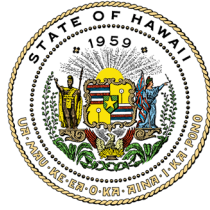


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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STATE OF HAWAII
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2102 SD2 HD1 Proposed
Relating to the Executive Office on Aging**

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

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
REPRESENTATIVE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE NADINE K. NAKAMURA, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: March 13, 2020
10:05 a.m.

Room Number: 329

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health, provides comments on SB2102, SD2, HD1 Proposed.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure “allocates moneys from any of the funds specified under the
4 March 4, 2020 emergency proclamation issued by Governor David Y. Ige to fund sanitation
5 protocols under this Act”.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The proposed purpose of this bill is to:

7 a) establish precautions to protect Hawaii's elderly from the risks of COVID-19 by
8 requiring the Executive Office on Aging and all agencies and nonprofit organizations that
9 receive funding through the Executive Office on Aging to establish sanitation protocols

1 for caregivers prior to and upon entering a long term care facility and prior to and upon
2 contact with patients in these facilities and

3 b) the Executive Director of the Executive Office on Aging shall make a request to the
4 Governor no later than April 29, 2020, to allocate moneys from any of the funds specified
5 under the proclamation issued by Governor David Y. Ige on March 4, 2020 to fund the
6 sanitation protocols required under this Act.

7 The Executive Office on Aging feels that this proposed purpose, though well intended, is not
8 necessary. EOA has been working with the four county Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) who
9 contract with local non-profit agencies statewide for long-term services and supports to inventory
10 these providers to ensure that infection controls protocols are in place. One AAA has developed
11 Mitigation Plans that include sanitation and infection control measures for their Aging and
12 Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and for their service providers. EOA has received guidance
13 from our national organization like the Administration for Community Living and have
14 disseminated this vital information to the AAAs. EOA participated in a national conference
15 hosted by ADvancing States on the COVID-19 virus on March 9, 2020. ADvancing States is an
16 organization for directors of the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and
17 disabilities and long-term services and supports. Areas of concern regarding COVID-19 included
18 in part:

- 19 a. Concerns regarding social service agencies that are going into consumers' homes.
20 Waiving of required face-to-face interactions with consumers. EOA has amended
21 business processes to ensure the health and safety of program participants and staff.

- 1 b. Discussions about suspending the strict nutritional guidelines for home-delivered meals
2 and congregate dining in light of COVID-19. EOA has been working with the AAAs to
3 continue providing meals to kupuna during a shelter in place situation. Also, the EOA has
4 been working with the AAA to provide for emergency meals to kupuna.
- 5 c. Discussions regarding suspending programming at senior centers, adult day health, and
6 adult day care centers.
- 7 d. Discussion as to whether the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) and volunteers
8 continue to go into nursing facilities. EOA has met with the LTCO to establish
9 contingency plans for residents in facilities to have access to the LTCO.

10 Finally, as an example of the heightened community awareness by adult day care providers,
11 EOA reached out to Kathy Wyatt of the Hale Hau'oli Hawai'i Adult Day Center to ask about
12 COVID-19 protocols in the Center. She stated:

13 "Hale Hau'oli has a station set up at the entrance door. Staff, family members, and clients
14 have their temperature taken before they enter. Hand wipes are given to them at that time.
15 We are monitoring hand washing when the clients go to the bathroom, using hand wipes
16 before activities, lunch, and exercise. Afternoon activities start with handwipes again.
17 Families are asked to keep their kupuna home if they have a fever, cough, or any signs of
18 a cold. We are considering HEPA filters for the future but will monitor what we have in
19 place now. Most of my colleagues have been exchanging ideas and most are doing the
20 same as I am. We have signs posted about our precautions and our families really
21 appreciate our efforts."

1 EOA has taken COVID-19 very seriously. We have been transparent in sharing information with
2 our network of providers and stakeholders. EOA has already provided guidance to our AAAs to
3 separate out any costs associated with COVID-19 in the event it is later identified as a
4 reimbursable expense under the Governor’s Executive Order or State of Emergency.

5 **Recommendation:** The Executive Office on Aging humbly requests that the original intent and
6 language of SB2102 SD2, “to establish and fill one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position of
7 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator within the executive office on
8 aging” be reinstated. The Executive Office on Aging will continue to work with its network to
9 provide timely information regarding COVID-19 and maintain communication and oversight of
10 the AAAs to ensure that appropriate precautions and protocols are in place to protect the health,
11 safety, and well-being of kupuna, employees, and visitors.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2102-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 12:03:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/13/2020 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Yuan	Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs	Comments	No

Comments:

The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs 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 its behalf.

PABEA appreciates the intent of the proposed bill SB2102 SD2 which is to increase the protection for vulnerable seniors in nursing homes against the threat of the COVID-19. However, given the CMS's March 9 detailed guidelines for nursing homes, the proposed SB2102 SD2 is not needed.

EOA has been working closely with AAAs and service providers to quickly develop and implement program-specific adjustments to senior services, such as Kupuna Care, Kupuna Caregivers, and ADRC, etc. EOA has also provided guidance to AAAs to separate out any cost associated with COVID-19, which may be reimbursable under the State of Emergency.

We request that the original intent and language of SB2102 SD2, "to establish and fill one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator within the executive office on aging" be reinstated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Rob Van Tassell, President and CEO

DATE: Friday, March 13, 2020 (10:05 a.m., Room 329)

RE: **COMMENTS on SB2102, SD2, Proposed HD1,
Relating to the Executive Office on Aging**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing supportive home and community-based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves over 4,000 older persons each year.

CCH requests that the language from SD2 be reinstated.

CCH's Hawaii Circle of Care for Dementia is a federally funded project to provide dementia caregiver training and supportive services for individuals living alone with dementia. This project is just one of multiple initiatives in Hawaii meant to address the significant impact of Alzheimer's in Hawaii, where it is estimated that there are currently 29,000 persons age 65+ in Hawaii with Alzheimer's and this number is expected to increase by 20.7% by the year 2025.ⁱ

CCH supports the funding of one full-time equivalent position of an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator with the Executive Office on Aging, which was the original intent of SB2102. The position is critical as momentum is building to address the needs of individuals with dementia and their caregivers, to increase awareness of the important of brain health, and to encourage early detection and screening.

The intent of the proposed HD1 to "establish certain sanitation protocols for caregivers in long-term care facilities", would address a valid concern, given the extreme vulnerability of elders in institutional settings. However, EOA and kupuna care and kupuna caregiver provider agencies may not be the appropriate entities to do this. Kupuna care and kupuna caregiver services are focused on in-home and community based services with the goal of preventing institutionalization in long term care facilities for as long as possible.

CCH is a Kupuna Care provider of Transportation Services for elders. We have been in contact with other Kupuna Care providers, as well as other transportation providers, to learn from one another about how to ensure the safety of our elderly clients and our staff during the current



COVID-19 crisis. CCH, and the providers we have been in contact with, are all taking steps to provide information and guidance to our staff, volunteers, elderly clients and their caregivers, and establishing extra precautionary sanitation protocol within our programs to provide the safest service delivery conditions possible.

Catholic Charities Hawai`i asks for your support to reinstate the SD2 version of SB2102. For more information or questions, please feel free to contact Diane Terada, Division Administrator via email at diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org or via phone, 527-4702.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

SB-2102-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 8:50:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/13/2020 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sheldon lehman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

alzheimer's  association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

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LATE

March 13, 2020

Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329, 10:05 A.M.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB2102 SD1 RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING

Dear Chair John M. Mizuno and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter I am pleased to extend our **strong support** for Senate Bill 2102 Senate Draft 2. This measure amends Act 127, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, which appropriates funds for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Services Coordinator position within the Executive Office on Aging. This important legislation corrects a small error in the Session Laws of Hawaii 2019 to enable the release of funding for this critically important position.

The position of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Coordinator was established within the Executive Office on Aging by Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. That same year, the State of Hawaii recognized the public health crisis of Alzheimer's Disease and developed Hawaii 2025: State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. Unfortunately, while the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Services Coordinator position remains unfilled, insufficient progress is being made towards adopting the recommendations and strategies.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and is now the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Here in Hawaii, more than 29,000 individuals live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Additionally, there has been a 294% increase in Alzheimer's deaths in Hawaii since the year 2000. This position would help Hawaii to become dementia capable by coordinating efforts to adopt the recommendations and strategies of Hawaii 2025: State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this legislation and applaud your leadership in bringing it forward.

Ian Ross
Public Policy and Advocacy Manager
iaross@alz.org | Phone: (808) 591-2771 x1333