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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

HCR34/HR35

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE ADEQUACY OF ELDER CARE ON MOLOKAI AND LANAI, AND IN EAST MAUI.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Health & Homelessness

Thursday, March 23, 2023, 10:40 a.m.
Room 329 & Via Videoconference

Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

Good morning, Chair Belatti and members of the Committee. My name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau (Bureau). Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written **comments** on H.C.R. No. 34/H.R. No. 35, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct a Study on the Adequacy of Elder Care on Molokai and Lanai, and In East Maui.

The purpose of this measure is to request the Bureau to conduct a study on the adequacy of elder care on the islands of Molokai and Lanai, and in East Maui.

The measure also requests the Bureau, in conducting the study, to include an investigation on how to quickly provide and finance, taking into consideration best practices, long-term care, including long term care services and supports in skilled nursing facilities, adult residential care homes, assisted living facilities, and elder care at home, for elderly individuals living on Molokai and Lanai, and in East Maui.

The measure further requests the Bureau to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure but has very serious concerns about our ability to perform the study as requested. We submit the following comments for your consideration.

As a general matter, the Bureau notes that it lacks the subject matter expertise to conduct this study. We do not presently have any staff on board with any knowledge of, expertise in, or experience with elder care or long-term care, including long-term care services and supports in skilled nursing facilities, adult residential care homes, assisted living facilities, or elder care at home, or with issues related to best practices in providing such services and supports and how to best finance them.

Consequently, the Bureau would have to contract the services of experts to meet the measure's objectives. However, the Bureau's budget does not contain any moneys to contract such services or for travel and lodging expenses that may be incurred for visits to the islands of Molokai and Lanai. Accordingly, the Bureau would require additional funding sufficient to cover the contracted study services. We further note that as we are required to adhere to the State Procurement Code in contracting these services, the present timeframe proposed in the measure is insufficient. It is highly improbable that the Bureau will be able to scope such an undertaking, craft a Request for Proposals, select a contractor, and receive and approve the contractor's work product and deliver it to the Legislature within the limited timeframe provided in the measure.

Rather than having the Bureau conduct the study through the contracting of services of subject matter experts, the Bureau respectfully suggests that the measure be amended to request that an agency with inherent subject matter expertise on these issues, such as the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), conduct the study. As the EOA is the designated lead agency in the coordination of a statewide system of aging and caregiver support services in the State, it would appear that the EOA would be the more appropriate agency for this task.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
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March 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Belatti and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HCR34-HR35

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports HCR34/HR35**, which requests the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the adequacy of elder care on Molokai and Lanai, and in East Maui.

A focus of our Council is on improving aging services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). As health care technology and services have improved, individuals with I/DD are living longer, their lifespans are close or equal to those individuals without I/DD. However, evidence has shown that aging programs at both the State and Federal levels have not been prepared to provide comprehensive and appropriate services to the I/DD population. We were awarded a Bridging I/DD and Aging grant that brings together agencies to give our State the opportunity to develop best practices, systems change, policy change, and other changes that can be replicated across the country to enhance and improve aging services for individuals with I/DD. We have struggled finding data and stories of lived experiences on the adequacy of elder care in the rural areas of our State.

In conjunction with our grant the Council supports this effort to study the care that our kupuna are receiving on Molokai, Lanai, and East Maui. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of HCR34/HR35**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Daintry Bartoldus'.

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

HCR-34

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 5:54:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 3/23/2023 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney-Paige DiMaggio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am a registered nurse on Moloka‘i. I work in the community and have worked with many kupuna and their families. I am a team member of the Molokai Interdisciplinary Team. The Molokai Interdisciplinary Team is comprised of the entities/programs that provide care to kupuna, including Molokai General Hospital, Molokai Community Health Center, and Na Puuwai. This team has come to the table as a United front to plan in obtaining a long term care facility. We currently have no long term care beds or a long term care facility. Moloka'i currently has one care home that it's at its capacity. The goal is to have kupuna age in place. Kupuna are aging in place but they are also dying in place. Kupuna are not necessarily aging in place with dignity and they are not aging in place safely.

We have an increase in people who are moving to Moloka'i that are not from Moloka'i and not from Hawai'i. We are already a medically underserved, medically fragile community now you add in this new wave of new comers into the mix. The new comers are older and come here with their adult children living on the continent. They end up needing care too.

We are in dire need of a needs assessment to be conducted that is specifically focused in each island. Moloka'i and Lāna'is demographics become lost under Maui County's demographics. These assessments need to be island specific and not grouped under Maui County.

Families are doing their best at caring for their kupuna, kupuna are doing their best to age in place without family support. Eventually families experience burn out and kupuna living alone are needing assistance.

A thorough needs assessment be conducted to include identifying how many kupuna needed to be placed off island in a long term care facility, how many kupuna needed to stay off island for SNF, how many kupuna needed adult protective services to be involved.

Me ka ‘oia ‘i‘o,

Courtney-Paige K. DiMaggio

HCR-34

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 8:29:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/23/2023 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelseamay Pupuhi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a registered nurse on the island of Molokai. I am in total support of this measure. A needs assessment is sorely needed to provide accurate data focused on the needs of our rural community. Each island has very unique needs. We need data that reflects our individual needs. I am apart of the Molokai Kupuna Interdisciplinary team. Our team is comprised of community partners with the goal of providing our Kupuna and the rest of the community with quality care and health equity. We are focusing on a long-term care facility for our elders. Our elder population is growing significantly. Most of our Kupuna would like to remain on our island. It very heartbreaking to send our loved ones to different islands because we do not have options for elder care on Molokai.

Mahalo,

HCR-34

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 8:51:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 3/23/2023 10:40:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louise L.inker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Elder population is quite high and increasing as newcomers move to Molokai because it's PARADISE! But little do they realize there is no facility to allow the Elder to age gracefully in a Facility for the Elders. We need a Long Term Care Facility for Molokai, desperately. This bill will initiate a feasibility study on Molokai.

We have initiated the forming of an InterDisciplinary Team (IDT) made up of agencies who work with the Elderly, on Molokai. Our goal is to have a Long Term Care Facility on Molokai.

Please support our Molokai. Mahalo.