

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on HB0614
RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION

REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 8, 2017

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** We appreciate the intent of HB0614, and defer to the Governor's
- 2 Executive Budget request for the Department of Health's (DOH) appropriations and personnel
- 3 priorities. HB0614 requests \$95,000 of general funds for a fall prevention and early detection
- 4 coordinator position.
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health recognizes the significance of falls among
- 6 older adults. Falls and fall related injuries among older adults impose an enormous burden on
- 7 individuals, society, and Hawaii's health care system. Among adults 65 years of age and older,
- 8 falls are by far the leading cause of injury-related deaths (46% of the total), hospitalizations
- 9 (83%), and EMS attended injuries among older adults (81%). Direct medical charges for fall and
- 10 fall-related injuries among older adults amount to nearly \$100.6 million annually, an amount
- 11 that is easily doubled if we include the costs of rehabilitation and long term care. Falls impact
- 12 the quality of life and independence of older adults. Over half of those hospitalized from a fall
- 13 are discharged to a nursing facility or rehabilitation center and many never regain full

1 independence. The “Hawaii Special Emphasis Report: Fall Injuries Among Older Adults, 2011-
2 2015,” provides a detailed report on the impact of falls on Hawaii residents 65 years and older.

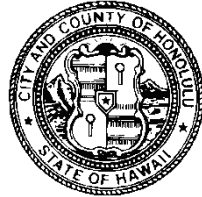
3 Falls are not an inevitable part of aging and can be prevented. The Department is
4 committed to addressing this critical public health issue and has already taken steps to address
5 fall injuries among older adults with the resources we have. These efforts include working with
6 the Hawaii Fall Prevention Consortium and other stakeholders to implement and evaluate
7 evidence-based programs and practices for reducing falls among older adults prioritized in the
8 “Hawaii Falls Prevention State Plan, 2013-2018.”

9 Considering the magnitude of falls among older adults and the anticipated increase in this
10 age group in the next 20 years to over 18% of Hawaii’s population, funding for the established
11 position proposed in this bill will enable the Department of Health to have the dedicated
12 resources to continue to support and build a coordinated state-wide approach for preventing falls
13 and supporting healthy aging among older adults.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

GARY K. NAKATA
DIRECTOR

GAIL KAITO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO: THE HONORABLE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE CHRIS TODD, VICE CHAIR
AND THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON HUMAN SERVICES

THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

FROM: NALANI AKI, COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON AGING
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HB 614, RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION

The Elderly Affairs Division (EAD) is Honolulu's designated Area Agency on Aging and operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. We also serve as the designated Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for Honolulu.

This bill includes funding for important programs that support the needs of the increasing population of elderly residents in Hawaii. The funding included in this bill is essential to maintain the health and welfare of our most vulnerable seniors and their caregivers. We strongly support funding for HB 614.

Falls are among the leading causes of hospitalization and severe injury among the elderly. This oftentimes preventable occurrence can seriously affect the quality of life for the elderly individual and also impacts healthcare costs for the community at large. When family members call our Senior Helpline, they often share stories about how their loved ones may have fallen and require additional assistance as a result of that fall. For many people, falls late in life can create challenges with completing daily activities independently long into the future.

The funds being requested will allow for the further development of fall prevention programs statewide. Through the efforts of the Department of Health, Injury Prevention Systems Branch and the Fall Prevention Consortium, efforts have been made to conduct balance screenings, perform medication reviews, and provide increased community awareness. However, more is needed to address this growing issue within the community.

TO: THE HONORABLE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE CHRIS TODD, VICE CHAIR
AND THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON HUMAN SERVICES

THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

February 6, 2017

Page 2

We urge the committees on Human Services and on Health to support funding for a full time coordinator for increasing programs and services directed towards fall prevention. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:08 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: deborah.stone-walls@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB614 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

HB614

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Stone-Walls	Maui County Office on Aging	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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The House
Committee on Human Services
Committee on Health
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

To: Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Della Belatti, Chair

RE: **HB 614 RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION**

I am Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with more than 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates and provides information on issues that matter to our kupuna and their families, including affordable, accessible, quality healthcare, financial resiliency, and livable communities.

HB 614 appropriates \$95,000 for the full time fall prevention and early detection coordinator position.

AARP Hawaii **strongly supports** HB 614.

According to Hawaii Department of Health Report on Falls Injuries among Older Adults (2011-2015), falls are the leading cause of injuries among Hawaii residents age 65 and older which resulted in 7,251 emergency room visits, 1,907 hospitalizations and 101 deaths. The associated costs with fall injuries among this age group are estimated to be over \$181 million annually.¹ A focal program to reduce and promptly detect falls especially among the elderly is needed. This bill provides the appropriation for a full time coordinator to oversee and coordinate a statewide approach.

We support that the fall prevention and early detection coordinator position be funded.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

¹ Hawaii Special Emphasis Report: Fall Injuries among Older Adults 2011-2015, Hawaii Department of Health



HAWAII CHAPTER - AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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**HB 614, Relating to Fall Prevention
House HUS/HLT Committee Hearing
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017 – 9:00 am
Room 329
Position: Support**

Chairs Morikawa and Belatti and Members of the Joint HUS/HLT Committee:

I am Gregg Pacilio, PT and Board President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA), a non-profit professional organization serving more than 300 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Our members are employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are movement specialists and are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

According to the CDC, more than one third of adults 65 and older fall each year in the United States and 20% to 30% of people who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries. Physical therapists can help in risk reduction and prevention of falls.

Physical therapists are integrated in the current Hawaii Injury Prevention plan created by the Department of Health- Injury Prevention and Control Section (IPCS), in regards to fall prevention awareness and wellness programs throughout the islands of Hawaii.

The plan has already implemented evidence-based practices with physical therapists including: 1. safe home assessments to reduce fall risks, 2. community fall prevention screening, 3. community education sessions on strategies for fall prevention and exercises.

HAPTA is supportive of efforts that the DOH have made in raising awareness in the community for fall prevention and look forward to future collaborations with them.

Your support of HB614 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact Joanne Ishikawa, HAPTA's Legislative Chair at 808-221-4001 for further information.



February 8, 2017

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair of House Committee on Human Services
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair of House Committee on Health
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Committee Chairs and Members of the respective Committees on Human Services and Health

Subject: **Support for HB 614**

The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee strongly supports HB 614. This bill appropriates funds for the fall prevention and early detection coordinator position established by Act 153.

Established in 1990, the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injuries in Hawai'i. The IPAC membership include representatives from public and private agencies, physicians and professionals working together to address the eight leading areas of injury, including fall prevention among older adults.

Fall prevention is essential for maintaining quality of life and keeping our kupuna at home. Falls are the main cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and EMS attended injuries among adults 65 years and older. Every week in Hawaii, there is an average of 140 emergency department visits, plus 37 hospitalizations, and 2 deaths due to fall injuries among Hawaii residents 65 and older.

A fall prevention and early detection coordinator is necessary for coordinating statewide efforts, and together with the Fall Prevention Consortium, implementing and evaluating programs and policies that are based on the best available evidence to prevent and reduce the severity of falls among older adults.

We urge you to pass HB 614 because this measure will save lives and help to maintain the health and independence of our senior population.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Sincerely,

Deborah Goebert
Chair
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee

TO: Honorable Rep. Dee Morikawa – Chair
Honorable Rep. Chris Todd – Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Human Service

Honorable Rep. Della Au Belatti – Chair
Honorable Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi – Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017

TIME: 9:00 am

PLACE: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of HB 614, Relating to Fall Prevention

Chairs Morikawa and Au Belatti and members of the Committees on Human Services and Health

Project Dana, a non-profit volunteers caregivers program, is in strong support of HB 614 Relating to Fall Prevention.

There is an ever increasing number of falls occurring by older adults each year. Many may not recover fully. 85 seniors die on the average each year, close to 2,000 are hospitalized and an alarming number of 8,700 are treated in emergency rooms.

Falls are preventable and Hawaii's community needs to be more informed and made aware of this critical issue.

Please support HB 614 to establish a fall prevention and early detection coordinator position.

Thank you very much,

Rose Nakamura
Administrator, Project Dana

Mike Hirano
Home Safety Coordinator, Project Dana

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 1:35 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB614 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

HB614

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 11:39 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: david@kingdonconsulting.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB614 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

HB614

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kingdon, MPH, Paramedic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 9:21 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: csmorimoto@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB614 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

HB614

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:01 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: alohagirl777@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB614 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM*

HB614

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS/HLT on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ailina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TO: House Committee on Human Services, Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Health, Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 9 am
RE: HB614 RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION

To Chair Morikawa, Chair Bellati and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in support HB614, appropriation for the fall prevention and early detection coordinator. My name is Paul Nishimura and I am a 59 year old resident of Waipahu. It is important that we do all we can to prevent falls among the elderly rather than deal with the resulting hospital stays and loss of mobility and quality of life the results from it.

A program that organizes all the State's injury prevention and detection resources is required to make the best use of limited funding and manpower. We must ensure that our kupuna have the tools they need to stay healthy. Those who care for them will also have some peace of mind with the knowledge they gain from this program.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Paul Nishimura
Waipahu

Joint Committees: House Committee on Human Services, and
Committee on Health

Chairs: Rep Dee Morikawa, Chair and Rep Della Belatti, Chair

Date: Feb 8, 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Room 329

RE: HB 614 Relating to Fall Prevention

Chair Morikawa, Chair Belatti and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in
STRONG SUPPORT of HB 614 Relating to Fall Prevention.

My name is Geoffrey Casburn and I am a retired Civil Engineer.
My wife and I live in Hilo and we are former in-home caregivers.

A strong fall prevention program at the state level would address
the tragic loss of mobility to our seniors resulting from falls. In
our family we have experienced a serious concussion, leg and
ankle injuries and permanent loss of mobility for one auntie due
to a broken hip. Prevention is the key!

Thank you,

Geoffrey Casburn
District of Hilo

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, Chair Belatti and Vice Chair Kobayashi and committee members.

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. I am a member of AARP, Kokua Council, the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans and the Legislative Committee of PABEA.

I'm testifying in strong support of HB614, an appropriation to The Department of Health to fund a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position.

Falls are among the leading causes of hospitalization and severe injury among the elderly. Many of those who fall never regain their previous quality- of- life. In 2014, (the latest figures available), it was reported that, in Hawaii, 85 seniors die, 1960 are hospitalized and 8700 are treated in emergency rooms every year. The cost is \$120,000,000 in hospital and physician charges.

Hawaii has more per capita seniors than any other state and the number is increasing rapidly, so this need will continue to grow.

Please support funding a Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

LATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Human Services

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Committee on Health

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Wednesday, February 8, 2017; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 614
RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** H.B. 614, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Health for a full-time equivalent Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator position established by Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2014.

When the elderly fall, the consequences are often catastrophic. Kupuna have weaker bones, and a fall usually means a break that requires hospitalization and rehabilitation. Falls are costly, not only financially but psychologically and emotionally. A fall can mean loss of independence and drastic changes to a person's lifestyle and quality of life.

Thus, fall prevention would seem to be a logical public health option. Indeed, programs already do exist to assist the elderly and their families to ensure that falls may be avoided. For example, Project Dana has a home safety program where professionals inspect the home for potential hazards and recommend remedies. But a coordinated effort is needed to reach a broader cross-section of the public and larger numbers of people.

H.B. 614 proposes a nominal appropriation to address this vitally important and needed program. A \$95,000 appropriation could help to save thousands of dollars more by preventing falls and the resulting medical services and inpatient admissions. We believe more money is needed, but the \$95,000 is a start and will be money well spent.

The ILWU strongly urges passage of H.B. 614. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.