

February 17, 2010

LATE

TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

FROM: Joan D. Riggs, ASID, CAPS
Interior Design Program Coordinator
Chaminade University

HEARING: February 16, 2010 at 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016, State Capitol

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT of SCR 31 and SR 24 EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR
THE HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE**

I am writing in support of the request to extend the deadline for the Home for Life Task Force to report its findings and recommendations for reducing barriers to aging in place and facilitating multigenerational living. Hawaii's citizens strive for personal independence and to remain productive contributors to the community. Being able to reside in personal residences with the greatest of independence for as long as possible speaks to the quality of life issues we all treasure.

Supporting this social mindset and the practical application of Universal Design principles can assist in alleviating a large percentage of the financial burden from the State by reducing the number of people requiring institutionalized care. I am the Interior Design Program Coordinator at Chaminade University and one of the required courses I teach is Universal Design. We understand the importance of students embracing and enacting the concepts and principles of Universal Design as a core skill set in their problem-solving arsenal. One of the goals of the Task Force is to engage university-level students (UH Architecture and CUH Interior Design) in their endeavor to provide quality resources to support the independent living,

The goals of the Task Force speak to the practical, implementation aspects of how living environments can (and should) meet the needs of the residents. Its efforts seek to educate the public, encourage implementation of Universal Design principles as the "norm" rather than "specialty design" and seek to partner with the State in serving the people of Hawaii in maintaining a dignified and honorable quality of life.

Should you have any questions or require further input, please contact me by phone 739-8574 or email at jriggs@chaminade.edu. Thank you for this opportunity to convey my testimony.