

## LATE TESTIMONY

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Public Housing and Education, who have scheduled a public hearing on S.B. 2831, a bill relating to the U.H. Center on Aging Research and Education (CARE) on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 1:15p in Room 225.

Aloha kakou.

N.B. - I understand S.B. 2043 has been deleted from the agenda, so I am sending this in for S.B. 2831.

I am in support of S.B. 2831 because Hawai'i needs an "appropriate partner" to coordinate the research, education, and training needs of an aging network faced with growing numbers of older Adults who are living longer, with many needs. CARE's mission of assuring the well-being of our state's older adults is in jeopardy as its resources are not sufficient to the task of stimulating and coordinating gerontological and aging research, community services and training/instruction.

Our Area Agency on Aging, the Maui County Office on Aging, is in need of the type of services and program support that a fully functioning and resourced CARE can provide. Our own federal and state mandates will be met, more effectively and efficiently if we had a responsive partner, couched in programs that are both academic and community-engaged. I believe this bill will finally make CARE the "inclusive, information sharing, interdisciplinary", responsive and "appropriate partner" we desperately need. It goes without saying that CARE needs "faculty positions and program expenses". Please support S.B. 2831.

Me ka mahalo pono.

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