

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 7:39 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: naloio2000@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB324 on 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT-HUS 2/6/2009 9:00:00 AM HB324

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sesnita Moepono
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Submitted on: 2/6/2009

Comments:

Honorable Chairs Yamane and Mizuno and Members of the Health and Human Services Committees:

First, we want to thank you for introducing this bill and supporting our kupuna. We apologize for submitting this testimony late. We apologize for not being able to attend the hearing today.

On behalf of my husband and daughter, we support Senior Centers because:

- 1) our kupuna deserve a place where they can go to remain active and independent, after all Hawaii was built by the hard work of our kupuna
- 2) Senior Centers keep our kupuna active and out of care homes;
- 3) If the State gives \$337,000 to Lanakila Sr. Center, the state will pay \$337 a year per kupuna compared to the State paying \$84,000 a year for the same kupuna in a medicaid care home because there was no Senior Center for our kupuna to remain active and independent.
- 4) Senior Centers help our kupuna families because as long as our kupuna are active they are less dependent on needing help from their families and this allows our families to continue having a normal life.

As former caregivers, we know how valuable Senior Centers are to help care for our kupuna. Now that bowling alleys are virtually extinct on Oahu, the Senior Centers are the only programs and services where our kupuna can go to remain active and independent.

If the State is looking to save money, we cannot think of any better service where our money will be better spent because the Senior Centers save the State millions of dollars of care home expenses.

More importantly, we owe it to our Kupuna for their hard work making Hawaii the great State it is today.

Remember, we will be judged by how we care for our most vulnerable, our seniors, disabled and children. We will be kupunas one day.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify for the Senior Centers,

Sesnita Moepono, Charles A. Fern, Alise Fern