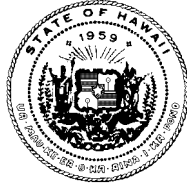


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 19, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 531 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Hearing: February 21, 2020, 10:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the proposed bill.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of SB 531 SD1 is to provide an additional mechanism to protect vulnerable adults against financial exploitation by making the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult by a caregiver a class A felony.

In 2019, financial exploitation accounted for approximately 17% of vulnerable adult abuse reports registered by Adult Protective Services (APS). DHS supports this bill to provide for criminal penalties for caregivers who financially exploit vulnerable adults under their care and supervision, and for whom the caregiver had accepted responsibility to provide services to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the vulnerable adult.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

**LATE**



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**Unite**  
for  
**Good**

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016  
In Support of SB 531, Relating to Health

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Credit Union League, the local trade association for 51 Hawaii credit unions, representing over 800,000 credit union members across the state. We offer the following testimony in support of SB 531, Relating to Health.

This bill would make financial exploitation of an elder a Class A felony. Unfortunately, financial elder abuse is a crime that occurs often, and is often difficult to uncover. Hawaii's kupuna would definitely benefit from the strengthening of this law. Hawaii's credit unions have long worked with law enforcement to investigate and prosecute these types of crimes. With our elder population growing, this bill will help protect our elderly members and their assets.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

**SB-531-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 9:03:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB531. Elder abuse is widespread. This legislation should help protect those among our most vulnerable members of society.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihej, Maui

**LATE**

**SB-531-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 6:54:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

02-21-20

RE: SB531, SD1

As a Priest and Social Worker, I am in strong support of this Bill, that makes the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult by a Caregiver a Class A Felony. From my perspective, this type of exploitation is particularly egregious.

Mahalo

John A H Tomoso+, MSW

51 Ku'ula Street, Kahului, HI 96732-2906

CC: PABEA Legislative Comm.

**LATE**

**SB-531-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 9:52:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/21/2020 10:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments: