



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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### Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health and House Committee on Human Services & Housing

March 19, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander

Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education

University of Hawaii'i at Mānoa

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

Chair Green, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawaii'i at Mānoa supports Senate Bill 2831 SD1, which would allocate funds to the University of Hawaii'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 Hawaii'i.

The University of Hawaii'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 Hawaii'i Board of Regents in 1988 to address the needs of the elderly in the State of Hawaii'i, and Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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 Hawaii'i's growing elderly population. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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To: Representative Josh Green, MD, Chair  
Representative John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Maile SL Shimabukuro, Chair  
Representative Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING

From: Lyn Moku, Division Manager Phone: 532-0806  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 8:30 a.m. – Room 329

Subject: **SUPPORT OF SB2831 SD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HAWAII CENTER ON AGING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports SB2831 SD1 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii center on aging research and education for faculty positions and program expenses.

Studies and surveys (2007-2008) presented to the Joint Legislative Committee provided important information about Hawaii's aging population and the wants and needs of family caregivers. In line with national trends and the desire of most people, the reports support "aging in place" versus more costly and often unavailable institutional care. Now comprehensive support systems, research, education and training will have to be developed to support people who want to "age in place" and their caregivers.

The National MS Society supports:

- Expansion of public and private long-term care options, especially those that keep individuals in the community and functioning at the highest possible level.
- Development of a coordinated approach to the delivery of care to help assure that the best combination of health care and other services is provided.

The University of Hawaii's center on aging (COA) was established in 1988 to (1) stimulate and coordinate gerontological and aging instruction, research, and community services and, to (2) promote collaboration between the University and other organizations concerned with aging. The COA is the most appropriate entity to coordinate and facilitate research, education and training efforts of the State's elderly population. For these reasons, we ask you to vote in favor of SB2831 SD1 to appropriate funds for faculty positions and program expenses. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

###

Lyn Moku  
Division Manager

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National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society

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**TO :**           **COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
Rep Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice-Chair

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING**  
Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, 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:** 8:30 am Wednesday, March 19, 2008  
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

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

**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.

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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.

**TO :**           **COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Rep Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice-Chair

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING**

Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, 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 and 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.

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# Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition

## Testimony to the Joint House Committee on Health and Human Services and Housing

Wednesday, March 19, 2008  
Conference Room 329; 8:30am

### 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.

Chairs Green and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Joint 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 to 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.

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TO: JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING  
Representative Josh Green, Chair  
Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

FROM: PAT SASAKI

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

HEARING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008  
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 329  
8:30AM

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.

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## mizuno1-Edgar

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**From:** manis [manis@lava.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2008 2:55 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

**Attachments:** SB2831 SD1 Center on Aging



SB2831 SD1 Center  
on Aging (15...

Attachment is same as below in case unable to open. Thanks, Laura

\*Kokua Council  
Testifier: Laura Manis

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING  
Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Wednesday March 19, 2008 8:30 a.m Conference Room 329

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  
Phone: 597-8838

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