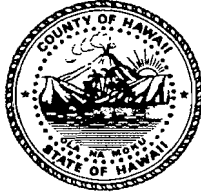


Harry Kim  
Mayor



Alan R. Parker  
Executive on Aging

## County of Hawaii

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Testimony of  
**Alan R. Parker, Executive on Aging**  
**Hawaii County Office of Aging**

**Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**  
**Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair**  
**Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair**  
**and**  
**Committee on Transportation and Government Operations**  
**Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair**  
**Sen. Will Espero, Vice Chair**  
**on**  
**Tuesday, February 7, 2006 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

### **S.B. NO. 2400** **APPROPRIATION FOR PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE KAIUA-KONA SENIOR CENTER; GRANT-IN-AID**

The Hawaii County Office of Aging is very appreciative of the legislatures efforts to provide funding for a much needed Kailua-Kona Senior Center.

The need for a multi-purpose senior center in Kailua-Kona is well documented. A couple of studies were done by the state legislature to determine the need, for and possible location of such a facility. The last study was completed in 1991. More recently, in 1999, the North Kona Community Voices Council obtained a grant to enable a one-year strategic planning process to establish a multi-purpose senior center in Kailua-Kona. Although not successful in establishing the center, the councils' efforts further documented the critical need for services in the area that resulted in the establishment of a congregate

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*An Area Agency on Aging*

meals program for seniors that is housed in Phase II of the Hualalai Elderly Housing Project. The elderly population in North Kona is close to 5,000, and is experiencing enormous growth. In the period 1970-2000, the senior population has increased by 641.49%.

The facility we envision will provide a highly visible and trusted place where people can turn for information on the full range of long term support options, and a single point of entry to public long term support programs and benefits. The center will serve elderly persons, caregivers of younger individuals with disabilities, family caregivers, as well as persons planning for future long term support needs.

The center will also be a resource for health and long term support professionals, and others who provide services to the elderly and to people with disabilities. The center will also be the home for senior clubs and organizations with a full range of recreational and educational opportunities and services. In an effort to address Civil Defense needs, the center will be built to hurricane resistance standards to provide seniors in the area with shelter in the event of natural disaster or hurricane.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comment.