



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education

March 11, 2008 at 2:15 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB2831 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON AGING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports Senate Bill 2831 SD1, which would allocate funds to the University of Hawai'i Center on Aging for program expenses and faculty positions in an effort to bolster research and education on issues related to eldercare in the State of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) is deeply committed to education, research, and service across multiple disciplines in the area of aging. The Center on Aging was established by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents in 1988 to address the needs of the elderly in the State of Hawai'i, and Hawai'i's demographics underline the importance of such a center. Therefore and in response to legislative requests, we have prepared a funding proposal for a Center on Aging that is sustainable, inclusive, transparent, and interdisciplinary to address the needs of the elderly across the state.

The Center will bring together people and resources within the State of Hawai'i to advance healthcare, public policy, education, legal concerns, research, and other issues associated with the process of aging. Its focal point will be to strengthen efforts dedicated to understanding the aging process and addressing the needs of the elderly in Hawai'i. To provide this focal point, the Center will maintain both a multidisciplinary UHM and statewide scope of activities.

I hope you will agree that this is an important endeavor that will greatly benefit the State of Hawai'i's growing elderly population. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO : **COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Rep Jerry L. Chang, Chair

Rep. Joe Bertram, III, Vice-Chair

FROM: Archie Hapai, III

Member of PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: SB 2831 SD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Center on Aging Education and Research

HEARING: 2:15 pm Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Conference Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Establishes additional faculty positions needed funds for the UH Center on Aging Research and Education (CARE) to assist in fulfillment of its mission.

POSITION: **As a citizen and member of the PABEA, I support the appropriation for the UH Center on Aging Research and Education.**

RATIONALE:

- The UH Center for Aging Research and Education (CARE) is currently without a director or any faculty positions and has been unable to admit students for 3 years to its academic programs.
- Several of us from the Legislative Committee of PABEA have met twice with Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, who began after the UH Manoa Supplementary budget request was developed. She has indicated her strong support for CARE and has drafted a plan calling for similar resources as proposed in this bill.
- The UH Center constitutes the principal resource for technical consultation for agencies serving the elderly, training programs and workshops for professional and paraprofessional staff working in the community and academic programs to prepare students to enter this growing field

In conclusion, the UH Center on Aging in the past provided important service to the state of Hawaii and these resources are needed to regain its momentum in serving this important role.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

TO : COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Joe Bertram, III, Vice-Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: SB 2831 SD1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Center on Aging Education and Research

HEARING: 2:15 pm Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Conference Room 309, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Establishes additional faculty positions needed funds for the UH Center on Aging Research and Education (CARE) to assist in fulfillment of its mission.

POSITION: PABEA SUPPORTS THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE UH CENTER ON AGING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

RATIONALE:

I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board. I am also a professor of medical sociology at UH-Manoa who has worked with elderly services in Hawaii for more than 20 years.

- The UH Center for Aging Research and Education (CARE) is currently without a director or any faculty positions and has been unable to admit students for 3 years to its academic programs.
- Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, who began after the UH Manoa Supplementary budget request was developed, has indicated her strong support for CARE and has drafted a plan calling for similar resources as this bill.
- The UH Center constitutes the principal resource for technical consultation for agencies serving the elderly, including training programs and workshops for professional and paraprofessional staff working in the community. The Center faculty and staff are needed for basic research in the field of aging as well as applied research, such as needs assessments and program evaluation. The Executive Office on Aging relies on contracts with the Center for many technical reports important to carrying out its activities.
- There are currently acute shortages in Hawaii of human resources in all the paraprofessional and professional fields in gerontology. To meet this need, the UH Center is critical for training students in this growing field and needs to provide for seamless educational opportunities from the Community College level through professional programs.

In conclusion, the UH Center on Research and Education has provided important service to the state of Hawaii and is critical to meeting the needs of our state agencies and the growing elder population in the future. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

HEDtestimony

From: manis [manis@lava.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2008 2:44 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Testimony SB2831 SD 1

Kokua Council*
Testifier: Laura Manis

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Joe Bertram, III, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 309

SB2831 SD1 RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON AGING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH Appropriates fund to the University of Hawaii center on aging research and education faculty positions and program expenses.
SUPPORT

Kokua Council whose mission includes advocating for the the health of the elderly and those vulnerable populations who can not advocate for themselves supports this bill.

The Center on Aging at the University of Hawaii served a vital role to the State of Hawaii and the creation of public policy in the area of aging. They have trained gerontologists and researchers who have helped state and nonprofit agencies staff and develop their programs.

Our state has to prepare now for the onslaught of the baby boomers reaching 60 in the next few years and who will be having needs that require a new look at state services and best practices.

The Center has never been fully supported by the university and has since lost their staff and funding and are no longer accepting students.

We suggest the Center of Aging be located in the office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, Gary Ostrander who has expressed interest in housing the Center. Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor has supported this placement. This is a good fit since Aging is interdisciplinary and will need input from many departments.

Please support this bill.

Laura G. Manis, Legislative Chair
1350 Ala Moana Blvd., #1511
Honolulu HI 96814
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Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition

Testimony to the House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Conference Room 309; 2:15pm

Founding
Organizations

City & County
of Honolulu
Elderly Affairs
Karen Miyaki
Craig Yamaguchi

City & County
of Honolulu
Service Providers
Tony Wong

FACE
Stan Bain
Jim Howell

Hawaii Caregiver
Coalition
Tony Lenzer

HARA
Al Hamai
Bruce McCullough

Hawaii County
Office on Aging
Alan Parker
Lito Asuncion

Hawaii County
Service Providers
Debra Nakaji

JACOSA
Lyn McNeff

Kauai Agency on
Elderly Affairs
Kealoha Takahashi

Kokua Council
Larry Geller

Maui County
Office on Aging
John Tomoso

Maui County
Service Providers
Kathy Louis

Maui Long Term
Care Partnership
Rita Barreras

PABEA
Gary Simon
Eldon Wegner

Co-Conveners
Wes Lum
Hawaii Caregiver
Coalition

Harry Mattson
Kokua Council

**RE: S.B. NO. 2831, S.D. 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
CENTER ON AGING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.**

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wes Lum and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition (HAAC). **HAAC strongly supports this measure.**

This measure appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Center on Aging Research and Education (CARE) for faculty positions and program expenses.

We are pleased with Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw's vision of CARE, and we support her efforts to implement her vision because the current Center on Aging has been neglected for too many years on the UH Manoa campus.

There is no funding request in the Supplemental Budget for these positions and expenses, but we hope that as Legislators, you will see the value of CARE as a vital component of Hawaii's long-term care infrastructure. We ask that you provide the leadership necessary to ensure that aging research, training, and education is developed to meet the needs of Hawaii's growing aging population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Representative Jerry Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram, Co-Chair

FROM: PAT SASAKI

RE: SB 2831, SD1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON
AGING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

HEARING: TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 309
2:15 PM

POSITION: SUPPORT

My name is Pat Sasaki. I am testifying in support of SB 2831, SD1, Relating to the University of Hawaii Center on Aging Education and Research.

The University of Hawaii would be remiss if it does not commit and allocate resources to the Center on Aging Research and Education that, through two decades, has spurred innovation and efficacy among Hawaii's aging programs statewide. The Center on Aging, established in 1988 with broad community and legislative support, has significantly contributed to studies often used by Legislators and professional trainings that fostered University relations with the statewide service community. The Center has assured informed and qualified technical support to such developments as geriatric nursing and medicine, Alzheimer's disease outreach, aging program evaluation and dissemination, long-term care access, and family caregiver support.

Critical support from the State and University are long overdue for the Center on Aging. The center ultimately benefits a population that is having and will have the greatest impact on Hawaii's socioeconomic well-being.

I urge your passage of this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.