

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

May 1, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2129

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 2129, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Elder Affairs."

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs to testify before the Legislature on any matter related to its duties and responsibilities rather than having its communications with the Legislature go through the Executive Branch, including the Executive Office on Aging and the Director of Health, pursuant to section 26-35(a)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

I believe communication between persons at all levels of the legislative and executive branches is vital to our ability to fulfill the responsibilities each of us is assigned by the Constitution and laws of the State.

It is my understanding that individual members of boards and commissions, including this Board, testify regularly and respond to requests from individual members and committees of the Legislature. Boards and commissions also take official positions on bills pending before the Legislature and, when doing so, coordinate this testimony through the appropriate department and agency to which they are attached.

This Board and its members are clearly already able to testify in their individual capacities on matters before the Legislature. Because procedures are already in place for all

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commissions to communicate, including the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, and, more importantly, are being used regularly, this bill is not needed. It would be inappropriate to allow one Board, out of over 160 existing boards and commissions, to bypass the existing statutory process.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2129 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii