
Members of the House Committee  
on Health

From: Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO  
Child & Family Service

Hearing Date and Time: March 10, 2014, 10:00 a..m.  
Place: Conference Room 329

E: SB2346, SD1—Relating to Aging

Good afternoon Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Morikawa and Committee members. I am Howard Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive human services organization founded in 1899. Our mission is: **strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children.** Our organization touches the lives of over 40,000 of Hawaii's residents each year serving keiki to kupuna on every island. We provide a full continuum of services for seniors ranging from senior case management, caregiver support programs, health maintenance programs and a program for elders who are at risk of abuse or neglect. We have been providing these services in Honolulu County for over 30 years.

Child & Family Service supports SB2346 in its focus on addressing important funding for kupuna-related services. We especially support the proposed additional funding for Kupuna Care as well as the focus on long-term care and elder abuse.

We also have concerns about how both Kupuna Care funding is used and how the Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC) will be implemented on Oahu. Let me highlight these concerns below:

We were distressed to read prior testimony by AARP in which they propose an amendment that would reinforce the exclusion of kupuna on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible from receiving services under Kupuna Care funding. The AARP testimony claims that violations occurred on Oahu in having some providers serving kupuna on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible. This is not accurate. For years the contracts as issued by the City & County of Honolulu through its Elderly Affairs Division did not require this exclusion. For some reason we still do not understand, the Executive

*Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children*

Office on Aging is now insisting that this exclusion be complied with even though the Director of EOA has acknowledged publicly that this was a matter of "interpretation".

A more important concern we have with this proposed amendment is that kupuna who are on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible will not receive the services they need if referred to Medicaid. Child & Family Service, for example, has been complying with this new exclusion since July 2013 so we are turning away seniors on Medicaid or who are Medicaid eligible and we know that the Senior Case Management Services we provide are not covered by Medicaid. Such seniors will not be able to receive non-medical transportation or in most cases, meals. Kupuna on Medicaid or Medicaid eligible are some of the most vulnerable kupuna in our community, and excluding Medicaid and Medicaid eligible elders from the services several Kupuna Care organizations provide, is creating a significant and unnecessary gap in services for our aging population. How does it make sense to deny services to the most vulnerable seniors who are actually the poorest of all?

That is why we have been advocating with other kupuna providers to try to address this problem and we appreciate the efforts of Senator Chun Oakland to convene all the players to hopefully resolve this matter. We don't need the proposed AARP amendment. We need to find a solution that will ensure the most vulnerable elders will get the services they need.

We also support the ADRC as a potentially great approach to service delivery for seniors and the disabled, but we have strong questions about how this will be implemented on Oahu. We cannot have a model that works well for the Neighbor Islands and expect that it can just be replicated on Oahu. We need an Oahu-centric approach to the development of the ADRC that supports existing private providers of services to seniors and the disabled and recognizes that what works on Maui or on Kauai will not necessarily work on Oahu, especially with the huge difference in numbers who would be served.

I wish I could be at the hearing but I have a conflict. Child & Family Service will have a representative from our Gerontology program present at the hearing. I would be happy to answer any questions committee members have. I can be reached at 681-1418 or by e-mail at hgarval@cfs-hawaii.org.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With Aloha,

Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO, Child & Family Service

**morikawa2-Joanna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2014 9:48 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** ciAlohaAdvocate@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2346 on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM

**SB2346**

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charlene Iboshi	Zonta Club of Hilo	Support	No

Comments: The Zonta Club of Hilo supports SB 2346, Related to Aging funding. I will be submitting testimony directly to the committee. The support file could not be attached. Again, we support passage of this bill. Aloha Charlene Iboshi, Zonta Club Advocacy Chair

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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PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Health

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: House Committee on Health  
**Monday, March 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 329**

**Testimony in Support of SB2346 SD1, RELATING TO AGING**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of SB2346 SD1, which would appropriate funds for a long-term care education and awareness campaign, the Kupuna Care program and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

Hawaii's population of older adults – our kupuna aged 60 and older – has grown rapidly, and is expected to continue increasing significantly over the next 20 years. With the first group of baby boomers entering this age-phase, the dynamic of our kupuna population is changing. Today's older adults are healthier and more active; they are engaged in social and community activities, and with the proper supports they can maintain this independence and higher quality of living.

The range of services and programs funded for this bill will provide crucial education, wellness, case management, nutrition, fitness, transportation, healthy living, pain management and other supports that support our kupuna to live with the highest levels of independence possible.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly supports this bill, and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at [admin@phocused-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@phocused-hawaii.org).

To: Committee on Health, Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Date: March 10, 2014, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

Re: SB 2346 SD1 - Relating to Aging

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2346 SD1 Relating to Aging. My name is Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. and I am a retiree. I live in Paauli-Mauka on the Big Island. The passage of this bill is vital as:

- Living in long-term care facility can be very expensive and not satisfying. But most people do not understand this predicament. A long-term care education and awareness campaign is needed to alert Hawaii residents to plan for long-term care and caregiving. This planning will help residents live independently longer at home, rather than move to costly nursing or group homes.

- The Kupuna Care program provides a safety net for the "gap group" that has thousands of aging Hawaii residents who can't afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid. There are 277,000 people over age 60, and this program is a cost-effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from falling into poverty. More funding is needed for Kupuna Care program, so that more people can benefit from it.

- ADRCs help caregivers and family members as it's like a "one stop shop" for information about long-term care and caregiving options. On the Big Island, we are fortunate to have an ADRC in Hilo. We need more ADRCs in other locations, and to make sure that potential users know about this service, which will help reduce the frustration in navigating Hawaii's complicated long-term care system.

My mother was bed-ridden due to both Parkinson's Disease and emphysema for 3 years before her passing. She was fortunate to be able to stay home most of the time, taken care of by her children/grandchildren and caregivers. Although we are saddened by her passing, we have the consolation in knowing that she had a positive living environment among her loved ones. I wish this good fortune for other seniors.

I urge you to support caregivers by voting **YES** on SB 2346 SD1.

Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D.

Positive and Productive Aging Consultant.

Paauilo-Mauka, Hawaii District

P.O. Box 366

Honokaa, HI 96727 (Phone: 808-775-1064)



To: Committee on Health, Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Date: March 10, 2014, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

Re: SB 2346 SD1 - Relating to Aging

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2346 SD1 Relating to Aging. My name is T. J. Davies Jr. and I am retired and disabled and live in the Kakaako area. The passage of this bill is vital as:

- A Long-Term Care education and awareness campaign is needed to alert Hawaii residents to plan for long-term care and caregiving. This planning will help residents live independently at home longer, rather than move to costly nursing or group homes.

- The Kupuna Care program provides a safety net for the "gap group" that has thousands of aging Hawaii residents who can't afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid. There are 277,000 people over age 60, and this program is a cost-effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from falling into poverty.

- ADRCs help caregivers and family members as it's a "one stop shop" for information about long-term care and caregiving options. It will help reduce the frustration in navigating Hawaii's complicated long-term care system.

It is really tough – people need to be alerted to plan for the next stage of life which may involve Long-Term Care and Caregiving.

I urge you to support caregivers by voting yes on SB 2346 SD1.

T. J. DAVIES JR.

Volunteer, AARP & Kokua Council for Senior Citizens  
Kakaako (District 23 / Senate District 12)

Date: March 8, 2014  
To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Committee on Health  
From: Laurel Leslie  
RE: SB 2346 SDI – Relating to Aging

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of SB 2346 SDI Relating to Aging. My name is Laurel Leslie and I am a retired educator. I am aware of the long term care problem as I cared for my parents when caregiving was necessary in their elder years. A long term care education and awareness campaign is needed to allow Hawaii residents to plan for long-term care and caregiving. I know how important it is to allow the elderly to live in their own homes as long as possible rather than move to a hospital or nursing home. The Kapuna Care program provides a valuable service for those that cannot afford to pay for services and do not qualify for Medicaid.

ADRC helps families and caregivers. It will help to reduce the frustration to caregivers. Especially those that are first-time users of the system. Without the ADRC, families cannot navigate the long-term care system easily.

The passage of this bill is vital to the residents of Hawaii.

Very truly Yours,  
Ms. Laurel Leslie  
223 Aikapa St.  
Kailua, HI 96734  
eztoget2@juno.com

**morikawa2-Joanna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 07, 2014 3:14 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2346 on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM\*

**SB2346**

Submitted on: 3/7/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair of the Committee on Health  
Members of the Committee Health

DATE: Monday, March 10, 2014  
PLACE: State Capitol Conference Room 329  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
SUBJECT: Testimony in support of SB 2346 SD1, Long Term Care Education and Awareness,  
Kupuna Care and ADRC-Relating to Aging

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2346 SD1 – Relating to Aging.

As Administrator of Project Dana, a volunteer caregiver's program, I can attest to the numerous urgent needs of Hawaii's elderly population and more services are needed to maintain seniors to age in place.

All parts and sections of SB 2346 SD 1 are strongly supported.

The need to support the Kupuna Care (KC) program with \$4,200,000 in addition to the base budget of the Executive Office on Aging and funding for the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) would allow seniors to live in their homes. It is less expensive for seniors to age in place as most older adults cannot afford to live in institutions. A safety net of at home and community based services is needed to allow people to have access to Kupuna Care.

A one stop center of the Aging and Disability Resource Center would definitely help consumers and family caregivers by providing a central informational base to access long term care options and eligibility

Additionally, funding for the healthy aging partnership program and funding for the need for a long term care education and awareness campaign will better prepare Hawaii residents in planning for future long term care needs.

Please support SB 2346 SD1 - Relating to Aging.

Thank you very much

Rose Nakamura,

Project Dana

**morikawa2-Joanna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, March 07, 2014 10:16 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** glennshiroma@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2346 on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM

**SB2346**

Submitted on: 3/7/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Glenn Shiroma	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2346 SD1..

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Aloha Chair Belatti and committee members.

My name is Barbara Service. I am in Senate District 9; Representative District 19. I am also on Kokua Council and an AARP volunteer.

I urge your strong support of SB2346, SD1 which will provide funding for long-term care public awareness and education. Most of us have not considered how we will pay for our future long-term care needs. This funding will serve to educate the public on long-term care so they will be able to make reasonable timely decisions about their future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide strong written support of SB2346.

**morikawa2-Joanna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 08, 2014 9:00 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** pc70@cornell.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2346 on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM

**SB2346**

Submitted on: 3/8/2014

Testimony for HLT on Mar 10, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Callahan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Della Au Belatti: I urge you to support caregivers by voting yes on SB 2346 SD1. My wife Nancy and I are both in our eighties, and do our best to care for each other. However, things are getting difficult, and we need help. A long-term care education and awareness campaign is needed to alert Hawaii residents to plan for long-term care and caregiving. This planning will help residents live independently longer at home, rather than move to costly nursing or group homes. The Kupuna Care program provides a safety net for the "gap group" that has thousands of aging Hawaii residents who can't afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid. There are 277,000 people over age 60, and this program is a cost-effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from falling into poverty. ADRCs help caregivers and family members as it's like a "one stop shop" for information about long-term care and caregiving options. It will help reduce the frustration in navigating Hawaii's complicated long-term care system. Please help us by passing SB2346.

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: Committee on Health, Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Date: March 10, 2014, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

Re: SB 2346 SD1 - Relating to Aging

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2346 SD1 Relating to Aging. My name is Sylvia Ching. I live in the Punchbowl area. The passage of this bill is vital as my family was unaware of the availability of professional long term care options. My brother and I did all the caregiving for my parents, brother, and sister. It was an enormous burden to us emotionally, physically and financially. I wish we had knowledge of the importance and availability of long term care insurance. Many long term insurance policies provide funds to help pay for outside help (nurses aides, etc.) that would have helped us provide custodial care to help us care for our family at home. This not only lessens the burden to the caregivers but it also enhances the life of the person who is being taken care of. Most people would rather be taken care of in their homes than in an institution.

Educating people about the need for long term care funding options is cost effective for both government and individuals. If people had long term insurance they wouldn't have to rely on such government programs as Medicaid, thus saving government and taxpayers money. Caring for someone at home, paid for by long term care insurance, is much cheaper than paying for nursing home care by Medicaid.

It is for these reasons that I support SB 2346 SD1. This bill will provide the necessary information about various long term care options and also educate people of the need to plan for long term care.

USE YOUR OWN WORDS TO EXPLAIN WHY THIS BILL IS IMPORTANT. TALKING POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

- A long-term care education and awareness campaign is needed to alert Hawaii residents to plan for long-term care and caregiving. This planning will help residents live independently longer at home, rather than move to costly nursing or group homes.
- The Kupuna Care program provides a safety net for the "gap group" that has thousands of aging Hawaii residents who can't afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid. There are 277,000 people over age 60, and this program is a cost-effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from falling into poverty.
- ADRCs help caregivers and family members as it's like a "one stop shop" for information about long-term care and caregiving options. It will help reduce the frustration in navigating Hawaii's complicated long-term care system.

You can include another paragraph to discuss your personal situation and why this bill is important to you.  
EXAMPLE: As a family caregiver, I struggle to do my best to help my father. It is really tough – people need to be alerted to plan for the next stage of life which may involve long-term care and caregiving.

I urge you to support caregivers by voting yes on SB 2346 SD1.

NAME

Neighborhood/Area Residing

#### HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY

Submit your testimony no later than Sunday, March 9, 10:00 a.m., by doing the following:

1. Go to the Capitol website: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=2346&year=2014](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=2346&year=2014) <[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure\\_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=2346&year=2014](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=2346&year=2014)>
2. Sign in or register if you don't have an account.
3. Click on the box "Submit Testimony".
4. Sign-in to the website. If you do not have an account you will need to follow the instructions to register.
5. Enter SB2346 (NO SPACES) when asked to provide the bill number.
6. Enter the following information:
  - 6a. Testifying on behalf of "Individual" as AARP will submit separate testimony for the organization
  - 6b. Testifier position: SUPPORT
  - 6c. Will you be present at the hearing? (YES or NO)
  - 6d. Testimony file to upload (Upload your TESTIMONY file)
  - 6e. Click NEXT
  - 6f. Scroll through and read the disclaimer, click "I understand and agree to the terms above."
  - 6g. Click Submit Testimony

To: Committee on Health, Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Date: March 10, 2014, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

Re: SB 2346 SD1 - Relating to Aging

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2346 SD1 relating to Aging. My name is Midori Kiso, and I am a former caregiver to my late husband and live in the Moiliili area. The passage of this bill is vital as:

- A long-term care education and awareness campaign is needed to alert Hawaii residents to plan for long-term care and caregiving. This planning will help residents live independently longer at home, rather than move to costly nursing or group homes.

- The Kupuna Care program provides a safety net for the "gap group" that has thousands of aging Hawaii residents who can't afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid. There are 277,000 people over age 60, and this program is a cost-effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from falling into poverty.

- ADRCs help caregivers and family members as it's like a "one stop shop" for information about long-term care and caregiving options. It will help reduce the frustration in navigating Hawaii's complicated long-term care system.

Family caregivers, most of who are already elderly themselves, are facing everyday the difficulties of complex tasks taking care of their loved ones. They need to be alerted to plan for the next stage of life which may involve long-term care and caregiving.

I urge you to support caregivers by voting YES on SB 2346 SD1. Thank you.

Midori Kiso  
Moiilii, Oahu



To: Committee on Health, Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Date: March 10, 2014, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

Re: SB 2346 SD1 - Relating to Aging

Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2346 SD1 Relating to Aging. My name is Robin Shumpis and I am a social work student at Hawaii Pacific University and live in the Ewa Beach area. The passage of this bill is vital as:

Education about long-term care and awareness campaigns need to be in existence so that Hawaii residents can become informed and better prepared about future long-term care and caregiving instances. By not planning or having any prior education on these issues, there will be added stress, costs and people will become victims of their circumstances. If this bill is passed, the planning that will be implemented will enable people to live independently much longer and save money on nursing home or group homes. People need to be informed for not only themselves, but for their loved ones too so that they are ready when something happens unexpectedly.

Another component of this bill is the Kupuna Care program that provides thousands of aging Hawaii residents with coverage since they cannot afford the costly services available and do not qualify for Medicaid. It is essential for this "gap group" to continue to get the help that they deserve and need through this program so that they do not fall into poverty. There are 277,000 people over the age of 60 and Kupuna Care is the only cost-effective way to help this "gap group" continue to get services that help; including financially. Kupuna Care needs to be handled as a critical piece of Hawaii's health care and should continue to get the funds and attention that it deserves.

When family members and caregivers are searching for long-term care, it often takes a considerable amount of time to find the right place and is a very frustrating process. ADRCs provide long-term care and caregiving options in the form of a "one stop shop" for information. This will alleviate any worries, troubles and wasted time on trying to find the right fit for care services in Hawaii's complex long-term care system. Each of these segments of the bill is crucial to the influence that the bill has overall. Aging is inevitable and should be something that we all go through with ease; which is exactly what this bill is in support of.

I urge you to support caregivers by voting yes on SB 2346 SD1.

Robin Shumpis

Ewa Beach

Beverly Gotelli  
6286 Opaekaa Road  
Kapaa, HI 96746



SB 2346 SD1: RELATING TO AGING

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Morikawa:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in strong support of SB 2346 SD 1 Relating to Aging. My name is Beverly Gotelli and I live on the island of Kaua'i. I am a strong supporter of the aging as I am a caregiver to my mother.

As others like myself who are caregivers any resources that is provided is helpful in caring for our loved one. At a recent presentation I attended they spoke about aging in place, I believe it is good for an individual to live in their home for as long as they can. Unfortunately not everyone has a caregiver to tend for them. With the growing numbers we need to have a viable long term-care education and awareness campaign.

As a former educator we believe education on any level is important in our society. I believe this is so especially on elder affairs.

Hawaii has a "gap group" of aging residents who can't afford to pay for services, yet they also don't qualify for Medicaid and don't know where to turn for assistance. The Kupuna Care Program provides a safety net that is a cost-effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from falling into poverty.

The Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is a vital one-stop source of information and guidance for caregivers and family members to obtain the information they need about the very complex process of navigating the long-term care system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.