

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
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Joint Committee on Health and Human Services

**HCR 24, EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR THE HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE TO
REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING BARRIERS
TO AGING IN PLACE AND FACILITATING MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING.**

**Testimony of Wes Lum
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

Friday, April 1, 2011

10:30 a.m.

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The Home for Life Task Force is critical in addressing aging in place
4 and long-term care issues (such as home modifications, universal design principles, training
5 professionals to analyze and recommend structural modifications, and building and zoning codes)
6 to ensure that persons of all ages with disabilities are able to receive quality and appropriate care
7 in their homes.

8 The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) was not originally named to be a member of the
9 Task Force. Should there be a vacancy, EOA would appreciate the opportunity to serve as an
10 official Task Force member. We note, however, that EOA is committed to the work of this Task
11 Force and we look forward to fully participating regardless of a formal invitation.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 1, 2011

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

House Concurrent Resolution 24 – Extending the Deadline for the Home for Life Task Force to Report its Findings and Recommendations for Reducing Barriers to Aging in Place and Facilitating Multigenerational Living

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Concurrent Resolution 24 Extending the Deadline for the Home for Life Task Force to Report its Findings and Recommendations for Reducing Barriers to Aging in Place and Facilitating Multigenerational Living.

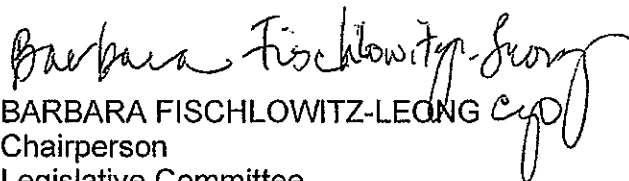
DCAB participated extensively on the Task Force and co-chaired the Task Force with a representative from Chaminade University's Interior Design Program.

DCAB's primary role in the arena of accessible design is to ensure compliance to the Americans with Disabilities Act of government buildings, facilities, and sites, and as well as public accommodations. However, we recognize that where a person lives (i.e., his or her own home) often is a more critical factor for a person with a disability to being able to live in the community in lieu of more costly institutional care.

We understand that the Task Force is submitting a summary and thus we defer to them on the content of the resolution. However, we support continuation of the Task Force for an additional year to complete its work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,


BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee


FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

March 31, 2011

TO: Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, Committee on Health

Representative Dee Morikawa
Vice Chair, Committee on Health

Representative John M. Mizuno
Chair, Committee on Human Services

Representative Jo Jordan
Vice Chair, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Representative Marilyn Lee

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HCR 24

I am in support of HCR 24. This is a very important resolution that will allow the Home for Life Task Force adequate time to thoroughly research, analyze, and finalize a report with an extended deadline. This resolution is part of the Legislative program of the Kupuna Caucus and the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place. The original resolution which approved the Home for Life Task Force was passed last year.

I urge the members of the committees to support this resolution.

HOME FOR LIFE

T A S K F O R C E

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April 1, 2011

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Re: House Concurrent Resolution 24 - Extending the Deadline for the Home for Life Task Force to Report its Findings and Recommendations for Reducing Barriers to Aging in Place and Facilitating Multigenerational Living.

Dear Chair Yamane and Chair Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Health and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 24. The Home for Life Task Force was created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 7, SD1 (2009) and amended in 2010 (HCR 13). Its purpose was to “reduce barriers to aging in place and to facilitate multigenerational living.” An additional purpose was to encourage the use of universal design principles in new construction and renovated housing.

In order to more effectively accomplish its goals, the Task Force members divided into four Working Groups: Home Modifications for Accessible Living; Universal Design; Assessing At-Risk Persons and Environments; and Codes and Laws.

The Home for Life Task Force prepared an Interim Report to the Twenty-Sixth Legislature in January 2011 with the following preliminary recommendations:

Overall Functioning of the Task Force

- Seek a Legislative Resolution to extend the life of the Task Force to June 30, 2012 to allow more time to complete its activities.
- Add representatives from the four Counties who can provide input on land use, planning, and zoning issues.
- Expand the preliminary research of the Working Groups, especially the focus groups on home modifications, to be statewide. Preliminary information was gathered primarily from Oahu due to the limited time frame. Ask the Area Agencies on Aging on the Neighbor Islands to assist in carrying out this recommendation.

Information Dissemination and Education

- Develop an online resource tool which Hawaii residents can use to find appropriate local information. Explore using the Aging and Disability Resource Center under the Executive Office on Aging and its website as the preferred option with components

to include information on products, suppliers, professionals, and best practices in universal design in residential settings, thereby using an existing structure instead of 'reinventing the wheel.' Seek additional funding for the Aging and Disability Resource Center, so that assessment tools and resources for home modification can be housed in one resource location.

- Develop an interdisciplinary course that brings together the appropriate professionals/experts to train architects, designers, builders, developers, draftsmen in Universal Design principles, the value of implementing the Universal Design principles and the positive impact on the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of an individual and/or family.

Additional Research

- Investigate existing model programs (national and international) that support encourage and provide incentives to design universally thereby inspiring consumers and developers to engage in well-designed, quality environments.
- Investigate ways of educating people on the need to renovate their home to be more accessible prior, rather than waiting for, the need to arise.
- Research what Neighbor Island Zoning Codes permit as far as multigenerational homes and see if there is a trade-off in new subdivisions for increased lot size or number of lots. Explore options for zoning of Accessory Dwelling Units in lieu of more restrictive Ohana Dwelling Units.
- Explore public policies for builders to incentivize the construction of aging in place, multigenerational, visitable, or accessible homes. Possible incentives may be tax credits for developers through density bonuses, increased lot size or other credits.
- Explore efforts in other jurisdictions to provide support for families through providing tax deductions on personal income tax returns for construction or providing no or low interest loans or offer grants to those in need.
- Explore sources of funding to help seniors and persons with disabilities implement the preliminary recommendations of the Task Force.

The Task Force respectfully requests authorization to continue its work until June 30, 2012. We also wish to acknowledge the support of Senator Ihara's staff in assisting with the logistics of the Task Force to-date.

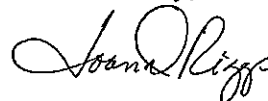
Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,



Francine Wai
Co-Chair

Sincerely,



Joan Riggs
Co-Chair

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:39 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR24 on 4/1/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT/HUS 4/1/2011 10:30:00 AM HCR24

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer, Ph.D
Organization: Home for Life Task Force
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/30/2011

Comments:
Chairs Yamane and Mizuno and Committee Members:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am an appointed member of the Home for Life Task Force, and am testifying in strong support of HCR 24. For reasons outlined in the Resolution, the Task Force, while authorized in 2009, did not officially convene until June 2010.

Also, please note that the authorizing Resolution was very detailed, and contained many responsibilities for the task force members, all of whom are volunteers, with no budget or staff. Under these circumstances, the Task Force has made significant progress, through its four working groups, which have each taken on specific tasks. Also, the Task Force held seven general meetings between June 2010 and January 2011, and submitted an Interim Report to the Legislature in January 2011. This report described the activities of the working groups and contained preliminary recommendations for your consideration.

That said, a great deal more remains to be done by this volunteer body, and an extension of the life of the Task Force until June 2012 is urgently needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 24.

BIA-HAWAII
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

April 1, 2011

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Committee on Health
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Committee on Human Services
State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HCR 24 Extending the Deadline for the Home For Life Task Force to Report its Findings

Dear Chairs Yamane and Mizuno:

For the last year, I have served as BIA-Hawaii's representative on the Home For Life Task Force as an official entity. We had assembled prior to the official status of the Task Force as individuals from various organizations who wanted to find ways to help our elderly and disabled residents remain in their homes. It became clear early on that home modifications would be necessary to accomplish this goal and many professionals from the building industry came forth to offer their expertise in this area.

The Home For Life Task Force is one of the most dedicated group of participants in any task force that I have seen. In fact, many professionals who just have an interest in the subject but who were not named to the task force regularly attend and participate in our discussions. The scope of its charter is broad and we find that it would be most advantageous to extend the life of the Task Force in order to complete our report.

Please give favorable consideration to extending the deadline for the Task Force's report. Although I will not be able to serve on the Task Force beyond the end of May due to my impending retirement from BIA, we will have a suitable representative on this Task Force.k

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.

Karen H. Iwamoto
Government Relations Director
BIA-Hawaii

TESTIMONY – support HCR24

March 31, 2011

TO: House of Representatives
26th Legislature, Reg Session of 2011
Committee on Health & Committee on Human Services

Total of 1 sheets,
including this page.

RE: HCR 24: Extending the Deadline for the Home for Life Task Force (HFLTF)

2010 was the year we got more calls than ever before, from people converting their carport into a bedroom. Times were tough; people were moving back home. Yet in Honolulu, our local gov't discourages Multigeneration Living. As extended families move-in together, 2nd kitchens are often added *illegally*. This is why I am a volunteer member of the HFLTF.

At the state level, the need seems to be exploring sources of funding to help Seniors afford and install home retrofit projects. Anecdotal info suggests that hospitals (Medicare reimbursement) are beginning to coordinate similar efforts because they understand that preventing injuries from a fall is preferable to the costs of hip surgery.

I support HCR24 and Multigenerational Housing.



Questor Lau
Architect

