



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 27, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 537 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Friday, January 27, 2017, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. DHS provides the following comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to DHS to create one (1) full-time permanent civil service program specialist position to oversee the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and the Senior Companion Program (SCP) in Maui County. This position will be placed in the Adult Protective and Community Services Branch (APCSB) of the DHS Social Services Division (SSD).

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and the Senior Companion Program (SCP) have been federally funded by the Federal Corporation for National Community Services (CNCS) with State matching funds for the past 52 years and 50 years respectively. The goal is to afford income eligible seniors age 55 and older with an opportunity to actively age by offering mentorship to exceptional and special needs children and companionship and assistance to frail and isolated older adults.

CNCS provides oversight of the programs and DHS APCSB provides administrative support. Currently, the programs are staffed and positions are funded as follows: of the nine (9) combined staffing of the FGP and SCP, two (2) of the positions are funded 50/50; two (2) are funded 100%

federal; one (1) half-time position in East Hawaii is funded 100% federal; and four (4) are 100% State funded.

Proposed funding for this position for state fiscal year (SFY)18 is 50/50% Federal/State split with a 6 month delay in hiring in the amount of \$30, 505. Funding for SFY19 is in the amount of \$53,972. FGP and SCP will provide 50% federal funding for this position.

FGP mentors and tutors special and exceptional needs children through Head Start Centers, private preschools, elementary through high schools and other youth facilities. FGP provides an opportunity for intergenerational relationships between the children and the FGP volunteers. SCP volunteers provide companionship and support to home-bound seniors, allowing those individuals to continue living independently in their homes for as long as possible. SCP also provides much needed respite and relief to caregivers.

The Maui District Special Education Office reported having 2,148 special education students. All 31 Department of Education Schools in Maui County have students that are in need of additional support based on their special education status. At present, Maui County represents less than 1% of the total program volunteer base for both FGP and SCP. FGP has one (1) active volunteer on Maui despite having 100 volunteers for all other counties combined. SCP maintains a pool of six (6) volunteers on Maui and none on Molokai and Lanai while maintaining 69 volunteers for all other counties combined.

There are approximately 11,000 seniors with chronic conditions living in Maui County who could benefit from receiving services from a Senior Companion. Seniors with chronic conditions, particularly multiple chronic conditions, are the heaviest users of health care services. As the aging population grows, it is expected there will be an increasing need for supportive resources inclusive of services that the Senior Companion Program provides. These supportive resources include companionship, transportation and caregiver respite.

The recruitment and training of volunteers and community partners in Maui County requires a physical presence in the county. Having a program specialist position based on Maui Island will also assist with the retention of these volunteers and serve to promote senior volunteerism throughout the county. Civic engagement has been shown to prolong a senior's life span by approximately ten (10) years, increases their independence, and increases their sense of purpose and well-being, thus allowing the senior to remain active and healthy. The Hawaii Health Survey 2012 of the Department

of Health indicates that of the 60+ population on Maui, 9.4% or 2,745 people, are at the below poverty or near poverty income level based on U.S. Department Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. These seniors are an untapped resource from which FGP and SCP can recruit and train volunteers to serve as role models in their communities.

Maui County's special and exceptional needs children and frail seniors will benefit from the services provided by both FGP and SCP. While the programs are federally mandated to provide services statewide, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai have been underserved. The establishment of a permanent civil service program specialist position based on the island of Maui is essential to fulfilling the federal grant requirements of serving all communities statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 1:07 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB537 on Jan 27, 2017 14:45PM

SB537

Submitted on: 1/24/2017

Testimony for HMS on Jan 27, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Camila Chaudron, I am a constituent from the Manoa/Makiki area and I strongly support this bill. I believe that we as a society need to do more to protect and provide for our elderly, especially in the more remote areas of our state. Please vote yes to this bill. Mahalo.

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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January 26, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Human Services, Senator Josh Green, Chair

RE: **SB 537** Relating to Human Services

Hearing Date: January 27, 2017

Most Honorable Chair Green and Committee Members:

I support this measure to fund the Office of Long Term Care Ombudsman to create one full-time program specialist position within the adult protective and community services branch for the programs in Maui County.

Currently, the Long Term Care Office has one Ombudsman to handle the needs of a population of the entire State of Hawaii. Usually a need is an immediate need for advocacy and assistance. To best serve our kupuna, an additional staff member is necessary to address the needs of Maui and all the islands. One person on Oahu is not sufficient.

I ask you to support this measure – SB 537 - and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the seniors who are too frail and vulnerable to write or call out for their needs.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah
Honolulu Resident

SB537

Submitted on: 1/26/2017

Testimony for HMS on Jan 27, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LINDA DORSET	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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My name is Linda Dorset

I see the Foster Grandparent Program as a win-win program. On the one hand it benefits the senior participant with providing a little extra money to a person in an income category that they will be just "scraping by" to make a living. On the other hand it benefits the children that person works with providing love and life experience, sometimes to children who get those benefits no other way.

Therefore, we need someone in a position to provide continuity to ensure the smooth running of this program. Please consider this small appropriation for such an important work.