SB 35

Measure Title:	RELATING TO JURORS.
Report Title:	Jury Duty; Exemptions; Age
Description:	Allows a person 70 years of age or older to claim an exemption from jury duty beginning 01/01/14.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HMS, JDL
Introducer(s):	NISHIHARA, Espero, Keith-Agaran, Shimabukuro

Senators Chun Oakland and Green, and Members of the Committee;

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). PABEA advises the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's older citizens. My testimony is solely on behalf of PABEA.

PABEA opposes age discrimination in any form. In our view, SB 35 represents a type of reverse age discrimination. It implies that people over the age of 70 are somehow less capable of performing jury duties then persons under age 70. While it is true that those over 70 are more likely to have a serious illness or disability than younger persons, exemption from jury duty should be based on factors such as health problems rather than on age per se.

We recognize that it is possible that the sponsors of this bill perceived that such an exemption would be a benefit to older persons, perhaps similar to store discounts based on age. However, in our view, this should not be seen as a benefit, and we strongly oppose Senate Bill 35 for the reason given above. We therefore urge members of this Committee to vote against this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

SB35

Submitted on: 1/24/2013
Testimony for HMS on Jan 29, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman APRN-Rx BC FAANP	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair, and members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill. I believe that anyone over 70 has had ample time to serve on a jury and they should be given the respect due anyone their age by allowing an exemption from jury duty. If one of our kupuna over 70 still wants to serve jury duty, I feel they should be allowed, perhaps by submitting a waiver of the exemption so that their name is added to the pool of eligible candidates. In addition, I would like to see APRNs also exempted, like physicians and dentists. We also have patient caseloads full of patients who don't want to see us leave our practices to serve jury duty. APRNs are primary care providers and specialists who are providing a safety net for patients in this time of provider shortages. The past 3 sessions of this Legislative body have passed bills enabling APRNs to practice independently to the full scope of their education and ability. These services are paramount to health care consumers' access to care, and the outdated statute this bill addresses remains a barrier to APRN practice. This statute is one instance in the midst of many currently outdated statutes that will hopefully be addressed in the immediate future. In this time of changing health care, Hawai`i needs to stand ready to meet the changing needs of the public, by providing ready access to their health care needs. Taking an APRN out of his/her practice to serve jury duty is definitely a barrier to access and to the APRNs practice. Please amend this bill by simply adding "Advance Practice Registered Nurses" to the list of exemptions. Mahalo for the fine work you do to protect our community and improve our quality of life. Warmest Aloha, Wailua Brandman APRN-Rx BC FAANP

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