

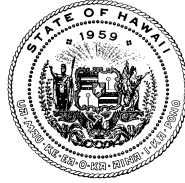


SCR 4

Measure Title:	RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII.
Report Title:	Older Americans Act; Older Americans Month
Description:	
Companion:	HCR14
Package:	Kupuna Caucus
Current Referral:	HSH, HEA
Introducer(s):	CHUN OAKLAND, GALUTERIA, IHARA, KEITH-AGARAN, English, Shimabukuro, L. Thielen

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VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR4
RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT
AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Hearing Date: March 05, 2015, 2:15pm Room Number: 016

- 1 **Office Testimony:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the
2 Department of Health, is in support of this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** NONE.
- 4 **Offered Amendments:** The resolution designates the month of May of each year as "Older
5 Americans Month" in Hawaii in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Older Americans
6 Act and of all the contributions made by older Americans in the State of Hawaii.
- 7 2015 marks the golden, 50th anniversary of three of our nation's most important programs for
8 older adults– Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act. In 1965, Congress passed and
9 President Johnson signed into law, the Older Americans Act. The original legislation authorized
10 grants to states for community planning and social services, research and development projects,
11 and personnel training in the field of aging. It also established the Administration on Aging to
12 administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the federal focal point on matters
13 concerning older persons.
- 14 Today the OAA serves as the major vehicle for the Administration on Community Living to
15 deliver social and nutrition services to seniors and their caregivers. It authorizes a wide array of
16 service programs and supports through a national network of 56 State agencies on aging, 629

1 area agencies on aging, nearly 20,000 service providers, 244 Tribal organizations, and 2 Native
2 Hawaiian organizations.

3 Programs operated under the Act allow older adults to live more independently, in their homes,
4 or in settings of their choice. For some, it has meant employment, for others opportunities to
5 volunteer. These programs are administered locally, where people understand better the needs of
6 local residents. In FFY 2014, 7,509 older adults and family caregivers were served in Hawaii.

7 As one example, funding for the Older Americans Act secures funding for nutrition through
8 congregate dining and home delivered meals. In FFY2014, 6,040 were provided meals in
9 Hawaii with the purpose to (1) reduce hunger and food insecurity; (2) promote socialization of
10 older individuals; and (3) promote the health and well-being of older individuals by assisting
11 such individuals to gain access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion
12 services to delay the onset of adverse health conditions resulting from poor nutritional health or
13 sedentary behavior. The Act also puts in place strong protections against elder abuse by
14 increasing existing abuse screenings and prevention efforts and provides resources for disease
15 prevention, senior centers, and family caregiver support.

16 **Recommendation:** From nutrition to evidence-based prevention programs, the Older
17 Americans Act supports efforts to improve the lives of older Americans. Accordingly, we are in
18 support of passage of this resolution.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HSH Testimony](#)
Cc: norma.circle@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR4 on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM*
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015 2:13:01 PM

SCR4

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for HSH on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Norma Circle	Maui County Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

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State of Hawaii
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Legislature

March 5, 2015; 1:45 pm
Room 016

SCR 4, Recognizing the Fiftieth Anniversary
of the Older Americans Act and Designating
May as "Older Americans Month" in Hawaii

Good afternoon, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green and
Members of the Human Services and Housing Committee,

Lanakila Pacific supports the Senate Concurrent Resolution
designating the month of May of each year as "Older Americans
Month" in Hawaii in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the
Older Americans Act and of all the contributions made by older
Americans in the State of Hawaii.

The Older Americans Act has been instrumental in delivering
nutrition and social services to older persons across the country.
As a Kupuna Care and Title III service provider, Lanakila Meals on
Wheels serves more than 250,000 meals each year to over 2,000
Hawaii seniors. Our staff and volunteers deliver much more than a
nutritious meal to homebound seniors, as they may be the only
person that our Kupuna will spend time with each day. Nutritious
meals are also provided to healthier active seniors at sixteen
group dining sites across the island. Nutrition counseling and
education, recreation and outreach services are key services
which enable seniors to live in their homes as long as they can
and avoid costly institutionalization.

Older Americans Month provides an opportunity to raise
awareness of the importance of community engagement as a tool
for enhancing the wellbeing of older adults. Together we can
promote healthy aging, increase community involvement for older
adults, and tackle important issues like aging in place.

Thank you for recognizing older Americans in the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji
President & CEO

Lyn Moku
Director of Lanakila Meals on Wheels



March 5, 2015

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Re: **SCR 4, RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH” IN HAWAII**

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and members of the committee:

AARP is a membership organization of people fifty and over with nearly 148,000 members in Hawaii alone. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; providing the tools needed to save for retirement; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports SCR 4, recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the Older Americans Act and designating May as “Older Americans Month” in Hawaii.

Enacted in 1965, the Older Americans Act (“OAA”) provides essential services to our most vulnerable older adults. Indeed, 1965 was a milestone year as it saw the not only the enactment of the OAA, but also the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. This fiftieth anniversary is a celebration of the great strides that have been taken to support and recognize the myriad accomplishments of older adults, and a reminder of all the work that still needs to be done.

Every state receives OAA funds according to a formula based on the state’s share of the United States population ages 60 and over. The OAA targets services to older adults by helping them “age in place” in their homes and communities as health and function decline.¹

This national law has had important local impacts. As a result of the OAA, state and area offices were established. It has also established a nationwide “Aging Network” to assist older adults in meeting their physical, social, mental, health and other needs, and also to maintain their well-being and independence.² The local impact means actual funds coming in to Hawaii since the

¹ See The Older Americans Act, AARP Public Policy Institute, Wendy Fox-Grage and Kathleen Ujvari (the “AARP OAA Report”), page 1. http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/health/2014/the-older-americans-act-AARP-ppi-health.pdf

² See Hawaii State Plan on Aging, October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2015, Executive Office on Aging (“Hawaii State Plan”), page 3. <http://health.hawaii.gov/eoa/files/2013/07/Hawaii-State-Plan-On-Aging.pdf>

Administration on Aging awards OAA Title III, IV, and VII funds to the states.³ Many of these funds are, in turn, allocated to the Area Agencies on Aging. According to information from the Executive Office on Aging, 7,509 older adults and family caregivers were served in Hawaii thanks to OAA funds in the last fiscal year. Specifically, the OAA provided the following funding for Hawaii in fiscal year 2014⁴:

- Meals and Nutrition Services: \$3,631,796
- Supportive Services and Preventive Health: \$1,819,482
- National Family Caregiver Support Program: \$720,651

These OAA programs and funds help seniors live independently by supporting services including Meals-on-Wheels, in-home care, transportation, elder abuse prevention and caregivers who make it possible for seniors to live in their homes. It also helps save federal and state tax dollars by keeping seniors out of costly nursing homes and preventing unnecessary hospital re-admissions.

The importance of these programs is underscored by the fact that Hawaii's population is the oldest in the nation. As our population continues to age, these services will only grow in importance. In 1980, the population of Hawaii residents ages 60 and over was 115,000 (12% of the population). By 2010 that population had grown to 277,000 (21% of the population). By 2035 that number is projected to grow to over 474,4000 or almost 30% of Hawaii's population.⁵ Over a thirty-year period (1980-2010), the older adult population has increased by approximately 139.8% while the total population increased by only 34.2%.⁶

It is important to remember that as these OAA programs are serving Hawaii's ever-growing population of older adults, Hawaii's older adults are *still serving* everyone else. "The knowledge of our older adults is strongly valued. In fact, Hawaii's older adults are more educated than older adults nationally, with 26% of Hawaii's older adults having a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 22.5% of older adults nationally."⁷ And this knowledge is being put to use in the community. 19.8% of Hawaii's adults over the age of 65 volunteered between 2008 and 2010.⁸

We thank Hawaii's older adults for all the contributions they have made and continue to make to our state. This resolution is a fitting way to honor them and we strongly support it.

³ See id.

⁴ See the AARP OAA Report, page 5.

⁵ See id., page 13.

⁶ See Id.

⁷ Executive Office on Aging, Profile of Successful Aging Among Hawaii's Older Adults, page 4.
http://www.hawaiiadrc.org/Portals/_AgencySite/2013Aging.pdf

⁸ See id.

To: Senate committee on Human Services & Housing, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2015

Re: SCR4, Recognizing The Fiftieth Anniversary Of The Older Americans Act and Designating May As "Older Americans Month" In Hawaii.

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the committee:

My name is T. J. Davies Jr. and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR4 AND HCR14

The **Kokua Council for Senior Citizens** and **AARP Chapter 60 Waikiki** strongly support all of the programs in the "Older Americans Act."

We would like to particularly highlight and celebrate Medicare's 50th Anniversary beginning this year and culminating on July 30, 2015. Medicare was signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

At that time only half of our seniors had health insurance, and this law then enabled many more retired workers to have guaranteed health coverage.

Medicare has been so successful that seniors benefit from health coverage unlike other age populations. It has enhanced our quality of life and allowed us a greater sense of security and comfort.

We appreciate the Kupuna Caucus' support of your bill to recognize of "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" in the month of May.

Mahalo for allowing for allowing me to testify in strong support of SCR4

Sincerely,

T. J. DAVIES JR.
Kokua Council for Senior Citizens
HARA Legislative Committee
Kakaako (District 26 / Senate District 12)

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo-An Goss	HARA	Support	YES

SCR4 and HCR14

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Date: March 3, 2015

Re: SCR4, RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII.

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the committee:

My name is Jo-An Goss, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR4, designating May 2015 as the 50th Anniversary of the "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH."

The Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) and our local affiliate, the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) strongly support all of the programs in the "OLDER AMERICANS ACT."

We would like to particularly highlight and celebrate Medicare's 50th Anniversary beginning this year and culminating on July 30, 2015.

Medicare was signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. At that time only half of our seniors had health insurance, and this law then enabled many more retired workers to have guaranteed health coverage.

Medicare has been so successful that seniors benefit from health coverage unlike other age populations. According to ARA's August 2014 online newsletter, "the poverty rate has gone down by 75%" since this law was signed. It has enhanced our quality of life and allowed us a greater sense of security and comfort.

Additionally, Medicare has shown improvement and is expected to be solvent until 2026. ARA indicated that "the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reported that overall national health expenditures grew at

an annual rate of 3.7 percent in 2012, marking the fourth consecutive year of low growth his year.” Even with an increased enrollment, Medicare’s spending showed a slight decrease in 2012, and this slowdown is projected to continue for the next 25 years.

We appreciate the Kupuna Caucus’ support of your bill to recognize of "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" in the month of May.

Mahalo for allowing for allowing me to testify in strong support of SCR4.

Jo-An Goss,
HSTA-Retired
HARA Legislative Committee
Kupuna Caucus
Nuuanu (House District 27 / Senate District 13