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Committee on Ways and Means

SCR111/SR77 Requesting the Executive Office on Aging to Continue its Research of the Timebanking Concept for Hawaii's Respite System

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

Thursday, April 4, 2013; Conference Room 211

9:50 a.m.

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports this measure.

2 **Purpose and Justification:** Identified in the 2009 report, "Respite Care in the State of Hawaii,"
3 the current respite system is fragmented and flooded with several barriers, such as prohibitive
4 costs associated with service delivery and virtually no transportation to or from respite sites,
5 limiting service use among Hawaii's caregivers. Knowing that these barriers are limiting the use
6 of respite services in Hawaii, EOA is exploring alternative forms of currency to support respite
7 service delivery, namely, the concept of timebanking.

8 Discussed in greater detail in this measure, timebanking offers a unique opportunity for
9 Hawaii to leverage our community's natural assets to help meet the needs of our community as a
10 whole. To support the continued investigation into the feasibility of a timebanking system to
11 strengthen and increase Hawaii's respite capacity, EOA was recently awarded two AmeriCorps
12 VISTA members. VISTA members will be assisting us in conducting a theoretical analysis and
13 feasibility study, and this document will guide EOA as we consider a timebank demonstration

1 project to increase our State's respite capacity. To further strengthen our efforts, we have
2 identified several key national stakeholders, many of whom have implemented similar models in
3 their communities, and these key stakeholders will provide further guidance to EOA as we plan
4 this demonstration project.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.