



Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)

c/o Hawaii Education Association
1953 South Beretania Street, Suite 5C
Honolulu, HI 96826

March 25, 2014

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 2053, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO AGING

HARA is a coalition of organizations that advocate for programs and services that support seniors. Most of us are seniors ourselves. We are retired members of unions and concerned members of the community. Our affiliates include: HGEA Retirees, HSTA-Retired, ILWU Retirees, UPW Retirees, AFT-Hawaii Retirees, Kokua Council, Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition, and Kupuna Education Center.

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) supports H.B. 2053, HD1, SD1, which establishes a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position within the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch and appropriates funds.

Most of us in HARA are elderly, and some of us have experienced the serious consequences of falling. While it may seem like common sense to prevent falls, we know that is not the case. Preventing falls requires a different mindset, greater awareness among those who are susceptible to falls as well as those who are not, physical modifications to public and private areas, and a host of other issues that we may not fully understand.

A professional, dedicated to preventing falls especially among seniors, is vital in our community where the aging population continues to grow. We wonder if one person is enough to handle this huge task, but even one is better than none at all.

HARA urges passage of H.B. 2053, HD1, SD1 with a suitable appropriation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2014



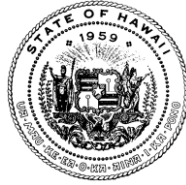
THE SENATE
Committee on Ways and Means
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Tuesday, March 25, 2014; 9:05 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 2053, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO AGING**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 2053, HD1, SD1, which establishes a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position within the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch and appropriates funds.

Falls among seniors is costly. When a senior falls, medical costs are much higher than when a younger person falls. Yet falls are often preventable with information about what causes falls and what behaviors to modify. Funding a fall prevention and early detection coordinator is a prudent and sound investment to potentially save hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills and untold physical suffering.

The ILWU urges the passage of H.B. 2053, HD1, SD1 with a suitable appropriation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Communicable Disease & Public Health Nursing Branch
Public Health Nursing Branch
1700 Lanakila Avenue, Room 201
HONOLULU, HI 96817

In reply, please refer to:
File:

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 at 9:05 AM

As a Public Health Nurse for the State of Hawaii, I see first hand the effect of fall injuries and deaths of our seniors a Hawaii. This epidemic needs to be addressed ASAP as most falls are preventable. There are many programs and techniques available that make it simple for our seniors to protect themselves from falls, however without proper coordination delegation these techniques often do not reach our seniors until it is too late.

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,

Ronna Patty, RN PHN

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"Public Health Nurses listen and respond to community needs based on our professional knowledge and relationships with individuals, families and communities."