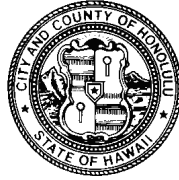


DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND
DIRECTOR

GARY K. NAKATA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY OF PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 9:10 a.m., Conference Room 211

SENATE Bill 2228 SD1, "RELATING TO AGING"

Position: In Support

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

The Elderly Affairs Division (EAD) is Honolulu's designated Area Agency on Aging and operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate, and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

This bill includes funding for important programs that support the needs of the increasing population of elderly residents in Hawaii. The funding included in this bill is essential to maintain the health and welfare of our most vulnerable seniors and their caregivers. We strongly support funding for the following programs in SB 2228 SD1:

Kupuna Care. The Kupuna Care program includes essential services that support the needs of the increasing population of frail elderly residents in Hawaii. These services provide assistance to frail older adults who cannot live at home without adequate help from family or formal services. They include services such as attendant care, case management, chore, home-delivered meals, homemaker, personal care, and transportation.

Healthy Aging Partnership Program. Through the Healthy Aging Partnership, EAD implements Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, an evidence-based program that provides education, training and support groups to persons with chronic conditions to assist them in managing their own care. The Enhance Fitness is an exercise program and focuses on maintaining strength, flexibility and, balance to maintain health and function of older adults. The results of both programs have been overwhelmingly positive. In addition, other evidence-based self-management programs have been introduced for arthritis and diabetes. We would urge the committee to consider

funding these programs in light of the rising healthcare costs associated with the rapidly growing elder population in Hawaii.

Senior Centers. Home and Community-Based Supportive Services enable seniors to remain in their homes for as long as possible. These services include multi-purpose senior centers that coordinate and integrate services for older adults, such as congregate meals, community education, health screening, exercise/health promotion programs, and transportation. The socialization and recreation opportunities offered by senior centers are crucial in keeping seniors active and engaged, one of the most effective ways of preventing or delaying loneliness, isolation, depression, and related declines in mental and physical health.

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. EAD recognizes the need to develop services to meet the needs of the rapidly growing cohort of individuals afflicted with this condition. EAD supports the appropriation contained in this bill to establish an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator within the Executive Office on Aging.

Fall Prevention. Falls can have a devastating impact on the lives of our Kupuna. We also recognize that falls are preventable, and are not an inevitable result of aging. There are many types of interventions, including balance screenings, medication reviews, and vision examinations, that can help determine those seniors at risk of falling. EAD is actively involved in supporting such programs as a member of the Fall Prevention Consortium and currently fund a number of exercise and education programs for seniors in an effort to prevent falls. We also recognize that more needs to be done in this area and thus, support the funding for a fall prevention and early detection coordinator.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The ADRC is contained in the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) as amended in 2006. Its vision is "to have Aging and Disability Resource Centers in every community...where people of all incomes and ages can turn for information on the full range of long-term support options and a single point of entry for access to public long-term support programs and benefits." The OAA provided very limited federal funds to develop, implement, or sustain this venture. The \$1.9 million being requested represents the first stage of state funding needed to create this resource for Hawaii's people in all counties.

We urge the Committee on Ways and Means to support funding of these vital programs. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HPCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2228

Relating to Aging

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

February 19, 2014, 9:10 am, Room 211

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 2228, providing needed funding for various programs designed to assist the aging population.

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. In addition to falls, Alzheimer's disease is on the rise in Hawaii. There is also an increasing need for senior centers and various agencies.

Further, there is an ever increasing need for long term care services. In the next twenty years, the population requiring such services will increase by almost two-thirds. Basic education and awareness about these issues, along with the topics of elder abuse and fraud, must be made available for this emerging population. Doing so will serve to both foster a healthier aging population, but also a more fiscally responsible community as a whole.

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

NO GET HURT
Hawaii



Hawaii Fall Prevention Consortium

Protecting our kupuna, from the mountains to the sea

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

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair – Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Michelle N Kidani, Vice Chair - Committee on Ways and Means

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

Subject: **Support for SB2228- Part I**

The Fall Prevention Consortium supports SB2228 - Part I that 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 SB2228 - Part I, because this measure will save lives and prevent disabilities.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely on behalf of the Consortium,

Chair *BJ Tang*



Senate, Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Ways and Means

Committee Hearing on SB 2228
Wednesday, February 19, 2014
9:10 am, Conference Room 211

Chair David Ige, Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of **SB 2228**. I am Jill Kitamura, Senior Program Director with the Moiliili Community Center Senior Center Program. I refer especially to Part II, **Sections 6 & 8 on funding Kupuna Care and the Senior Center programs** and note that we are **in favor** of both sections. The Moiliili Community Center is requesting \$50,000 for its Senior Center program.

Many of the programs under non-profits, like those assisting the elderly, face the anxiety of providing needed services to a rapidly growing (daily, 10,000 people turn 60 in the USA) aging population with funding that has remained the same for over twelve years, while costs keep rising.

The senior center programs at the different community centers (Catholic Charities – Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, Waikiki Community Center, & Kapahulu Center) help the senior to remain independent at home and in their community, a cost saving alternative to being institutionalized. Being socially involved keeps the mind active, exercise classes help with one's physical fitness, learning new things and the awareness of resources in the community -- all contribute to the well being of the senior. These seniors not only gain personally but contribute back to the community in many ways.

Kupuna Care Services are essential to helping seniors stay in their homes as long as possible. They provide important services, such as case management, transportation, bathing, meals, respite for the caregiver. Seniors can and will contribute for services, but many cannot afford the actual cost of these services. These lower income, gap group individuals will fail very quickly, needing institutional care earlier than if intervention services were readily available.

I urge you to seriously consider programs and services for seniors to be one of your priority areas.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Jill T. Kitamura
Program Director
Moiliili Senior Center
Moiliili Community Center
2535 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
Ph: (808) 955-1555



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State of Hawaii
Senate Committees on Ways and Means
The Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Hawaii State Legislature

February 19, 2014; 9:10 am
Room 211



SB 2228, Relating to Aging

Good afternoon, Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Lanakila Pacific **supports** SB 2228, Relating to Aging to provide critically needed services for our most vulnerable elderly neighbors. Although our preference is that ongoing support be provided in the base budget, this measure provides essential supplemental funding for Kupuna Care services which are designed to prevent more costly care.

However, we have serious concerns about how both Kupuna Care funding is to be used and how the Aging and Disability Resource Center will be implemented on Oahu. These concerns are highlighted below.

- **Medicaid recipients are being turned away with no alternative:** The Kupuna Care Request for Proposals/contracts (issued by the C&C Elderly Affairs Division) and Guidelines (issued by the State Executive Office on Aging) do **not** state that providers are not allowed to serve Medicaid recipients. The RFP/contract and Kupuna Care Guidelines **do** state that clients must meet the following requirement: "Not covered by other comparable government or private home- and community-based care services." Thus, excluding Medicaid recipients is a recent interpretation of The Executive Office on Aging.
- **Limitations of Medicaid (Quest Expanded Access/QExA) as a "comparable government service":** In most cases, Medicaid does **not** provide a "comparable government service." Until recently, Medicaid home & community based services (HCBS) were restricted to skilled nursing level elders. MedQuest expanded HCBS eligibility to "high risk" level (lower level than "nursing home"), however, it is still limited to seniors with the most serious health care needs.

- **As you all know, Medicaid is a health care program.** Kupuna Care is a program intended to prevent the onset of more costly health care needs in our seniors.
- **HCBS does not provide the full array of Kupuna Care Services.**
For example, only medical transportation is authorized through Medicaid. This does not cover transportation to nutrition programs, grocery shopping, etc. which are critical to the health, safety and independent living ability of our kupuna.
- **Where are these low-income seniors with the greatest need supposed to turn?**
Although the Kupuna Care program is not an entitlement, it seems that excluding Medicaid recipients is discriminatory as there is no alternative.
- **Preventing higher costs to the State:** The Kupuna Care program is designed to help *all* seniors live independently — to remain in their homes and avoid more costly premature institutionalization, regardless of whether they are on Medicaid. Excluding Medicaid recipients would exclude the most vulnerable seniors with the greatest economic need from receiving these preventative services, thus creating an avoidable expense for taxpayers.

While we are very concerned about programmatic details in Kupuna Care and ADRC programs, we are in support of this comprehensive package that provides grossly needed resources to address the growing needs of Hawaii's senior population.

According to the most recent Hawaii's Older Adults: Demographic Profile: University of Hawaii, Hawaii has one of the fastest growing senior populations and the longest life expectancy in the nation. Over the last ten years, the senior population has increased 30%.

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of seniors throughout Hawaii on growing waiting lists due to 12 years of flat funding that hasn't kept pace with inflation, let alone the spike in the elderly population. The base budget for Kupuna Care services of \$4.85 million has not been increased since 2002, while Hawaii's senior population has increased by 30% and the costs of living in Hawaii continue to rise. Supplemental funding is requested every year; however, this is not sustainable and should be part of the Executive Office on Aging's budget.

As a Kupuna Care service provider, Lanakila Meals on Wheels serves more than 1,200 Hawaii seniors every day or more than 200,000 meals each year. Our average meal recipient is a woman of Asian or Pacific Island descent, 83 years old with an income of less than \$1,000 per month. Our staff and volunteers deliver much more than a nutritious meal, as they may be the only person that our Kupuna will spend time with each day. Providing Kupuna Care Services, which enables seniors to stay in their homes and avoid costly institutionalization, can be the difference between \$170 for a month of home delivered meals vs. \$9,034 for a month of a semi-private room in a nursing facility

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 19, 2014; 9:10 am
Page Three

While more long-term support is needed to meet the growing needs with one of the fastest growing senior populations and the longest life expectancy in the nation, this measure is a vital part of the solution as it will provide critically needed and more cost-effective services for our most isolated and vulnerable elderly neighbors. Aging network providers cannot meet the current and growing demand for services when faced by years of flat or reduced State and Federal funding.

We urge you to support Hawaii's Kupuna by supporting ongoing funding for Kupuna Care as it provides essential services for the most vulnerable senior citizens in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji
President & CEO

Lyn Moku
Director of Lanakila Meals on Wheels



To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Date: February 19, 2014, State Capitol Conference Room 211, 9:10 a.m.

RE: SB2228 SD1 – Relating to Aging

Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2228 SD1 Relating to Aging. My name is Nicole Soghomonian and I am a social work graduate student at Hawaii Pacific University and am currently an Intern at AARP Hawaii. I have developed a great interest in long term care and caregiving through my experience at AARP because I have observed the issues amongst Hawaii's growing senior population. There are thousands of aging Hawaii residents who can't afford to pay for services and do not qualify for Medicaid. Many residents without family support and sufficient finances are falling into poverty. Most families do not prepare for this next stage of life that may involve long-term care and caregiving. When that time comes, most families become frustrated and do not know how to navigate Hawaii's complicated long-term care system. It is important for the younger generation to get involved with issues concerning long-term care and caregiving because they can influence and educate others to prepare for the future and avoid situations that they no longer can control.

Personally, my family is going through a difficult time because my grandfather is very ill and my grandmother is not able to take care of him. Unfortunately my aunt is taking advantage of the system and getting paid to take care of him but is never there for him. He is currently hospitalized and my grandma made the decision to transfer him to a nursing home. My father is very upset and wants to take care of him but my aunt will not allow it. There are so many issues because the family did not prepare for this and my grandfather is unable to make a decision and say where he wants to be. I have been very affected as well because I want to advocate for my grandfather as a social worker and his granddaughter but my father does not want me to get involved because he does not want to intensify any family issues. I know that this issue is very complicated and difficult for many people and they need to be educated about prepared for this stage of life.

I to urge you to support Hawaii's growing senior population by supporting SB 2228 SD1.

Nicole Soghomonian

Honolulu, Hawaii



Tuesday, February 18, 2014

**Senator David Y. Ige, Chair – Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Michelle N Kidani, Vice Chair - Committee on Ways and Means**

**Honorable Chair Ige, and Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of your Senate
Committee,**

Subject: Support for SB2228 SD1- Part I

Aloha,

I am a 73 year old fall survivor and know first-hand how difficult life can be after a fall injury. When I fell, I was lucky to have decent medical insurance that could cover the basic costs of surgery and hospitalization. However, there was nowhere to turn for assistance for the countless things an old person needed to recover properly. At that time no agency, no facility, could be found that dealt with fall prevention. It was brutal, painful and very hard.

Thankfully there are now a couple of organizations that recognize the severe problems associated with fall injuries. However they have no budget and no funded leadership to create a process to prevent the injury in the first place.

This bill appropriates a few dollars to fund a coordinator. It is a fantastic start, because with a coordinator, that individual should be able to help implement the fantastic Hawaii Fall Prevention State Plan created by our Department of Health Injury program and the Executive Office on Aging.

As a senior I can confirm...the need is great, and the population is aging. The fall injury epidemic we have today will turn into a disaster for our seniors and our medical system if nothing is done

A plan is only as good as the investment made in its implementation, so please pass Part 1 of this bill and fund a coordinator to help prevent falls in our Hawaii.

Sincerely

Stan Michaels

225 Kaiulani Ave #602

Honolulu, HI 96815



To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Date: February 19, 2014, State Capitol Conference Room 211, 9:10 a.m.

Re: SB 2228 SD1 - Relating to Aging

Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2228 SD1 Relating to Aging. My name is T. J. Davies Jr. and I am retired and disabled and live in the Kakaako area. The passage of this bill is vital as:

- A **Long-Term Care Education** and awareness campaign is needed to alert Hawaii residents to plan for long-term care and caregiving. This planning will help residents live independently longer at home, rather than move to costly nursing or group homes.
- The **Kupuna Care** program provides a safety net for the "gap group" that has thousands of aging Hawaii residents who can't afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid. There are 277,000 people over age 60, and this program is a cost-effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from falling into poverty.
- **ADRCs** help caregivers and family members as it's like a "one stop shop" for information about long-term care and caregiving options. It will help reduce the frustration in navigating Hawaii's complicated long-term care system.

It is really tough living on a limited fixed income and people need to be alerted to plan for the next stage of life which may involve Long-Term Care and Caregiving.

I urge you to support Hawaii's growing senior population by supporting SB 2228 SD1.

T. J. DAVIES JR.
Volunteer, AARP & Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
Kakaako (District 23 / Senate District 12)