

SB536

Measure Title: RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION.

Report Title: Kupuna Caucus; Fall Prevention; DOH; Appropriation (\$)

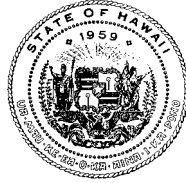
Description: Makes an appropriation to the department of health for the full-time equivalent fall prevention and early detection coordinator position established by Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014.

Companion: [HB614](#)

Package: Kupuna Caucus

Current Referral: CPH/HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): IHARA, GREEN, HARIMOTO, K. RHOADS, Baker, S. Chang, Galuteria, Inouye, K. Kahele, Keith-Agaran, Nishihara, Ruderman, Taniguchi



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB0536
RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 02/01/17, 2:45pm

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of SB0536, and defer to the Governor's
2 Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel
3 priorities. SB0536 requests \$95,000 of general funds for a fall prevention and early detection
4 coordinator position.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health recognizes the significance of falls among
6 older adults. Falls and fall related injuries among older adults impose an enormous burden on
7 individuals, society, and Hawaii's health care system. Among adults 65 years of age and older,
8 falls are by far the leading cause of injury-related deaths (46% of the total), hospitalizations
9 (83%), and EMS attended injuries among older adults (81%). Direct medical charges for fall and
10 fall-related injuries among older adults amount to nearly \$100.6 million annually, an amount
11 that is easily doubled if we include the costs of rehabilitation and long term care. Falls impact
12 the quality of life and independence of older adults. Over half of those hospitalized from a fall
13 are discharged to a nursing facility or rehabilitation center and many never regain full
14 independence.

1 Falls are not an inevitable part of aging and can be prevented. The Department is
2 committed to addressing this critical public health issue and has already taken steps to address
3 fall injuries among older adults with the resources we have. These efforts include working with
4 the Hawaii Fall Prevention Consortium and other stakeholders to implement and evaluate
5 evidence-based programs and practices for reducing falls among older adults prioritized in the
6 “Hawaii Falls Prevention State Plan, 2013-2018”.

7 Considering the magnitude of falls among older adults and the anticipated increase in this
8 age group in the next 20 years to over 18% of Hawaii’s population, funding for the established
9 position proposed in this bill will enable the Department of Health to have the dedicated
10 resources to continue to support and build a coordinated state-wide approach for preventing falls
11 and supporting healthy aging among older adults.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



The Senate
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Committee on Human Services
Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Chair

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

I am Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; providing the tools needed to save for retirement; and serving as a reliable information sources on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

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 in support for SB 536.

Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Advocacy Director, AARP Hawaii

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:34 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: deborah.stone-walls@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB536 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM*

SB536

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for CPH/HMS on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Stone-Walls	Maui County Office on Aging	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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COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishimura, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 01, 2017
TIME: 2:45 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol

Aloha,

On behalf of our kupuna, please support passage of SB 536.

We assist seniors every day and in our experience the issue of Fall Prevention is a necessary thing in educating all families with elderly loved ones. Any funding to further this cause is aiding the effort to keep our community healthy longer and prevent tragic situations caused by seniors falling due to preventable situations.

Every hour, 24 hours a day in our Hawaii, a senior is transported by ambulance to an Emergency Room for a fall injury. That is over 8,700 per year. That is too many. The impact on our medical system is stifling and the pain and suffering caused to entire families is staggering.

Please support passage of SB 536.

Sincerely,

Steve M Tokita

President, Caring Transitions of Honolulu

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang and committee members

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. Though I'm a member of several senior organizations, I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I'm testifying in strong support of SB536, an appropriation to The Department of Health to fund a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position.

Falls are among the leading causes of hospitalization and severe injury among the elderly. Many of those who fall never regain their previous quality- of- life. In 2014, (the latest figures available), it was reported that, in Hawaii, 85 seniors die, 1960 are hospitalized and 8700 are treated in emergency rooms every year. The cost is \$120,000,000 in hospital and physician charges.

Hawaii has more per capita seniors than any other state and the number is increasing rapidly, so this is more apt to be a problem.

Please support funding a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

TO: Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker – Chair
Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara – Vice Chair
Members of the Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Honorable Senator Josh Green – Chair
Honorable Senator Stanley Chang – Vice Chair
Members of the Committee of Ways and Means

DATE: Wednesday, February 1, 2017
TIME: 2:45 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016, State Capitol
SUBJECT: Testimony in support of SB 536, Relating to Fall Prevention

Chairs Bakers and Green and Committee Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Human Services.

Project Dana, a non-profit volunteers caregivers program, is in strong support of SB 536 Relating to Fall Prevention.

There is an ever increasing number of falls occurring by older adults each year. Many may not recover fully. 85 seniors die on the average each year, close to 2,000 are hospitalized and an alarming number of 8,700 are treated in emergency rooms.

Falls are preventable and Hawaii's community need to be more informed and made aware of this critical issue.

Please support SB 536 to establish a fall prevention and early detection coordinator position.

Thank you very much,

Rose Nakamura
Administrator, Project Dana

Mike Hirano
Home Safety Coordinator, Project Dana

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:22 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: glcasburn@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB536 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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SB536

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for CPH/HMS on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geoffrey Casburn	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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