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Joint Committee on Human Service and Ways and Means

SB149 SD1, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

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

Wednesday, February 26, 2014; Conference Room 211

9:30 a.m.

EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) recognizes that Medicaid participants are unable to receive certain types of home and community based services through their Medicaid plans. This measure offers an immediate short-term solution to continue existing services to the individuals who have already been served.

EOA respectfully recommends that Section 1, Lines 1-11, of this measure be amended for accuracy as follows: "The legislature finds that there are currently individuals on the island of Oahu who are at risk of losing necessary long-term supports and services. Prior to November 2013, long-term supports and services needed by aging and disabled Medicaid beneficiaries were found to be incorrectly paid through Kupuna Care or federal Older Americans Act funds which allows for long-term supports and services that include personal care, attendant care, congregate meals, home delivered meals, assisted transportation, and Kupuna Care transportation. As of November 2013, Medicaid beneficiaries receiving such services continue to need these services."

We are currently examining the extent to which Medicaid individuals on Oahu had been served through Kupuna Care and/or Older American Act funds, and where the type of service is

unavailable through Medicaid. This measure reflects a gap in Hawaii's long term supports and services system which EOA is committed to working on.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

LATE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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TESTIMONY OF PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
AND WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

SENATE Bill 149 SD1, "RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES"
Position: In Support

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Human Services

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Community Services together with the State Executive Office on Aging (EOA), recognize that Medicaid participants are unable to receive certain types of home and community based services because such services are not reimbursed via their Medicaid plans or other funding sources. This measure offers an immediate short-term solution to fund existing services to individuals who were receiving services funded by Kupuna Care and Title III funds contrary to EOA's policies. Services include personal care, attendant care, congregate meals, home delivered meals, assisted transportation, and Kupuna Care transportation.

The City is actively meeting with the EOA, service providers, health plans, and MedQUEST to address this situation. We are committed to working with MedQUEST and EOA to ensure that our kupuna have a seamless system of supports on Oahu and throughout the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Senate Committees on Human Services and Ways & Means
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 211

Testimony in Support of SB149 SD1, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB149 SD1, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services for the elderly and disabled. PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

Hawaii's population of older adults – our kupuna aged 60 and older – has grown rapidly, and is expected to continue increasing significantly over the next 20 years. While it is important to provide preventative services and supports for all our kupuna, we recognize that low-income seniors – those who meet Medicaid income requirements – are among the most vulnerable and often isolated members of our community.

This bill would provide funding for a wide array of services, such as personal care, attendant care, congregate meals, home delivered meals, assisted transportation, and kupuna care transportation. These services provide increased opportunities for social interaction for kupuna, and support their ability to live independently and continue to live in their homes longer with less assistance from others. Many of these services are not covered by existing Medicaid programs.

While we are supportive of this bill, we would suggest that the bill be amended to appropriate funds to the Department of Health and the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), rather than to the Department of Human Services (DHS). The services described in this bill mirror existing Kupuna Care services administered by EOA, and we believe that the proposed services are a better fit with the mission of EOA. We have some concern that appropriating these funds to DHS, which does not currently administer similar services, may result in unintended delays and service gaps for the Medicaid-eligible kupuna population.

Once again, PHOCUSED supports this bill, and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.