



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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### **Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

February 27, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander

Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education &  
Interim Dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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

Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

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 :**           **TO :** SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
                  Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
                  Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, 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:**   10:30 am Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
                  Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

**PURPOSE:**   Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Center on Aging Research and Education (CARE) for faculty positions and program expenses.

**POSITION:**  **PABEA SUPPORTS THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE UH CENTER ON AGING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION. WE PREFER THE APPROPRIATION BE MADE AS AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BUDGET.**

**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. . In a meeting on January 31, 2008, she indicated to members of our PABEA Committee that her top legislative priority was repair and maintenance. If funds were being made available by the legislature for this purpose, she would consider modifications to the UH Budget to support CARE later in the Legislative session.

§ 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.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



Testifier: Laura Manis

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COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 211

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 now wish to support the Center of Aging be located in the office of the VC for Research, Gary  
Ostrander instead of previous testimony. This is a better 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

impending effects of the global climate, population growth and development changes  
on our beloved Island State, we all share together the responsibility for our future. I  
believe, truly, Abbey possesses not only the skills for this position, but also the value  
system the Office requires to navigate these important realities. He does what he  
believes; and in what he believes is reflected by his good works.

I urge your favorable consideration of Abbey Seth Mayer as Director of the Office of  
Planning.

Sincerely,  
  
Pualani S. Akaka  
(808) 507-0510

# Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
Conference Room 211; 10:30am

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

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

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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 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.

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Roz Baker, Chair  
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Chair

FROM: PAT SASAKI

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

HEARING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008  
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 211  
10:30AM

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.