



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
And
Noreen Mokuau, Dean
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 493 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

As Chancellor and Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, we strongly support HB 493 HD1 SD1. By 2020, one in four of the state's population will be 65 years and older; this dramatic increase is associated with growing and devastating challenges including elder abuse, dementia, caregiving and long-term care. We strongly support UHM's role in advancing instruction, scholarship and service around the urgent challenges in gerontology.

With support from the legislature, the Center on Aging (COA) can build capacity to respond to such issues. Currently, with an Interim Director and temporary researchers, funded through grants and contracts, the COA's capacity to expand is limited. Current projects address important community needs, but are limited to activities specified in COA contracts. The larger systemic needs of the community, for example, workforce development, are not being addressed.

We are requesting 2 faculty positions which will be charged with addressing workforce development issues: 1) associate/full professor to develop and teach innovative gerontological education programs at UH and 2) an assistant/associate specialist to develop and implement continuing education and training programs in gerontology.

Funding for a permanent associate/full professor position and assistant/associate specialist position, with support from ancillary UHM endowment funds, will equip the COA in achieving all areas of its *mission*: to engage in workforce development through innovative programs of interdisciplinary gerontological education and practice; to engage in collaborative and interdisciplinary research within the university and with other academic partners in critical areas; and provide state-of-the art information to policy makers, program managers, clinicians and the general public.

COA is committed to the highest level of excellence in education, research and service to our community. Specifically:

- Being responsive to requests from the State to address the escalating needs and challenges faced by our growing aging population.
- Collaborating and conducting high quality gerontological education programs on the Mānoa campus as well as continuing education and training in the community.
- Seeking and securing extramural funds for aging research from local, federal, and international sources.
- Reinstating (currently on hold) and administering the undergraduate and graduate certificate in gerontology to build a workforce that is prepared to care for our aging population
- Working with faculty and students interested in gerontology to further their scholarship and publication.

Your support is requisite in providing COA with the capacity to be a community resource for students, professional groups, healthcare organizations, private and governmental agencies, service providers, caregivers, and diverse consumers, with the intent of improving our health care workforce and the quality of life for all older adults in Hawai`i.

Please note, we strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: katadaj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB493 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2016 1:14:57 PM

HB493

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jerry katada	HARA	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means. My name is Jerry Katada, Chair of the Legislative Committee of HARA. The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) is in strong support of HB 493, HD1, SD1 to fund two positions, an associate/full professor position and an assistant/associate specialist position, to enable the UH Center on Aging to better serve our State in addressing the growing need of our aging population with the increasing need of various services. Now is the time for action. We urge that your committee approve HB 493,HD1,SB1 for the good of our State and Its citizens. Mahalo and Aloha.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Testifier's Name: Gary Simon
President
Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition

Testimony Is Directed To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

MEASURE: HB493, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time associate/full professor and permanent full-time assistant/associate specialist position within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Date & Time of Hearing: Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 9:00 a. m.

Position: **The Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB493, HD1, SD1.**

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Gary Simon, President of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over twenty-eight years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of HFCC.

By 2020, one in four of the state's population will be 65 years and older. This dramatic increase is associated with growing and devastating challenges including, but not limited to, caregiving, dementia, elder abuse, dementia, and long term care.

With support from the legislature, the Center on Aging (COA) can build capacity to respond to these issues.

Currently, with an Interim Director and temporary researchers, funded through grants and contracts, the COA's capacity to expand is limited. Current projects address important community needs, but are limited to activities specified in COA contracts.

The larger systemic needs of the community, for example, workforce development, are not being addressed.

Funding for a permanent full-time associate/full professor and permanent full-time assistant/associate specialist position, with support from ancillary UHM endowment funds, will equip the COA in achieving all areas of its *mission: to engage in workforce development through innovative programs of interdisciplinary gerontological education and practice; to engage in collaborative and interdisciplinary research within the university and with other academic partners in critical areas; and provide state-of-the art information to policy makers, program managers, clinicians and the general public.*

COA is committed to the highest level of excellence in education, research and service to our community. Specifically:

- Being responsive to requests from the State to address the escalating needs and challenges faced by our growing aging population.
- Collaborating and conducting high quality gerontological education programs on the Manoa campus as well as continuing education and training in the community.
- Seeking and securing extramural funds for aging research from local, federal, and international sources.
- Reinstating (currently on hold) and administering the undergraduate and graduate certificate in gerontology to build a workforce that is prepared to care for our aging population
- Working with faculty and students interested in gerontology to further their scholarship and publication.

Your support is imperative in providing COA with the capacity to be a community resource for caregivers, students, professional groups, healthcare organizations, private and governmental agencies, and service providers, with the intent of improving our health care workforce and the quality of life for all older adults in Hawai`i.

We urge you to support HD493, HD1, SD1 and to recommend its passage, and we thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,
Gary Simon
President
Hawai`i Family Caregiver Coalition
Phone 808 547 8140
Email gsimon@stfrancishawaii.org

TO : SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donavan Della Cruz, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D., Co-Chair Legislative Committee
POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)

HEARING: 9:00 a.m. Tuesday March 29, 2016
State Capitol Room 211

SUBJECT: SB 493 HD1 SD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii Center on Aging

POSITION: The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs **supports** SB 493 HD1 SD1 which appropriates funds for 2 positions in the Center of Aging at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

RATIONALE: The Policy Board for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

The Center on Aging (COA) of the University of Hawaii, with the strong support of the University Administration, is poised to revitalize its role in addressing the critical educational and workforce shortages in the field of eldercare as well as to address the other important needs of our rapidly aging population. Budget restrictions in the past resulted in staff being reduced to only a .5 FTE Interim Director.

- However, with UH Administration support, the COA is currently recruiting for a full-time Director, which will be paid through the University's budget.
- The COA also received a generous \$2 million bequest to establish an endowment fund for the COA at the UH Foundation. A few months ago, the UH-Manoa Chancellor appointed Dr. Kathryn Braun and Dr. Maureen Makuau, in the School of Social Work, to co-administer the income from the Endowment to support new initiatives and grants for the educational and research mission of the COA.

SB 493 SD 1 requests an appropriation to fill 2 permanent full-time positions.

- One position would be for a full-time Associate Professor in the Center on Aging at \$86,532, who would re-establish the undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary certificate programs in Gerontology which have been suspended for a number of years. This person would teach courses as well as coordinate curriculum with faculty across disciplines.
- The second position will be to fund a full-time Assistant Specialist position in the Center of Aging at \$75,924. This person would undertake comprehensive workforce development and continuing education programs for professional and paraprofessionals employed in eldercare, family caregiver education and training courses, and active aging and wellness courses to reach the wider community. This

program might entail use of a range of media, including on-line courses and Olelo TV broadcasts in order to serve the educational needs statewide.

- Despite the minimal resources and the lack of permanent leadership, the Center on Aging has an outstanding record of securing contracts for needs assessments and evaluation research for community agencies and the Executive Office on Aging. However there are serious workforce shortages in every area of eldercare, from paraprofessional training to such professions as geriatric medicine and social work. These are job growth areas and the University needs to develop curriculum which is coordinated and articulated across its different departments and campuses.

Passage of SB 492 HD1 SD1 would restore its educational and training programs which are critically needed. I urge you to approve funding for these two positions in order to begin the process of re-building programs of the Center to meet the critical needs of our community.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: [Anthony Lenzer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB 493 HD1 SD1
Date: Saturday, March 26, 2016 7:28:11 AM

TO: [Committee on Ways and Means](#)

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

FROM: Anthony Lenzer, PhD

RE: [Support for HB 493 HD1 SD1](#)

HEARING: Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Senator Tokuda and Committee Members:

My name is Anthony Lenzer, and I served as first director of the Center on Aging at the University of Hawaii from 1988 to 1993. I am writing with regard to the above bill, which has been referred to WAM for decision-making, and which I strongly support.

By way of background, the Center on Aging was created by the Board of Regents, and had strong support from the University Administration during its early years. In addition, we were able to secure significant grants and contracts, including a \$1.2 million grant to create a 13 hour public television series titled Growing Old in a New Age. With these resources, we were able to encourage development of many new courses on aging across the Manoa campus; create two certificate programs (undergraduate and graduate); support pilot research projects in a number of different departments; and conduct training in gerontology for community agencies and community college faculty.

In recent years, however, University support has been minimal, despite the clear evidence of the Silver Tsunami which is about to overtake our state. The Center currently has only a half time interim director, together with research staff whose activities are limited by the terms of several (mostly short-term) grants and contracts. Thus, the Center is unable to engage in strategic planning or a broad assessment of the needs of Hawaii's older population. Nor is it able to fully achieve its mission which includes the education of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as continuing education for professionals in the aging network.

HB 493 HD 1 SD1 will provide two positions for the Center, one specialist and one instructional faculty member. This additional staff will develop new educational initiatives at the Manoa and throughout the UH system, and create training opportunities for practitioners and family caregivers. Hawaii has the highest life expectancy of any state, and our workforce

needs are great and growing each year. These positions will help meet these critical needs. Please support the Center on Aging.

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairperson

Testimony Supporting HB 493 HD1, SD1: "Relating to the University of Hawaii – Center on Aging"

March 29, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Individual Testimony of

Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Elder-Care Consultant

ASN Consulting Services

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB# 493 HD1, SD1 which provides funding for two full time permanent positions within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging. Adequate funding for these critical positions and support for the Center on Aging in general, is long overdue. With the rapidly aging population, the State needs the academic leadership, research, and educational training to help build a strong workforce and social and health care infrastructure to care for our aging residents and provide support to their families. The University's Center on Aging must have a highly skilled and qualified staff that can expand the Center's capacity and role to meet this vital need. It is a travesty that the Center is grossly underfunded and understaffed especially when the State leads the nation with its people having the longest life expectancy and a large percentage of the population over the age 65.

A strong academic think-tank will train our professionals in gerontology and expand the critically needed workforce for the future; conduct research on aging issues such as dementia care, chronic disease management, fall prevention and safety; test and evaluate pilot projects and new models of elder care services and programs; and provide evidence-based information to policy makers who can introduce and support effective policies and funding for aging programs and services that benefit the State. This funding request to establish a permanent faculty base at the Center of Aging is a sound investment for our future. Hawaii deserves a top-rated gerontology center that produces a high quality professional workforce, research and education.

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

March 27, 2016

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, Ways and Means Committee

From: Cullen T. Hayashida, Ph.D., Former Director, KCC Kupuna Education Center (retired)

Subject: HB493, HD1, SD1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii – Center on Aging Positions

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Dela Cruz and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to express my wholehearted support of HB493, HD1, SD1 to create the needed positions for the University of Hawaii's Center on Aging. As the former Director of the KCC Kupuna Education Center from 2006 to 2014, the work of our Center was an attempt to address the growing shortage of entry level paraprofessional eldercare workers and the need for a concerted attempt at developing and offering quality family caregivers training. Over the course of the 8 years, we were able to begin addressing Hawaii's need for more training. Unfortunately, much more will be needed and I am convinced that the University of Hawaii's Center on Aging if properly staffed can address Hawaii's need to train Hawaii's next generation of aging specialists, conduct applied policy and technical studies to assist the state find the better solutions. I have seen the good work of its half-time Acting Director Dr. Christy Nishita over the past 4 years and have been impressed by her productivity and accomplishments. I am very confident that with her leadership and commitment to create a better long-term care delivery system in Hawaii, she and her staff will be able to accomplish the important work that is before us. Without the necessary resources at this critical juncture however, the University's Center on Aging role cannot meet Hawaii's for technical expertise.

I therefore strongly support the passage of HB493, HB1, SB1.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration, I am,
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cullen T. Hayashida". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Cullen T. Hayashida, Ph.D. - retired
Director, KCC Kupuna Education Center

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB493 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Sunday, March 27, 2016 2:45:49 PM

HB493

Submitted on: 3/27/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support HB 493, HD1, SD1 bill for passage. More than ever, this is a critical need for our aging population. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: marseel@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB493 on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Friday, March 25, 2016 9:10:09 AM

HB493

Submitted on: 3/25/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Tuesday, March 29, 2016 9:00 a.m. RE: HB 493 HD 1 SD 1 Testimony from; Marilyn R Seely marseel@aolcom 46-402 Haiku Plantations Drive Kaneohe, HI 96744 Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz As a long time supporter and former part time employee of the Center on Aging, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I share my support for this measure. It has long been a dream of supporters of a strong vibrant focus on aging at UH to develop our Center on Aging into a first class institution to highlight and share our unique experience with folks as they grow older as well as the commonalities of the process of aging with others around the world. This will give our efforts a great boost after many years of struggle to find needed support. We are on the verge of significant growth in this field with the search for a new Director entering its final stages. Your support of this comes at a crucial time in the development of the Center. This is exciting progress and I hope your support will be part of the successful realization of our vision. Mahalo to you for considering my request for support.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov