



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health

April 3, 2009 at 10:30 am

By

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**HCR 201/HR 163 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ADMINISTRATION TO
SUPPORT THE CENTER ON AGING AND TO RE-OPEN THE GERONTOLOGY
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on HCR 201 and HR 163, urging the University of Hawai'i administration to support the Center of Aging and to re-open the Gerontology Certificate Programs. These resolutions urges the University of Hawai'i to immediately expand its support for the Center on Aging and take such steps as are necessary to re-open the gerontology certificate programs.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa appreciates your interest and concerns in this issue but we cannot support passage of these resolutions, given the likelihood that UH Mānoa must accommodate significant budget reductions over the next two fiscal years. The actions required by these resolutions would require an investment of resources, financially and in personnel time that our campus cannot afford because we must devote them to programs essential to our primary campus mission.

Thank you for your support for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

nishimoto2-Bryce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 3:27 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR201 on 4/3/2009 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/3/2009 10:30:00 AM HCR201

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
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Submitted on: 4/2/2009

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a Professor Emeritus of Public Health and former Director of the Center on Aging, University of Hawaii. I served as the first Director of the Center, from 1988-1993. 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.

During its early years, the Center was well funded by the University. It was originally placed in the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. However, once the Center was relocated to the School of Public Health, University funding was removed, except for the salary of one Secretary. Despite the lack of University support, Dr. Kathryn Braun, Director, managed to keep the Center going through grants and contracts, together with the use of a part of the salary from her own position. The Center's recent business plan shows a remarkable record of achievement despite the apparent inability of the University to see the value of research, training, and community service in the area of aging. The Center's accomplishments are too numerous to mention in this testimony. However, it should be noted that many state, county, and private agencies have benefited from the training, consultation, and applied research provided by Center on Aging staff. As legislators, you are well aware of the aging tsunami which faces Hawaii. Thus, you will understand the value of a strong, interdisciplinary program on aging at the University of Hawaii, and what such a program can contribute to the state.

It is encouraging to note that, since this Resolution was introduced, the University has agreed to commit a modest amount of funds to help resurrect the Center on Aging. This support is, in our opinion, both welcome and long over due. We hope it is an indication that the University Administration is truly committed to creating and maintaining a strong program in the field of aging.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

State of Hawai'i
Testimony for H.C.R. 201
House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

**Urging the University of Hawai'i Administration to support the Center on
Aging and to Re-open the Gerontology Certificate Programs**

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Committee on Health
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Committee Members:

My name is Colette Browne, and I am professor in gerontology at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I testify here as a citizen who has worked more than thirty years in community and university settings to promote the well-being of older adults.

As such, I appreciate the support of H.C.R. 201, Urging the University of Hawai'i Administration to Support the Center on Aging and to Re-open the Gerontology Certificate Program. I am pleased that the House shares in the concerns of the University over the many societal ramifications an aging society will have on Hawai'i and the nation.

To be fully informed, I am pleased to report the following:

For the past four months, the administration of the University of Hawai'i has been meeting with gerontology faculty on plans to revitalize the Center on Aging as a true interdisciplinary center for research and education. To this end, the Administration has provided its full support and has released funds to support this revitalization, re-establish its governance, and develop its cross-disciplinary structures. I am also pleased to inform you that I have been asked to take the lead on this interim plan to begin August 1, 2009.

The Administration is providing full support for this endeavor.

For point of order, the very generous support of the Barbara Cox Anthony estate reported in this resolution is an endowment and has in fact been welcomed and received by the University. These funds will be used solely to support the center's activities. I request that this information be corrected and reflected in this resolution.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide you with this information.

Respectfully,

Colette V. Browne, Dr.PH