

SCR114



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Education and Human Services
Monday, March 28, 2011 at 1:45 p.m.

By
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
And
Colette Browne, Professor and
Interim Director, Center on Aging
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 114 - REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF RE-ESTABLISHING THE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN GERONTOLOGY PROGRAM, TO CREATE A RESEARCH EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT RESEARCH ON AGING, AND TO BUILD CAPACITY TO MEET THE AGING-RELATED WORK FORCE NEEDS OF THE STATE.

The Center on Aging supports the intent of this measure. It is good news that Hawai'i residents have the greatest longevity of all 50 states, but this nonetheless presents challenges and opportunities to our nation and our state. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is firmly committed to meeting the needs of the state in research and education in gerontology. As an interdisciplinary unit, the Center works in close collaboration with other departments on the UHM campus to address issues related to knowledge development and dissemination in aging, the mentoring of new faculty, and the preparation of a professionally trained workforce in gerontology and geriatrics. This past year, the Center completed a Key Informant Study of UHM faculty whereby we identified faculty on our campus engaged in gerontological and geriatric research and education. From this report, we were able to identify new partners and research and education strategies. The Center has developed cross disciplinary structures with the formation and convening of two UHM interdisciplinary task forces in education and research to identify areas of potential collaboration, research and grant development, and education and workforce. More than twenty faculties from nursing, medicine, political science, urban planning, social work, family resources, sociology, law, and public health have committed themselves to

this effort. To share just a few examples, we currently collaborate with the Pacific Islands Geriatric Center, John A. Burns School of Medicine, on federally funded projects to train health care professionals. We have partnered with the Office of Public Health Studies on a National Institute on Health (NIH) faculty mentoring proposal with a special focus on health and social disparities with aging. More recently, we are partnering with the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, and the Office of Public Health Studies on a NIH research proposal to study the role of culture and health literacy in the long-term care transition care process. In April, we will again present, together with our Family Resources and Social Work partners, our annual Career Day in Aging events whereby we introduce students to the exciting field of gerontological practice.

We will be pleased to work in close partnership with the legislature as resources will continue to be needed to effectively respond to this demographic shift.

Thank you.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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Joint Committee on Education and Human Services

**SCR 114, REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM TO EXAMINE THE
FEASIBILITY OF RE-ESTABLISHING THE ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN
GERONTOLOGY PROGRAM, TO CREATE A RESEARCH EDUCATION AND
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT RESEARCH ON AGING, AND TO BUILD
CAPACITY TO MEET THE AGING-RELATED WORK FORCE NEEDS OF THE
STATE.**

**Testimony of Wes Lum
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

Monday, March 28, 2011

1:45 p.m.

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports this measure.

2 **Purpose and Justification:** This resolution reflects the recommendations of "An Aging Agenda
3 for the Next Governor and Legislature," which was authored by the Policy Advisory Board for
4 Elder Affairs (PABEA) in November 2010. Recognizing that the current shortages of
5 appropriately trained and educated eldercare workers at all skill levels will only get worse in the
6 years ahead, PABEA recommended that Hawaii's colleges and universities, particularly through
7 the University of Hawaii (UH) system, prepare students for aging occupations.

8 EOA fully supports the Center on Aging at UH Manoa and the community colleges
9 throughout the UH system, and we will work in close partnership with these entities as we
10 recognize that additional resources at UH are necessary to achieve the stated objectives. Thank
11 you for the opportunity to testify.

To: Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Date: Monday, March 28, 2011

Time: 1:45 p.m.

Place: Conference room 225

Testifier: Eudice Schick, Chair Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs
“PABEA”

Bill: **SCR 114**
In Strong Support

Chairs Tokuda and Chun-Oakland, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of SCR 114.

I am Eudice Schick, current Chair of PABEA. The following testimony is being given by me as an individual, and on behalf of PABEA. It does not represent the views of the Executive Office on Aging.

We are all very aware of the increasing number of Kupuna that our wonderful state has to meet the needs of. We must offer the opportunity for our college students to obtain education and degrees in the area of gerontology. There is a growing need for programs and courses in age-related issues. Advance certificate course and the certificate will certainly help meet these needs.

By your support of SCR 114 we will be moving in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Eudice Schick, Chair PABEA

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 4:03 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR114 on 3/28/2011 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/HMS 3/28/2011 1:45:00 PM SCR114

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer, Ph.D
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:
Chairs Tokuda and Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a Professor Emeritus of Public Health at the University of Hawaii. From 1988-93, I served as the first Director of the University's Center on Aging. During that period, the Center developed two new credentials in Gerontology, the Advanced Certificate in Gerontology and the Undergraduate Certificate in Aging. Both programs offered students a strong, if limited, base of knowledge with regard to the aging process and older people. They also proved useful in enhancing job opportunities for those who completed these programs.

During the same time period, the Center obtained funds to offer small research grants to faculty members interested in pursuing research in aging. These very modest grants nevertheless attracted new researchers to the study of multidisciplinary aspects of aging.

Another Center activity was offering training to faculty members from throughout the University System, to encourage development of new courses on aging. A number of new courses were produced, in some cases with the help of faculty stipends from the Center.

The Center had initially been awarded substantial University funding, which, supplemented by grants and contracts, allowed the development of the kind of activities described above. Unfortunately, by 1994, University support had been reduced to one secretarial position, and it became increasingly difficult to maintain a vigorous, multidisciplinary program. Drs. Kathryn Braun, volunteer Director, and Colette Browne, Interim Director, have done a tremendous job in keeping the Center alive through in-kind contributions of time, grants, and contracts, but the Certificate programs and research support have not survived.

However, the Center has entered a new era, with support from a bequest to the University, and administrative placement in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. This Resolution urges the University Administration to support (1) revitalizing the Advanced Certificate in Gerontology; (2) creating research opportunities for new faculty to study aging; and (3) encourage the community colleges to develop appropriate activities related to aging. Regarding (3), the Kupuna Education Center at Kapiolani Community College, under the leadership of Dr. Cullen Hayashida, has become a model for what can be done at the community college level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this Resolution.