

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Old age allowance and universal retirement protection system”
moved by Hon Fred LI Wah-ming
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 5 November 2008**

**Motion as amended by Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, Hon WONG
Sing-chi and Hon TAM Yiu-chung**

That this Council welcomes the Chief Executive's announcement that the rates of the Old Age Allowance will be increased to \$1,000 per month and the Government will study whether the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong under the Old Age Allowance Scheme can be relaxed; at the same time, this Council urges the Government to comprehensively examine the existing welfare policy for the elderly to ensure that elderly people who have financial difficulties and are not on the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance can also receive certain form of living supplement, and when studying the establishment of a universal retirement protection system, the Government must ensure that the system will not increase the burden on the next generation and will enable all elderly people to have comprehensive retirement protection and enjoy a dignified and comfortable life in their twilight years; regarding the Chief Executive increasing the rates of the Old Age Allowance to \$1,000 per month, this Council welcomes his acceptance of this Council's view, and also welcomes his withdrawal of the proposal of introducing a means test mechanism under the Old Age Allowance Scheme after listening to the opposing voices of this Council and the public; in addition, this Council urges the Government to consider implementing an 'elderly maintenance grant scheme' in addition to the existing Old Age Allowance and Comprehensive Social Security Assistance system, so that those elderly people who are aged 60 will receive a monthly living supplement from the Government after making a simple asset declaration; further relax the permissible limit of absence from Hong Kong for Old Age Allowance applicants; and increase the value of elderly health care vouchers to \$1,000 and lower the eligibility age for such vouchers to 65.