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KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3383 SD1
RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
REP. LISA MARTEN, CHAIR
REP. TEREZ AMATO, VICE-CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:15 A.M., Conference Room 329

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) supports SB3381 SD1, provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace
- 3 priorities within the Administration's executive budget.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds to EOA. Exceeds the general fund expenditure ceiling.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** Hawai'i has the highest average life expectancy in the U.S. with a
- 6 record of 80.7 years. The number of kūpuna living into their 80s, 90s, and even 100s continues
- 7 to grow. The majority of the Silent Generation, born in 1928-1945, have already turned 80 years
- 8 old and the last of the younger Baby Boomers born in 1964 will be turning 60 years of age in

1 2024. As a state, we need to invest in addressing the long-term care needs of our community.
2 An essential component to meeting the need is a qualified, skilled workforce.
3 The strategy includes paraprofessional to professionals. The pandemic exacerbated the
4 situation, and we are at a critical juncture in addressing workforce and how it relates to LTC.
5 This measure would require EOA to conduct a statewide assessment that identifies the number
6 of, type of, and competencies needed by workers to fulfill the home- and community-based
7 service provider positions throughout the State. The needs assessment will help to inform a
8 Master Plan on LTC.
9 **Recommendation:** EOA supports the intent of this measure.
10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**The State Legislature
House Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Conference Room 329, 9:15 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii
RE: Strong Support for S.B. 3383, SD1 -Relating to Long Term Care

Aloha Chair Marten, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez, and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

AARP strongly supports S.B 3383 SD1 which requires the Executive Office on Aging to contract for a statewide assessment of the needs of the long term care workforce for home and community based service providers.

There is an acute shortage of health care workers in Hawaii. According to the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's Healthcare Workforce Initiative 2022 Report, "there were 3,873 vacancies across Hawaii's direct care health workers, a 76% increase over the 2,200 unfilled positions reported in 2019."¹ Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall health care industry continues to face mounting challenges with the growing demand for care. However, the worker shortage is even more acute with the increasing number of kūpuna needing long term care whether in an institutional setting or in the home. Home health agencies, for example, continue to have the highest percentage (39%) of vacancies as they compete with wages and benefits with larger health care employers.² There is an urgent need to recruit and train more workers in long term care while reinvesting and enhancing the skills of the current health care workforce. Supporting the Executive Office on Aging's efforts to assess the needs of the long term care workforce and provide viable solutions will help Hawai'i address this workforce crisis statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support S.B. 3383, SD1.

¹ HealthCare Association of Hawaii, Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Initiative 2022 Report

² Ibid



Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 9:15 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Human Services

To: Chair Lisa Marten
Vice Chair Terez Amato

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 3383 SD 1, Relating to Long-Term Care

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, Medicare-certified home health agencies, hospices, and assisted living facilities. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** this measure, which would require the Hawaii Executive Office on Aging to complete a statewide assessment of the workforce needs for home- and community-based service (HCBS) providers. The agency would contract with an entity to determine not just the open vacancies, but also identify the types of roles used for HCBS services and the competencies needed to adequately fill those roles. Further, there would need to be recommendations on the expansion or development of training programs, which would be included in any master plan and in a report to the legislature.

Since 2019, HAH has published a similar report on workforce demand based on the needs of our members. HCBS providers are not part of HAH's membership and so a comprehensive view of these needs are not in our report. Completing our biennial survey and report is a monumental, multi-year effort requiring significant staff time, financial investment, and follow-up. Critically, we are only able to secure the necessary data because of the strong response rate by our members with whom we have a close relationship.

We look forward to EOA identifying a lead entity with the knowledge of and relationships with HCBS providers needed for a successful survey. As they undertake this important task, HAH is willing to provide advice to this entity as to how we have conducted our own survey and report so that this information can be available to policy-makers. Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting kupuna in Hawaii.