

SB 52

Measure Title: RELATING TO AGING.

Report Title: Executive Office on Aging; Active Aging; Appropriation; Kupuna Caucus (\$)

Description: Establishes and funds a coordinator for active aging within the executive office on aging, which is to be appointed by the director.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: HMS/HTH, WAM

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, BAKER, GALUTERIA, IHARA

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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Committee on Human Services

Committee on Health

SB52, RELATING TO AGING

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

Wednesday, January 30, 2013; Conference Room 229

2:05 p.m.

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the intent of this measure,
2 provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within our Biennium Budget
3 Request.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates an unspecified amount for the fiscal biennium to establish a
5 coordinator for active aging.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** Governor Abercrombie noted in his *A New Day in Hawaii Plan* that
7 “typically, we view aging through a deficit or sick care lens, thinking of the high costs associated
8 with long-term care and supporting the frailest in society. But the vast majority of adults over 60
9 are active, able, willing, and increasingly needing to live economically productive lives. We can
10 view our aging population as a tremendous economic and social asset.”

11 In January, 2013, EOA published the Profile of Successful Aging Among Hawaii's Older
12 Adults. For a copy of the report, please visit the Resources page on the ADRC Website. During

1 this calendar year and using existing resources, EOA plans to develop and promote active aging
2 by:

3 (1) Creating an inventory of existing programs and best practices, and incorporating the
4 inventory of existing programs into the Aging and Disability Resource Center's automated
5 database; and

6 (2) Creating an awareness that "age is an asset" by developing a plan for economic
7 development initiatives, such as tourism, business, education and employment opportunities, for
8 older adults.

9 We note that the appropriations in this measure are not part of the Governor's
10 Administrative package. Should there be surplus funds available for this measure, we would be
11 supportive as we agree with the concept of these initiatives as they are consistent with EOA's
12 goals and objectives. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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Senate Committee on Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair; Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair; Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

SB 52 RELATING TO AGING

Testimony of Deborah Arendale
Executive on Aging, Maui County Office on Aging

Wednesday, January 30, 2013; Conference Room 229
2:05 p.m.

MCOA's Position: Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) is in **strong support** of SB 52 for the establishment of a coordinator for active aging to coordinate and plan comprehensive active aging programs for elders.

Purpose and Justification: Census projections indicate that the senior population in Hawaii will almost double between the period between 2010 and 2020 with the highest percentage increase occurring in those over the age of 85. In order to minimize the potential **financial strain** on the State of providing in-home services to frail elders, **proactive** efforts are required now. Although the life span of our population is generally increasing, overall healthy living is not necessarily the norm. The aging network has recognized for several years the need to establish a coordinated effort to support seniors in maintaining health for those who remain healthy and in improving health for those exhibiting chronic illness. With the support of the Executive Office on Aging, the Area Agencies on Aging have implemented two evidence-based programs

To promote and protect the well-being of the Older Americans in Maui County.

designed to increase the overall health of the senior population. Effective long term program support by EOA is critical at this point in time in order to maintain the programs that have proven beneficial but also to expand to include additional areas of emphasis proven to increase quality of life among our elders.

As the senior population grows, the likelihood that funding can keep pace with increasing numbers of frail elders is nonexistent. Therefore, we must begin **now** to focus on ways to increase the emphasis on comprehensive and coordinated plans to assist seniors in remaining physically, mentally, and spiritually as healthy as possible. The establishment of a statewide coordinator would assist all of the counties in making tangible progress towards that end.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this measure.

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Joshua Green, MD, Chair

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

HEARING: 2:05 pm Wednesday, January 30, 2013
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: SB 52 Relating to Aging

DESCRIPTION: This bill establishes and funds a coordinator for active aging within the Executive Office on Aging, which is to be appointed by the Director.

POSITION: The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs **supports SB 52.**

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.

Our population is rapidly aging and this demographic change has important consequences for both individuals and our society. The public is often subject to messages which decry the aging of our population as potentially a disaster for our financial resources. However, the financial challenges are only a partial and a biased depiction of our future.

The current generation entering older age categories enjoys much better health and higher levels of energy than previous generations. Furthermore, they have higher levels of education and skills and represent a potential resource for benefitting the life of our community. Many are choosing longer work-lives, and others are interested in encore careers or volunteering in our non-profit agencies or in the public schools or other public programs. For many, the challenge in retirement is to continue to live an active life which gives them a sense of meaning and purpose.

Unfortunately, public policy has lagged behind in promoting active aging through programs which can assist older citizens to identify their interests and to connect them to opportunities for employment or volunteer activity. Kapiolani Community College has developed some non-credit courses to meet this challenge. However, we need a coordinated effort to bring about the institutional change in how we engage the well elderly in our community.

This bill provides for a coordinator for active aging in the Executive Office on Aging to work with the Kupuna Education Center at Kapiolani Community College in connecting the energy and resources of our older population to opportunities where they can benefit our community.

From: [Anthony Lenzer](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 52
Date: Saturday, January 26, 2013 9:55:14 AM

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I serve as 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 reflects only the views of PABEA.

PABEA strongly supports SB 52, which establishes within the executive office on aging the position of a coordinator for active aging. This is an extremely important initiative. At this point, most of our attention has been directed at the needs of older people who are frail, ill, disabled, or disoriented. These needs are very real and very pressing, and that is why the policy advisory board has supported so much legislation aimed at meeting these needs. However it is important to understand that the majority of older people are able to function independently, despite any chronic illnesses which they may have. Older adults contribute significantly, as employees, as community volunteers, as caregivers for other family members, and in many other ways. An active aging program will be designed to counteract the stereotype that older people are a liability rather than an asset. This bill provides an important step in creating an environment in which older people are recognized for their contributions, and encouraged to further participate in the life of their community.

Active aging is a priority issue for the policy advisory board, and we strongly support all efforts in this direction. We therefore urge that you vote in favor of Senate bill 52. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.