



HAWAII CHAPTER - AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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**SB536, Relating to Fall Prevention
Sen WAM Hearing – Decision Making
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017 – 9:35 am
Room 211
Position: Support**

Chair Tokuda and Members of the WAM Committee:

I am Gregg Pacilio, PT and Board President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA), a non-profit professional organization serving more than 300 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Our members are employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are movement specialists and are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

According to the CDC, more than one-third of adults 65 and older fall each year in the United States and 20% to 30% of people who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries. Physical therapists can help in risk reduction and prevention of falls.

Physical therapists are integrated in the current Hawaii Injury Prevention plan created by the Department of Health Injury Prevention and Control Section (IPCS), in regards to fall prevention awareness and wellness programs throughout the islands of Hawaii.

The plan has already implemented evidence-based practices with physical therapists including: 1) Safe home assessments to reduce fall risks, 2) Community fall prevention screening, and 3) Community education sessions on strategies for fall prevention and exercises.

HAPTA is supportive of efforts that DOH have made in raising awareness in the community for fall prevention and look forward to future collaborations with them.

Your support of SB536 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact Abi Leddy, HAPTA Elder Care Chair at (214) 883-8329 for further information.

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

THE SENATE
Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Thursday, February 23, 2017; 9:35 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 536
RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 536, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Health for a full-time equivalent fall prevention and early detection coordinator position established by Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2014.

When the elderly fall, the consequences are often catastrophic. Kupuna have weaker bones, and a fall usually means a break that requires hospitalization and rehabilitation. Falls are costly, not only financially but psychologically and emotionally. A fall can mean loss of independence and drastic changes to a person's lifestyle and quality of life.

Thus, fall prevention would seem to be a logical public health option. Indeed, programs already do exist to assist the elderly and their families to ensure that falls may be avoided. For example, Project Dana has a home safety program where professionals inspect the home for potential hazards and recommend remedies. But a coordinated effort is needed to reach a broader cross-section of the public and larger numbers of people.

S.B. 536 proposes a nominal appropriation to address this vitally important and needed program. A \$95,000 appropriation could help to save thousands of dollars more by preventing falls and the resulting medical services and inpatient admissions. We believe more money is needed, but the \$95,000 is a start and will be money well spent.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 536. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211

RE: **SB 536 RELATING TO FALLS PREVENTION**

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice- Chair

AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates and provides information on issues that matter to our kupuna and their families, including affordable, accessible, quality health care, financial resiliency, and livable communities.

AARP Hawaii **strongly supports** SB 536 which appropriates funds for the fall prevention and early detection coordinator position.

According to Hawaii Department of Health Report on Falls Injuries among Older Adults (2011-2015), falls are the leading cause of injuries among Hawaii residents age 65 and older which resulted in 7,251 emergency room visits, 1,907 hospitalizations and 101 deaths. The associated costs with fall injuries among this age group are estimated to be over \$181 million annually.¹ A focal program to reduce and promptly detect falls especially among the elderly is needed. This bill provides the appropriation for a full time coordinator to oversee and coordinate a statewide approach.

We support that the fall prevention and early detection coordinator position be funded.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Hawaii Special Emphasis Report: Fall Injuries among Older Adults 2011-2015, Hawaii Department of Health

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee, Senator Jill Tokuda,
Chair

Date: Feb 23, 2017

Room 211

Time: 9:35 a.m.

RE: **SB 536 Relating to Fall Prevention**

Chair Tokuda and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in
STRONG SUPPORT of SB 536 Relating to Fall Prevention.

My name is Geoffrey Casburn and I am a retired Civil Engineer.
My wife and I live in Hilo and we are former in-home caregivers.

A strong fall prevention program at the state level would address
the tragic loss of mobility to our seniors resulting from falls. In
our family we have experienced a serious concussion, leg and
ankle injuries and permanent loss of mobility for one auntie due
to a broken hip. Prevention is the key!

Thank you,

Geoffrey Casburn
District of Hilo

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members.

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. I am a member of AARP, Kokua Council, the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans and the Legislative Committee of PABEA.

I'm testifying in strong support of SB536, making an appropriation to fund a full-time fall prevention and early detection coordinator position. Legislation was passed in 2014 for such a position.

Hawaii has more kupuna, especially those over 85, than any other state. When a senior falls, the chances that he/she will ever retain his/her previous quality of life is very low. More than \$120M is spent of falls every year in Hawaii.

It is imperative that Hawaii have a dedicated coordinator to address this serious problem, which is growing as our aged population grows.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:24 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: tjdavies@juno.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB536 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM*

SB536

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
T.J. Davies	Individual	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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TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017, State Capitol Conference Room 211, 9:35 am
RE: SB536 RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION

To Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support SB536, appropriation for the fall prevention and early detection coordinator. My name is Paul Nishimura and I am a 59 year old resident of Waipahu. It is important that we do all we can to prevent falls among the elderly rather than deal with the resulting hospital stays and loss of mobility and quality of life the results from it.

A program that organizes all the State's injury prevention and detection resources is required to make the best use of limited funding and manpower. We must ensure that our kupuna have the tools they need to stay healthy. Those who care for them will also have some peace of mind with the knowledge they gain from this program.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Paul Nishimura
Waipahu