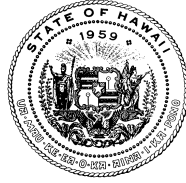


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS  
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831  
eoa@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on SCR0149, SD1  
Requesting the Executive Office on Aging and the University of Hawaii Center on Aging  
to Convene a Working Group to Review In-Home Care Services and Make  
Recommendations to Improve the Quality of Care**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: April 12, 2018  
10:00 am

Room Number: 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health would like to provide comments on SCR0149, SD1.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure is unfunded. It places unknown staffing and operating
- 4 expenses on the Executive Office on Aging
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of SCR0149, SD1 is for the University of Hawaii
- 6 Center on Aging and the Executive Office on Aging to convene a working group to review in-
- 7 home care services and make recommendations to improve the quality of care.
- 8 As Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, the need and demand for a well trained work
- 9 force to provide in-home care will increase. The growing number of older adults is likely to put
- 10 a severe strain on the State's resources. By 2029, the baby boomer population will be 65 years
- 11 or older with many of them having multiple complex chronic conditions that will require in-

1 home care services by caregivers with a diverse set of skills to address their physical, mental,  
2 cognitive and behavioral health needs (Eldercare Workforce Alliance, Issue Brief, February 16,  
3 2011). The October 2011 Urban Institute and the American Association of Homes and Services  
4 for the Aging report entitled, “*Who Will Care for Us? Addressing the Long-Term Care*  
5 *Workforce Crisis*,” cited the high turnover rates; vacancies and shortage of nursing assistants, in-  
6 home health and home care aides, and other paraprofessional workers; smaller pool of women  
7 who have traditionally provided care to the elderly; and poor wages and unpleasant working  
8 conditions as issues that need to be examined to develop strategies and requirements needed for  
9 adequate training, workforce and service expansion, and financing to meet the needs of our  
10 growing aging population.

11 **Recommendation:** We appreciate the intent of this resolution but do not have the resources  
12 necessary to complete the request. If resources are provided to support this endeavor, the  
13 Executive Office on Aging would be willing to convene and facilitate this work group along with  
14 the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to review in-home care services and make  
15 recommendations to improve the quality of care.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**TO :** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AN HUMAN SERVICES  
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

**SUBJECT:** **SCR 149 SD 1 Requesting the Executive Office on Aging and the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to Convene Relating to a working group to review in-home care services and to make recommendations to improve quality of care.**

**HEARING:** Thursday March 12, 2018, 10:00 am  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs strongly supports this resolution, including the changes in SD 2, in order to address serious problems in eldercare workforce development and quality of care issues of in-home services.

The Policy Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

The aging of the population is a profound social change with implications across all institution. One of the most pressing needs is to address the shortages in the eldercare workforce with the growing number of persons facing chronic disease and disability. The PABEA suggests that the focus of the taskforce address these workforce issues. There are many sides to this problem, including such issues as access to appropriate training, addressing the need for creating opportunities in these paraprofessions to keep current in their knowledge and skills, and have career opportunities to increase their levels of skills and responsibilities. Currently, pay levels are very inadequate and these tend to be dead-end jobs. There needs to be a major shift in order to assure that our citizens have access to quality care at all levels

We urge you to pass this resolution to address these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 12, 2018

TIME: 10:00am

PLACE: Conference Room 329

## **Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 149, SD1**

Caring Across Generations is in strong support of SCR 149, SD 1, which requests the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations, along with the University of Hawaii Center on Aging, convene a working group to review the state of the homecare force in Hawaii and make recommendations to improve the quality of care and the quality of caregiving jobs.

Caring Across Generations is a national movement of families, caregivers, people with disabilities and aging Americans working to transform the way we care in this country, calling for policy solutions that enable all of us to live and age with dignity and independence. Caring Across Generations has worked with partners in Hawai'i for years in support of legislation that will help make quality long-term care accessible to everyone.

Homecare workers provide elderly adults and those with disabilities with the care and assistance that allows people with care needs to live at home. They are responsible for a myriad number of tasks and activities of daily living including managing medication, providing transportation, assisting with mobility, preparing meals, and providing personal hygiene care. By providing these services, homecare workers are saving the state of Hawaii millions of dollars by allowing seniors to remain at home, where care is less expensive than in a facility. Studies also show that a person who is cared for and able to rehabilitate at home surrounded by family, friends and personalized attention from home care workers heal more quickly than they do in a facility.

The home care and direct care workforce is one of the fastest growing service industries in America, and homecare workers do the valuable and vital work of caring for the needs of elderly and people with disabilities. With the life expectancy in Hawaii longer than any other state, and the projected population of those 65 and over reaching 30 percent of the overall population in Hawaii by 2030, the need for home care and qualified home care workers is growing. As it grows, so too does the need to understand the complexities of the homecare workforce, including the demographics of the care workforce, reasons surrounding care workforce

shortages, the ways in which families rely upon and receive services, and ways that the quality of care can be substantially improved.

The creation of a taskforce that will study, collect pertinent data and report back on its findings in regards to the ability of families to access and finance home care, the explanation of skills and training that home care workers require, as well as the relationship between the quality of care provided by home care workers and the wages and benefits they receive are key aspects in preparing a care infrastructure that better helps our kupuna and people with disabilities receive the high quality of care they deserve.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Pedro Haro**  
**Hawai'i Advocacy Director**  
**Caring Across Generation**  
**[pedro@caringacross.org](mailto:pedro@caringacross.org)**  
**808-947-2950**



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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**House of Representatives  
Committee on Health & Human Services  
Thursday, April 12, 2018  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329**

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 149, S.D. 1

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Committee,

My name is Kerry M. Komatsubara and I am the Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with about 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families and we strive to serve as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP is in strong support of SCR 149, S.D.1, which requests the Executive Office on Aging and the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to convene a working group to review in-home care services and make recommendations to improve the quality of care.

Homecare workers provide elderly adults and those with disabilities with the care and assistance that allows people with care needs to live at home. They are responsible for a myriad number of tasks and activities of daily living including managing medication, providing transportation, assisting with mobility, preparing meals, and providing personal hygiene care. By providing these services, homecare workers are saving the state of Hawaii millions of dollars by allowing seniors to remain at home, where care is less expensive than in a facility. Studies also show that a person who is cared for and able to rehabilitate at home surrounded by family, friends and personalized attention from home care workers heal more quickly than they do in a facility.

The home care and direct care workforce is one of the fastest growing service industries in America, and homecare workers do the valuable and vital work of caring for the needs of elderly and people with disabilities. With the life expectancy in Hawaii longer than any other state, and the projected population of those 65 and over reaching 30 percent of the overall population in Hawaii by 2030, the need for home care and qualified home care workers is growing. As it grows, so too does the need to understand the complexities of the homecare workforce, including the demographics of the care workforce, reasons surrounding care workforce shortages, the ways in which families rely upon and receive services, and ways that the quality of care can be substantially improved.

The creation of a taskforce that will study, collect pertinent data and report back on its findings in regards to the ability of families to access and finance home care, the explanation of skills and training that home care workers require, as well as the relationship between the quality of care provided by home care workers and the wages and benefits they receive are key aspects in preparing a care infrastructure that better helps our kupuna and people with disabilities receive the high quality of care they deserve.

AARP  
Real Possibilities

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 149, S.D.  
1.

**SCR-149-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 11:25:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; to the Honorable Bertrand Kobayahsi, Vice Chair; and the Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR149 SD1** relating to a working group to review the provision of in-home care services in Hawaii.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SCR149 SD1** and strongly supports its passage.

**SCR149 SD1** is in accord with the Democratic Platform as it requests the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to convene a working group to review the provision of in-home care services in Hawaii, make recommendations that will improve the quality of care, and include its review and recommendations in a report to the Legislature.

The DPH Platform states that: "Access to health care is a basic human need. Our citizens and visitors have an inherent right to high quality, high standard health care. The state legislature and the federal government should take all appropriate steps to create and support a health care system of public, for-profit, and nonprofit hospitals and other medical facilities that follow best practices to enhance and protect and preserve life." (Platform of the DPH, P.7, Lines 361-364 (2016)).

We support the development of long-term care financing solutions, better pay and working conditions for all health care providers, parity of mental and physical health coverage, and appropriate regulation of health care delivery systems. We also support the development of empirically validated prevention programs targeted at major public health issues. (Platform of the DPH, P.7, Lines 366-369 (2016)).



We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. (Platform of the DPH, P.7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

Given that **SCR149 SD1** requests the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to convene a working group to review the provision of in-home care services in Hawaii, make recommendations that will improve the quality of care, and include its review and recommendations in a report to the Legislature, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to strongly support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Text/tel.: (808) 258-8889

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair**  
**Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, April 12, 2018, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329**

**Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 149, SD1**

I am in strong support of SCR 149, SD1, which requests the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, along with the University of Hawaii Center on Aging, to convene a working group to review the state of the homecare force in Hawaii and make recommendations to improve the quality of care and the quality of caregiving jobs.

Homecare workers provide elderly adults and those with disabilities with the care and assistance that allows people with care needs to live at home. They are responsible for tasks related to activities of daily living including assisting with mobility, preparing meals, and providing personal hygiene care. By providing these services, homecare workers are saving the state of Hawaii millions of dollars by allowing seniors to remain at home, where care is less expensive than in a facility. Studies also show that a person who is cared for and able to remain at home surrounded by family, friends and personalized attention from homecare workers heal more quickly than they do in a facility.

The homecare and direct care workforce is one of the fastest growing service industries in America, and homecare workers do the valuable and vital work of caring for the needs of elderly and people with disabilities. With the life expectancy in Hawaii longer than any other state, and the projected population of those 65 and over reaching 30 percent of the overall population in Hawaii by 2030, the need for home care and qualified homecare workers is growing. As it grows, so too does the need to understand the complexities of the homecare workforce, including the demographics of the care workforce, reasons surrounding care workforce shortages, the ways in which families rely upon and receive services, and ways that the quality of care can be substantially improved.

The creation of a taskforce that will study, collect pertinent data and report back on its findings related to homecare workforce is very much needed.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

*Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep*

**Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep**

**211 Hoomalu Street; Pearl City, HI 96782**

**LATE**

**SCR-149-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 7:42:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Butch Merideth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair**

**Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, April 12, 2018, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329**

**Testimony in Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 149 / SD 1**

Aloha Committee Chair and Vice-Chair,

My name is Butch Merideth, and I am the Managing Owner of Home Instead Senior Care. I am also a Caregiver. We serve kupuna and their 'ohana in the Windward, Central, and Leeward areas of O'ahu with in-home, non-medical care, allowing our kupuna to age in place, while also allowing their 'ohana valuable respite time so they can return to work, continue volunteer activities, and/or get a needed break from caring for their loved ones 24/7.

I am writing to you today in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 149 / SD 1.

Professional caregivers have been stepping in for decades to help supplement family caregiving. We find in our business that many of our CAREGivers also are the primary caregiver for their own 'ohana, adding additional instability to our workforce. As the need for care rises, so does the need for support of, and for, growing the caregiving workforce. Unfortunately, however, the supply of caregivers is not keeping up with demand. According to a 2015 study from the UCSF Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care, in recent years, people have been departing from the professional caregiving sector at a faster rate than they've been joining it.

With the life expectancy in Hawai'i longer than any other state, and the reality of family members living off-island, and the projected population of those 65 and over reaching 30 percent of the overall population in Hawai'i by 2030, the need for home care and qualified home care workers is growing.

The emerging "care economy" creates new jobs and drives economic growth. As a starter job, a "second act" for older workers, or a lifetime career, caregiving is a vibrant and growing field for compassionate and hard-working individuals. As the field continues to grow, the home care industry, education system, and policymakers must commit to ensuring an adequate pool of quality care workers. To do so will require continued attention to attractive career-development opportunities, including but not limited to training, competitive wages, and pathways for growth.

In conclusion, I am in full support of the creation of a task force to elevate the career of professional caregivers in the State of Hawaii to support all who are caring for our kupuna.

**Butch Merideth, MSHCM**

Managing Owner

**Kukui NÄ• Kupuna, LLC**

d.b.a. Home Instead Senior Care

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**LATE**

**SCR-149-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 8:19:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/12/2018 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rev Kyle Lovett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair**

**Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair**

**Thursday, April 12, 2018, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329**

**Testimony in Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 149 / SD 1**

Aloha Rep. Mizuno and Rep. Kobayashi,

I am writing to you today in strong support of SCR 149 / SD 1.

In brief, I am in support of you all forming a Task Force to bring together stakeholders to dig into real options and solutions for addressing the difficulty of finding qualified, committed, reliable Caregivers for seniors in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

~Kyle

**Kyle Lovett, MDiv**

General Manager

**Kukui NÄ• Kupuna, LLC**

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