



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

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by

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HCR 26/HR 14

Requesting the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects to promote awareness of family caregiving needs in the design of new residences.

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Dean W.H. Raymond Yeh, I would like to express our support of the resolution. In many ways, design professionals already address the issue of our aging population as evidenced by the design and development of extended family residences. Architects are committed to protecting public health, safety, and welfare. They further accomplish this commitment by considering the public good when working for an individual client, and respecting public welfare over personal gain. These goals are achieved by establishing and maintaining standards of knowledge and practice which include awareness of social needs. Recognizing the need to minimize the burdens of care giving for institutions by creating family environments that enhance the lives of our elderly is one of the ways architects contribute to enhancing the living environment for Hawai'i's people.