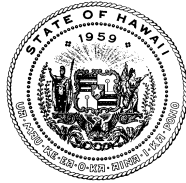




# HCR14

Measure Title:	RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII.
Report Title:	Older Americans Act; Older Americans Month
Description:	
Companion:	<a href="#">SCR4</a>
Package:	Kupuna Caucus
Current Referral:	HSH
Introducer(s):	TAKAYAMA, AQUINO, BELATTI, BROWER, CACHOLA, CREAGAN, ICHiyAMA, ITO, JOHANSON, JORDAN, KAWAKAMI, KEOHOKALOLe, KOBAYASHI, LOWEN, LUKE, MCKELVEY, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, NISHIMOTO, ONISHI, THIELEN, TSUJI, Choy, Hashem, LoPresti, Say, Woodson



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR14**  
**RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT**  
**AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII**

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Hearing Date: April 14, 2015, 1:15pm      Room Number: 016

1    **Office Testimony:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the  
2    Department of Health, is in support of this measure.

3    **Fiscal Implications:** NONE.

4    **Offered Amendments:** The resolution designates the month of May of each year as "Older  
5    Americans Month" in Hawaii in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Older Americans  
6    Act and of all the contributions made by older Americans in the State of Hawaii.

7    2015 marks the golden, 50th anniversary of three of our nation's most important programs for  
8    older adults— Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act. In 1965, Congress passed and  
9    President Johnson signed into law, the Older Americans Act. The original legislation authorized  
10   grants to states for community planning and social services, research and development projects,  
11   and personnel training in the field of aging. It also established the Administration on Aging to  
12   administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the federal focal point on matters  
13   concerning older persons.

14   Today the OAA serves as the major vehicle for the Administration on Community Living to  
15   deliver social and nutrition services to seniors and their caregivers. It authorizes a wide array of  
16   service programs and supports through a national network of 56 State agencies on aging, 629

1 area agencies on aging, nearly 20,000 service providers, 244 Tribal organizations, and 2 Native  
2 Hawaiian organizations.

3 Programs operated under the Act allow older adults to live more independently, in their homes,  
4 or in settings of their choice. For some, it has meant employment, for others opportunities to  
5 volunteer. These programs are administered locally, where people understand better the needs of  
6 local residents. In FFY 2014, 7,509 older adults and family caregivers were served in Hawaii.

7 As one example, funding for the Older Americans Act secures funding for nutrition through  
8 congregate dining and home delivered meals. In FFY2014, 6,040 were provided meals in  
9 Hawaii with the purpose to (1) reduce hunger and food insecurity; (2) promote socialization of  
10 older individuals; and (3) promote the health and well-being of older individuals by assisting  
11 such individuals to gain access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion  
12 services to delay the onset of adverse health conditions resulting from poor nutritional health or  
13 sedentary behavior. The Act also puts in place strong protections against elder abuse by  
14 increasing existing abuse screenings and prevention efforts and provides resources for disease  
15 prevention, senior centers, and family caregiver support.

16 **Recommendation:** From nutrition to evidence-based prevention programs, the Older  
17 Americans Act supports efforts to improve the lives of older Americans. Accordingly, we are in  
18 support of passage of this resolution.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



April 14, 2015

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Re: **HCR 14, RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH” IN HAWAII**

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and members of the committee:

AARP is a membership organization of people fifty and over with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii alone. 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 source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

**AARP Hawaii strongly supports HCR 14, recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the Older Americans Act and designating May as “Older Americans Month” in Hawaii.**

Enacted in 1965, the Older Americans Act (“OAA”) provides essential services to our most vulnerable older adults. Indeed, 1965 was a milestone year as it saw the not only the enactment of the OAA, but also the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. This fiftieth anniversary is a celebration of the great strides that have been taken to support and recognize the myriad accomplishments of older adults, and a reminder of all the work that still needs to be done.

Every state receives OAA funds according to a formula based on the state’s share of the United States population ages 60 and over. The OAA targets services to older adults by helping them “age in place” in their homes and communities as health and function decline.<sup>1</sup>

This national law has had important local impacts. As a result of the OAA, state and area offices were established. It has also established a nationwide “Aging Network” to assist older adults in meeting their physical, social, mental, health and other needs, and also to maintain their well-being and independence.<sup>2</sup> The local impact means actual funds coming in to Hawaii since the

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<sup>1</sup> See The Older Americans Act, AARP Public Policy Institute, Wendy Fox-Grage and Kathleen Ujvari (the “AARP OAA Report”), page 1. [http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public\\_policy\\_institute/health/2014/the-older-americans-act-AARP-ppi-health.pdf](http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/health/2014/the-older-americans-act-AARP-ppi-health.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See Hawaii State Plan on Aging, October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2015, Executive Office on Aging (“Hawaii State Plan”), page 3. <http://health.hawaii.gov/eoa/files/2013/07/Hawaii-State-Plan-On-Aging.pdf>

Administration on Aging awards OAA Title III, IV, and VII funds to the states.<sup>3</sup> Many of these funds are, in turn, allocated to the Area Agencies on Aging. According to information from the Executive Office on Aging, 7,509 older adults and family caregivers were served in Hawaii thanks to OAA funds in the last fiscal year. Specifically, the OAA provided the following funding for Hawaii in fiscal year 2014<sup>4</sup>:

- Meals and Nutrition Services: \$3,631,796
- Supportive Services and Preventive Health: \$1,819,482
- National Family Caregiver Support Program: \$720,651

These OAA programs and funds help seniors live independently by supporting services including Meals-on-Wheels, in-home care, transportation, elder abuse prevention and caregivers who make it possible for seniors to live in their homes. It also helps save federal and state tax dollars by keeping seniors out of costly nursing homes and preventing unnecessary hospital re-admissions.

The importance of these programs is underscored by the fact that Hawaii's population is the oldest in the nation. As our population continues to age, these services will only grow in importance. In 1980, the population of Hawaii residents ages 60 and over was 115,000 (12% of the population). By 2010 that population had grown to 277,000 (21% of the population). By 2035 that number is projected to grow to over 474,400 or almost 30% of Hawaii's population.<sup>5</sup> Over a thirty-year period (1980-2010), the older adult population has increased by approximately 139.8% while the total population increased by only 34.2%.<sup>6</sup>

It is important to remember that as these OAA programs are serving Hawaii's ever-growing population of older adults, Hawaii's older adults are *still serving* everyone else. "The knowledge of our older adults is strongly valued. In fact, Hawaii's older adults are more educated than older adults nationally, with 26% of Hawaii's older adults having a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 22.5% of older adults nationally."<sup>7</sup> And this knowledge is being put to use in the community. 19.8% of Hawaii's adults over the age of 65 volunteered between 2008 and 2010.<sup>8</sup>

We thank Hawaii's older adults for all the contributions they have made and continue to make to our state. This resolution is a fitting way to honor them and we strongly support it.

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<sup>3</sup> See id.

<sup>4</sup> See the AARP OAA Report, page 5.

<sup>5</sup> See Hawaii State Plan, page 13.

<sup>6</sup> See Id.

<sup>7</sup> Executive Office on Aging, Profile of Successful Aging Among Hawaii's Older Adults, page 4.  
[http://www.hawaiiadrc.org/Portals/\\_AgencySite/2013Aging.pdf](http://www.hawaiiadrc.org/Portals/_AgencySite/2013Aging.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> See id.

Representative Suzanne Chun Oakland  
House of Committee Human Services

Re: HCR 14, RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII.

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 1:15pm in Conference Room 016

I am Adora Klinestiver, and I am testifying in favor of HCR 14 to make the month of May the "Older Americans Month" in Hawaii in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act.

With the action of this bill, I believe there will be more recognition of the older generation (60 and above) which is beneficial because I feel it can make the ideal of becoming old not a bad thing. The American view of being old is not favorable in many ways. Some of them include no job security and lacking health services. But this act has already helped older Americans, and specifically, Native Hawaiians, with services that the younger generation are afraid of losing in their future. So, this bill will recognize the older generation whom have made positive progress in their lives from the help of OAA and to show the citizens that there are outlets to help older Americans that the government has aided in.

Therefore, I support HCR 14.

Adora Klinestiver  
2575 Dole Street

Aloha Senator Chun Oakland and Senator Green,

My name is Barbara Service and I live in the 19th Representative District and the 9th Senate District.

As a member of AARP, Kokua Council and HARA, I urge your strong support of HCR14, designating May as Older Americans Month in Hawaii and recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Older Americans Act.

Thanks to the efforts of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, the Older Americans Act was enacted in 1965. Millions of older Americans have been provided services which have helped to keep them out of poverty. The Older Americans Act, which created the State and Area Agencies on Aging, is the primary vehicle for delivery of social and nutrition services to the elderly and their caregivers.

I urge your strong support of HCR14.

Mahalo!

Barbara J. Service

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Housing

Jayde Bumanglag  
Student, MBT School of Social Work  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
(808) 258-4468

RE: SUPPORT for HCR14 RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS  
MONTH" IN HAWAII

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 1:15 PM  
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol 415 South Beritania Street

Aloha Chair Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support for HCR14. My name is Jayde Bumanglag, a student in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I support HCR14 and recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the Older Americans Act and designating May as "Older Americans Month" in Hawaii.

As a social work student, I have studied the Older Americans Act in my social policy course and have had the learning opportunities to analyze this policy. The Older Americans Act has been contributory in providing appropriate social services, medical, nutrition, housing, and employment opportunities to older Americans in our country. As the elderly population continues to grow, social services need to be readily available for them and ensure protection against elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This policy will continue to support vulnerable older adults and elders to enhance their quality of life and well-being. Additionally, this Act will continue to provide support services to families and caregivers as well.

Since the Older Americans Act also provides programs for targeted populations such as Native Hawaiians, I believe it is appropriate to honor the Act and all of the contributions made by older Americans in Hawaii.

Please vote in support of HCR14 and its offered amendments that continue to advocate for policy changes that will promote the well-being of older Americans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.