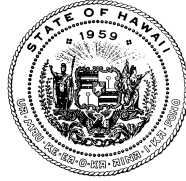


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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2369, HD1
Relating to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TY J.K. CULLEN, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Terri Byers
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 23, 2018 Room Number: 308
11:00 a.m.

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health is in strong support of this Administration proposal.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill would amend section 349-4(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes to
- 5 change the composition of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). It would
- 6 decrease the number of members, specifying that ex officio members are non-voting members,
- 7 and revise the list of agencies that provide representatives to serve as ex officio members.
- 8 The changes being proposed were requested by PABEA leaders to aide in meeting quorum
- 9 requirements and in meeting Legislative intent. Decreasing the overall number of voting Board
- 10 members will reduce the number of Board members required to be present to meet quorum
- 11 requirements. Removing voting obligations of ex officio members was sought by existing

1 agency representatives who voiced concerns that included: (1) lack of information on the wide
2 array of aging issues and (2) time and resource obligations of primary work demands. The
3 change was also motivated by existing statute requirements that the Board have a majority over
4 the age of sixty years of age. Generally, ex officio members do not meet that criteria.

5 Adjustments are necessary in the list of agencies that provide ex officio members to reflect a
6 departmental name change relating to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs at the
7 State level and an organizational change impacting the Social Security Administration at the
8 federal level.

9 The Statute changes will reduce barriers currently faced by the Board (quorum, ex officio voting
10 obligations, majority representation by those over the age of sixty) while maintaining
11 engagement, collaboration, and alignment between PABEA and other government and
12 community agencies.

13 I am confident that the change in composition will maintain effective group decision making
14 while increasing the diverse membership composition to allow for a variety of viewpoints and
15 dialogue on critical issues that affect Hawaii's growing vulnerable and older adult population.

16 **Recommendation:** EOA is in strong support of this bill.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.