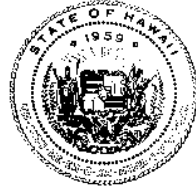


WRITTEN

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



Linda M. Rosen, MD, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

HB 2053 HD1 SD1, RELATING TO AGING

**Testimony of Linda M. Rosen, MD, MPH
Director of Health**

Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 9:05am

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports HB2053 HD1 SD1, provided that its
2 passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget, and offers
3 comments.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funding for use by DOH.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure is significant, as falls and fall related injuries among older
6 adults impose an enormous burden on individuals, society, and Hawaii's health care system. Among
7 adults 65 years of age and older, falls are by far the leading cause of injury-related deaths (45% of the
8 total), hospitalizations (83%), and EMS attended injuries among older adults (82%). Direct medical
9 charges for fall and fall-related injuries among older adults amount to nearly \$95 million annually, an
10 amount that could be doubled if you were to include the costs of rehabilitation and long term care. Falls
11 impact the quality of life and independence of older adults. Over half of those hospitalized from a fall
12 are discharged to a nursing facility or rehabilitation center and many never regain full independence.

13 However, falls are not an inevitable part of aging and can be prevented. The Department is
14 committed to addressing this critical public health issue and has already taken some steps to address fall

1 injuries among older adults in Hawaii. These efforts include coordinating the implementation and
2 evaluation of the “Hawai`i Falls Prevention State Plan, 2013-2018” to prevent falls and reduce the
3 severity of fall-related injuries in collaboration with the Hawai`i Fall Prevention Consortium.

4 Considering the magnitude of falls among older adults and the anticipated increase in this age
5 group in the next 20 years to over 18% of Hawaii’s population, the current level of dedicated resources
6 for fall prevention are insufficient. The fall prevention and early detection position proposed in this bill
7 will enable the Department of Health to support a coordinated state-wide approach that is needed to
8 prevent and reduce the impact of falls among older adults. The Department is prepared to carry out the
9 duties as described in the bill in collaboration with community partners.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

LINDA ROSEN, MD, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



WESLEY LUM, PH.D., MPH
DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Committee on Ways and Means

HB 2053, HD1, SD1, RELATING TO AGING

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

Tuesday, March 25, 2014; Conference Room 211

9:05 a.m.

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

Purpose and Justification: This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Health's (DOH) Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch to establish and fill a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position. The source of funding for this position is the Trauma System Special Fund.

The position will work closely with EOA, the Falls Prevention Consortium, and other key stakeholders to implement a comprehensive statewide program to reduce falls and their consequences. While the DOH has recognized the seriousness of the problem of falls in older adults for some time, and has implemented strategies to date, much more needs to be done. Establishing this position will assure a continued focus on prevention of falls in our community and ultimately result in longer, healthier lives for our aging population. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: sandymccul@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2053 on Mar 25, 2014 09:05AM
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 10:28:38 AM

HB2053

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BRUCE McCullough	HARA	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans is in strong support of this measure. Falling is the number 1 accident for our Seniors. A Falls Coordinator will go a long way toward preventing falls in our State.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2053 on Mar 25, 2014 09:05AM
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 9:36:51 AM

HB2053

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am currently caring for my (86) yr. old mother who exhibits extreme potential for fall-type injuries. Please support this bill so that there can be coordination & data collected to support fall-prevention programs to reduce injury & hospital stays for the elderly across the state. Mahalo!

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LATE



COMFORTING
HANDS
HAWAII

March 24, 2014

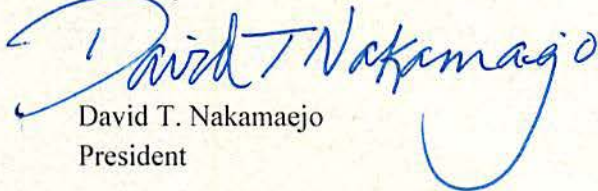
Senator David Ige, Chair – Senate Ways and Means
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair – Senate Ways and Means

Honorable Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Subject: Support for HB2053 HD1 SD1

I support HB2053 HD1 SD1 and request that this bill be passed. The establishment of a fall prevention and early detection coordinator would enable the Fall Prevention Consortium to work directly with the state to implement the Hawaii Falls Prevention State Plan. Falls are preventable. I urge you to pass HB2053 HD1 SD1.

Sincerely,


David T. Nakamaejo
President

*Enriching The Lives of Seniors
Living At Home*

• • • • •

P.O. BOX 636 KAILUA HAWAII 96734 TEL: 808.262.8586
FAX: 808.262.4147 WWW.COMFORTINGHANDSHAWAII.COM

A Member of the Senior's Choice Network

NO GET HURT
Hawaii



Consortium Members

Hawaii Executive Office on Aging
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee
Maui Fall Prevention Coalition
Rehab Hospital of the Pacific
The Queens Medical Center
Straub Hospital and Clinic
Ohana Pacific Rehab
Project Dana
Comforting Hands Senior Care Hawaii
Generations Magazine
Life Care Center of Hilo
Honolulu Gerontology Program
At Home Modifications
Catholic Charities Hawaii
UH - Center on Aging
Windward Productions
AARP
Kuakini Health Systems
Kaiser Permanente
Elderly Affairs Division-C&C Honolulu
KCC-Kupuna Education Center
Attention Plus Care
Tai Chi for Health Institute
American Medical Response
Mountain Pacific Quality Health
Hawaii Fire Department
UH - JABSOM - Family Medicine
Honolulu Home Care
Maui Memorial Hospital
Hawaii Healthcare Professionals
Hilo Medical Center
St. Francis Home Care
UH Hilo-College of Pharmacy
Kashiwabara Physical Therapy
Aloha Angels Caregivers
UH Department of Public Health
Hawaii Optometric Association
Agency on Elderly Affairs-Kauai
Maui County Office on Aging
Hawaii County Office on Aging-ADRC
The Plaza
Hawaii Department of Health

Hawaii Fall Prevention Consortium

Protecting our kupuna, from the mountains to the sea

Monday March 24, 2014

Senator David Ige, Chair – Senate Ways and Means
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair – Senate Ways and Means

Honorable Chair Ige, and Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of your Committee,

Subject: Support for HB2053 HD1 SD1

The Fall Prevention Consortium supports HB2053 HD1 SD1 and requests that you pass this bill with an appropriate dollar amount and date for it to take effect. The measure would establish a fall prevention and early detection coordinator within Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch (EMSIPSB), and appropriates funds to implement this measure.

The Hawai'i Fall Prevention Consortium was formed in 2003. Its purpose is to provide organizations, professionals, caregivers, advocates and interested individuals involved in fall prevention the opportunity to network, share information and collaborate on projects that reduce the incidence and severity of fall injuries in our aging population. Passage of this bill would enable the Consortium to work directly with the state to increase its implementation of the Hawaii Falls Prevention State Plan 2013-2018 co-authored with the Executive Office on Aging and the EMSIPSB.

Falls are preventable. The data confirms that fall injuries among our seniors are epidemic. Every year in Hawaii an average of 7,560 seniors are treated for injuries from falls in Hawaii hospitals. That is almost one every hour, and is increasing every year with the Silver Tsunami. We must curb this terrible impact on their lives and our medical system. A fall prevention and early detection coordinator can use the best available research evidence to help seniors in Hawaii maintain their independence and sustain their quality of life.

Establishing the fall prevention and early detection coordinator is an intelligent response to the senior fall injury epidemic. We urge you to pass HB2053 HD1 SD1, because this measure will save hundreds of lives and prevent disabilities in our aging population. .

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely on behalf of the Consortium,

Chair *BJ Tang* *Straub Hospital and Clinic, PT Department*



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2053, HD 1, SD1

Relating to Aging

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

March 25, 2014, 9:00 am, Room 211

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 2053, establishing a fall prevention and early detection coordinator.

Elderly residents comprise the fastest growing segment of the population here in Hawaii. Among them, falls are the leading cause of fatal injuries and injury related hospitalizations in the state. Cumulatively, these falls account for a yearly average of eighty-two deaths and eighteen hundred hospitalizations, representing a total of over \$65,000,000 per year. This is a growing concern for both the health and financial stability of Hawaii, and needs to be addressed as such.

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



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: speedy_bailey@amr-ems.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2053 on Mar 25, 2014 09:05AM*
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 9:47:21 AM

HB2053

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American Medical Response	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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*Stan Michaels
225 Kai`ulani Ave #602
Honolulu, HI 96815*



TO: Senator David Ige, Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee

*I am in full support of the passage of HB2053 HD1 SD1.
Hearing on 3/25 9:05 am*

Fall injuries and deaths of our seniors are an epidemic in Hawaii, and they need not be as most falls are preventable. There are programs and techniques that make it simple for our seniors to protect themselves from falls.

Please pass this bill to allow the creation of a coordinator that can use the latest information and research to help prevent needless injuries and deaths by helping to coordinate the agencies and programs that need assistance in fall prevention.

Mahalo

Stan Michaels Private Citizen