



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 10:30am

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 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

As Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, I strongly support HB 493 HD1. 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, care-giving and long-term care.

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. Funding for a permanent Director position and Faculty 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 research on critical topics to improve older adults' quality of life and improve systems of care for older adults.
- 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 resources for students, professional groups, healthcare organizations, private and governmental agencies, service providers, caregivers, and diverse consumers, with the intent of improving the quality of life for all older adults in Hawai'i.

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

From: Anthony Lenzer <tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 10:06 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 493 HD 1

To: House Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

From: Anthony Lenzer, PhD, Member
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Subject: Support for HB 493 HD 1

Hearing: Thursday, March 5, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Room 308

The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) strongly supports House Bill 493, which funds two permanent faculty positions for the Center on Aging at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For the Committee's information, PABEA's role is to advise the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), and to advocate for Hawaii's older citizens. We do not, however, speak for the EOA.

PABEA has for years recognized the importance of a strong gerontology program at the University of Hawaii. Such a program is critical, given the fact that Hawaii's population is aging at a faster rate than the rest of the nation, and Hawaii's people live longer than most Americans. In addition, our older population consists of many different ethnic groups. This means that Hawaii has an even greater need than most states for a well educated professional and paraprofessional workforce to serve our older population; a robust multiethnic research program to understand our ethnic differences and similarities; and a source for trusted, unbiased information about aging and older people.

The University's Center on Aging is the key component in developing this type of campus-wide, interdisciplinary program. As House Bill 493 indicates, the Center's mission has three parts: research, education, and public service. To successfully carry out its mission, permanent full-time staff is needed. For many years, the University Administration has not included staffing for the Center in its budget requests to the Legislature. The Center presently has a part-time interim director who also has other University responsibilities, together with temporary research staff hired through short-term grants and contracts. This limits the Center to those activities funded by such grants, which are not supportive of the Center's basic mission. Passage of House Bill 493 will greatly strengthen the Center, by providing resources for professional

education and training, including reinstating the undergraduate and graduate certificates in Gerontology for students interested in careers in aging. Passage of this Bill will also demonstrate to the University Administration that the Legislature regards Gerontology as an important part of the University's mission.

In the interest of full disclosure, I wish to indicate that I was the first Director of the Center on aging, serving from 1988 to 1993. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important legislation

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Thursday, March 5, 2015; 10:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 493, HD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 493, HD1, which appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Hawaii's population is aging. And the percentage of Hawaii's aging population is growing at a faster rate than the rest of the nation. Yet the State has been slow to address the needs of the elderly in a coordinated fashion. A Center on Aging exists at the University of Hawaii Manoa, yet it has no funding for a permanent director or staff to focus on how to prepare individuals and families with the "silver tsunami" that will soon confront us.

H.B. 493, HD1 will appropriate funds for at least two full-time staff to begin to coordinate the massive effort to address the needs of an aging population. Training, research, coordination—all of this will be required if Hawaii is to stay ahead of the tsunami. We may already be behind, but H.B. 493, HD1 is a step in the right direction.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 493, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views and concerns.

Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, March 5 at 10:30am

By

Gary Simon, President, Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition

HB493 – Relating to the University of Hawaii (\$). Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Position: **The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB493.**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Gary Simon, President of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC), whose mission is to improve the quality of life for both those who give care and those who receive care.

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

HFCC wholeheartedly supports HB493.

The bill appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and a permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging, both permanent funded and tenure tracked.

With base funding and support, COA can:

Foster Workforce Development throughout Hawaii

- Reinstate (currently on hold) and administer the undergraduate and graduate certificate in gerontology to build a workforce that is prepared to care for our aging population
- Increase gerontology course offerings on UH campuses

- Strengthen Hawaii's current workforce by developing continuing gerontology education for existing professionals
- Develop a pipeline of students interested in gerontology education, thereby attracting students to professions in aging
- Increase awareness of aging and caregiving issues

Strengthen Local Research and Collaboration

- Conduct high quality research to improve older adults' quality life and improve systems of care for older adults.
- Collaborate with faculty across campus and community partners to conduct applied research.
- Increase the visibility of local research and collaborations, subsequently growing the capacity, visibility and reputation of the COA nationally

Build Capacity within Hawaii's Systems of Care

- Increased capacity to respond to requests from the State to address the escalating needs of our growing aging population, including issues of long-term supports and services (LTSS), caregiving, dementia and end of life, systems change, and workforce development
- Apply research findings to the community, improving the quality of life and systems of care for older adults and their caregivers.

Leverage Additional Funding

- Through a COA director's academic and administrative leadership, additional funding opportunities through local/ federal grants and private foundations can be secured.

The Center on Aging is an excellent program (collaborative, interdisciplinary research; development of innovative programs; a repository of state of the art information on aging) based upon good policy (enhancing the well-being of older adults). Continuing development of the Center of Aging will benefit residents throughout the State.

We urge you to support HB493 and to recommend its passage, and we thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,
 Gary Simon
 President
 Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition



March 5, 2015

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Re: **HB 493, HD 1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committees:

AARP is a membership organization of people fifty and over with nearly 148,000 members in Hawaii alone. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; providing the tools needed to save for retirement; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports HB 493, HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii. This bill provides funding for two permanent positions within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging. The two positions are for the Director (1.0 full-time equivalent "FTE") and an Associate Specialist (1.0 FTE).

The health and quality of life of older adults is a vital concern in Hawaii, which has one of the oldest populations in the nation. The University of Hawaii Center on Aging plays a critical role in enhancing the well-being of older adults through interdisciplinary and collaborative efforts in research, educational programs and service to the community.

The Center on Aging needs permanent funding for a Director and Associate Specialist to properly continue this work.

Funding these positions will help reinstate the undergraduate and graduate certificates in gerontology, which are currently on hold. Additionally, a properly funded Center on Aging will:

- Train professionals in gerontology;
- Conduct applied research on aging issues such as dementia care and chronic disease management;
- 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.

Pursuant to the original version of the bill, and the committee report issued by the Committee on Higher Education, we request that if this committee should deliberate this measure further that it consider appropriating:

- \$97,356 for each year of the fiscal biennium 2015-2017 to fund one full-time equivalent director (1.0 FTE) for the Center on Aging; and
- \$85,176 for each year of the fiscal biennium 2015-2017 to fund one full-time equivalent faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) at the Center on Aging.

Because Hawaii deserves a top Center on Aging that produces a high quality professional workforce, research and education, **we urge you to support HB 493, HD 1.**

TO: Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke; Chair, Committee on Finance
Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee of Finance

DATE: Thursday, March 5, 2015

PLACE: State Capitol Room 308

TIME: 10:30am

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of HB 493 H.D.1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the House Committee on Finance;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 493 H.D.1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii.

As Administration of Project Dana, a volunteer caregivers program serving Hawaii's older adults for 25years, I am in strong support of HB 493 H.D.1 which provides for two full-time permanent positions within the UH Center on Aging.

The Center must be strengthened with qualified full-time staff to provide the necessary leadership to forge ahead and develop the much needed academic programs in gerontology, thereby increasing young professionals to serve Hawaii's older population.

Additionally, the staff would promote, research and collaboration among the faculty departments and community partners. The development of a strong UH Center on Aging is imminent as Hawaii's older adults will benefit to improve their quality of life.

Please support HB 493 H.D.1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii. Thank you very much.

Rose Nakamura
Project Dana

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice-Chair

Testimony Supporting HB 493: "Relating to the University of Hawaii – Center on Aging"
March 5, 2015
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 308

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 which provides funding for two permanent positions within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging. The two positions are for the Director (1.0FTE) and an Associate Specialist (1.0FTE). 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; 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.

Written Testimony by Michael Cheang
Assistant Professor
Family & Consumer Sciences Department
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
HB 493 Relating to the University of Hawai'i

March 4, 2015

Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii center on aging.

My name is Michael Cheang. I am a resident of Honolulu, and am employed as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am providing personal testimony for HB 493.

Twelve years ago (in 2003), I remember being at a public meeting at the Hawaii State legislature when the need for educating and training a work force to address the issue of the baby boomer generation getting into their older years was raised. At that time, community leaders who had this foresight pointed out that the need for a workforce to plan, train, and care for the aging baby boomers is very important to set as a priority, and that we needed to do this sooner rather than later.

Unfortunately, not much has happened since, and a recent conversation with one of these community leaders resulted in her resigned comment, "we talked about this same thing for the past 30 years, and nothing has happened, except that now the baby boomers are already older adults, and the needs are greater!"

The only entity that helped to train a workforce to care for our older adults (The Kupuna Education Center at Kapiolani Community College) has recently been shut down. I am also aware that the cohort of employees who work in the state and county offices on aging have or will retire soon, and many of the new cohort of employees in these positions working in the offices on aging do not have a background in gerontology.

With the passing of every year, there will be more older adults in proportion as well in absolute numbers, and the needs will be greater than ever. As is, many of the needs are unmet because we do not have a workforce that is adequately trained. I hope that the members of this legislature will see the significance of HB 493 and that funding these two positions is instrumental in getting a workforce that can be educated and properly trained to help care for our elders in our state. Two full time positions to address a need that is statewide is not unreasonable to ask for, and this investment will bring significant returns in terms of workforce development, the care of our elders, and the quality of lives of our families in Hawai'i.

To: Chair, Representative Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Kathryn L. Braun, DrPH
625 Iolani Ave, #504, Honolulu, HI 96813
808-330-1759

Re: HB493 – Relating to the University of Hawaii (\$). Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawai'i Center on Aging.

I am a professor at the University of Hawai'i, testifying as an individual in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill.

With the longest life expectancy of any US state, the population of Hawai'i is aging dramatically. By 2030, one in five people in Hawai'i will be 65 or older. The number of residents age 85 and older will double, and this is the age group most at risk of chronic disease and memory loss.

These demographics underscore the need for more individuals, families, and workers in Hawai'i to understand aging processes, to build age-friendly environments, and to assist a growing number of people with disabilities.

With support from the legislature, the Center on Aging can build capacity to respond to such issues.

The Center on Aging has existed since the 1980s, but its budget has always been small. As part of my job duties at the University of Hawai'i, I directed the Center from 1995-2009. Over that time, our permanent budget supported a secretary. There were no funds for the director's position. A portion of my salary and funds to hire lecturers to teach courses on aging were donated by Public Health (the unit in which I teach). All other funds were secured from extramural sources, but were of course earmarked to carry-out specific research and service projects.

To this day, the Center on Aging operates with a part-time Interim Director and temporary researchers, funded through grants and contracts. With no permanent positions dedicated to aging, courses on gerontology have disappeared from the curriculum.

In sum, with no permanent positions, the capacity of the Center on Aging to assist the state with education, workforce development, intervention testing, and so forth is extremely limited, if not impossible.

Given the silver tsunami that faces the state, we need to pay more attention to aging issues. We all will benefit from a strong Center on Aging that can build awareness, prepare the workforce, research solutions, and partner with government and non-profit agencies in Hawai'i to address the growing needs of our aging population.

Testimony Presented Before the

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, March 4 at 10:30am

By

Norma Oria Aiko Hara/DArch/Norma Hara Design

HB493 – Relating to the University of Hawaii (\$). Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Chair Rep Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

I have been involved with the aging population in various degrees.

1) I am a registered respiratory therapist who has worked in the medical field in both acute medical facilities throughout Oahu as well as in the medical office setting. Many of the patients I have cared for have been the elderly. In my husband's medical practice, the number of people 65 years old and older makes up over 50% of his practice.

2) I have cared for my aging father throughout his illness before he expired.

3) I am currently caring for my aging step mother who is showing signs of cognitive decline.

4) My in-laws are both mentally and physically deteriorating due to Parkinson's Disease and arthritis.

5) I am a recent graduate from the University of Hawaii School of Architecture. My dissertation is titled: Senior Cohousing: An alternative for Hawaii's Elderly.

With the growing elderly population in Hawaii, the benefits of what the University of Hawaii Center on Aging can bring to the community is invaluable.

Although my husband and I are both medically educated to care for the elderly, many people are not. COA can aid in this area by offering classes to educate future care givers and students interested in pursuing this area of study.

Hawaii is also facing a shortage of medical providers within our community and the collaboration of COA with other entities both within the university and in the broader community can broaden the knowledge for those dealing with this age group. COA can be a resource and driver to which the state and community can benefit. Research on aging, especially here in Hawaii, can shed light to the understanding of aging in a multicultural environment and how we care for our elderly.

As I did my research for my dissertation, I realized that we live in a built environment that is not conducive to aging or to allow our elderly to live independently. More discussion and collaboration with COA and those responsible for the islands' built environment will aid in transforming Hawaii into a place where we all can live in a more healthy, safe, and inviting environment regardless of age.

All of this and many more possible initiatives cannot come to fruition without the leadership from a full-time director and permanent full-time faculty specialist. Please support the University of Hawaii Center on Aging with appropriate funding to staff these vital positions that will benefit all.

Thank you for your attention,

Norma

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 5 at 10:30am

By

Heather Chun, MSW
420 Poipu Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

HB493 – Relating to the University of Hawaii (\$). Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Chair- Representative Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair- Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

I strongly support HB493, which seeks to appropriate funding for both a permanent Director and Associate Specialist position within the University of Hawaii's Center on Aging (COA). With a rapidly aging local population, there is a demand for an adequately trained workforce, innovative and cost-effective programs to ensure care is available to all of Hawaii's older adults, research to support the escalating needs of our aging community, and publicly available and up-to-date information. Since its origin, COA's mission aims to fulfill this role throughout Hawaii. Unfortunately, COA's staffing has been scarce since the inception, and without permanent positions, COA has not been able to meet these broad systemic needs.

Currently, without base funding and support, COA's capacity continues to be limited with an interim director and two temporary researchers funded through grants and contracts. Current staffing limits COA to the activities that are outlined by current contracts, and although these projects are valuable to the community, there are needs that are not being addressed (i.e. workforce development). These systemic demands are time sensitive to ensure an adequate infrastructure is in place and capable of withstanding the escalating needs of our aging community. Elevating the significance of this legislation, if appropriated, this funding would also enable the COA to leverage additional funding to further expand COA's capabilities and ensure its sustainability. A \$2 million endowment by a private foundation in 2009 has been inaccessible to the COA, as it requires a permanent director to utilize the funds. The enactment of this legislation is an important vehicle in accessing the COA endowment, expanding the COA's capacity and enabling a strategic planning process to develop a blueprint on COA can be an instrumental partner in meeting the needs of our community into the future.

Should you have any questions, you may reach me at heathmc1400@yahoo.com or (808) 286-2982. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Heather Chun, MSW

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2015 7:44 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: anthony_orozco@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB493 on Mar 5, 2015 10:30AM

HB493

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 5, 2015 10:30AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Waste of money. Waste of money. HB493 is a waste of money.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 5, 2015
TIME: 10:30 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

SUPPORT FOR HB493: Permanent FT Director and Faculty Specialist Position in the UHM Center on Aging

Dear Representatives Luke, Chair, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and House Finance Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. My name is Barbara Yee and I am speaking as a private citizen who moved back to live with and provide care for my frail elderly father. I am also a gerontologist, Chair of Family and Consumer Sciences and faculty member in Family Resources program. I personally and professionally understand that Hawaii is currently experiencing a caregiving and gerontological crisis. Every citizen of this state has, had, or will have an elderly relative, friend, or neighbor who will need a great deal of help to cope with the physical, emotional or cognitive frailties of aging. We are unprepared in Hawaii because there is an absence of gerontological training for professionals who will become teachers for the current and future workforce and family caregivers in the graying tsunami. As important, our elderly caregivers are not prepared for the enormous responsibility for our parents, grandparents, and elderly relatives, or neighbors who need our support each and everyday.

Funding the gerontological workforce infrastructure and personnel to direct this urgent need is immediate and must be done during this legislative session. I strongly urge you to provide needed personnel for the UHM Center on Aging, so that we can take giant steps to provide education and training of personnel with gerontological expertise in Hawaii. I urge you to support these two positions immediately because Hawaii needs to rapidly train many gerontological professionals to care for the elderly of today and the large group of babyboomers over the next 30 years.

Respectfully,

Barbara Yee
Honolulu, HI 96816

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 5, 2015, 10:30
By Kirk Uejio and Allison Blankenship
Teachers at 'Iolani School

HB493 – Relating to the University of Hawaii (\$). Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Chair Rep Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

In the Fall of 2013, an innovative high school class was created at 'Iolani called the One Mile Project. In this class, students learn about aging issues and design and implement projects that benefit older adults in their community. Since the beginning of this class, the University of Hawaii Center on Aging and Dr. Christy Nishita were closely involved and great partners. With Dr. Nishita's support, we created a diverse curriculum in which students learned about our aging population, policy issues, health and well-being in late life, and creating an age-friendly community. Students developed relationships with Club 100 members, Moiliili Community Center seniors, and Project Dana clients.

Through the class, students have developed projects to help the community, such as a presentation to Kahala Mall management on becoming more age-friendly and an app to help older adults manage diabetes.

Inspired by the One Mile Project class at 'Iolani, other intergenerational initiatives have begun on campus, including a grandparent iPad class, grandparent and student movie day, a Grandparent Relations Committee, school involvement with Moiliili Community Center, a grandparent recipe contest, grandparent letters to graduating seniors, as well as many more programs and activities.

We appreciate the University of Hawaii Center on Aging's involvement and partnership with the 'Iolani School One Mile Project. We see a clear impact of the class. Students gain empathy and appreciation of aging issues and see the importance of intergenerational connections. We believe these students will use and apply this knowledge as they move on to college. Learning about aging has been an invaluable experience for the students. We believe it has exposed them to possible career options in the future.

U N I V E R S I T Y O F H A W A I I ' I A T M A N O A

Date: March 3, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Finances
Chair rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair rep. Scott Nishimoto, members of the board

Fr: Phoebe W. Hwang, MS

Re: IN SUPPORT OF HB 493, Relating to University of Hawaii
Thursday, March 5, 2015
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Dear Chairmen and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to review HB 493, a bill related to the University of Hawaii to appropriate funds for a permanent full time director (1.0FTE) and a permanent faculty specialist position (1.0FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging (COA).

Currently, I am a full time student in the doctorate of Public Health Sciences (DrPH) program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). Since my dissertation topic is older adult physical health I would like to share with you my struggles as an aspiring gerontologist in this institution where gerontology resources are limited and the importance of expanding these resources.

I first noticed the lack of professionals in the gerontology field when I started to build my dissertation proposal and look for committee members. Within UHM and the state only a handful of individuals are working to advocate for older adult health. Although the State of Hawaii has an Executive Office of Aging for administrative purposes, the organizations and consortiums working on the front lines depend fully on volunteers from health organizations, government agencies, academic institutions, and the community. These individuals may possibly be experts in the field, yet these individuals do not have incentives to stay and continue the legacy. Therefore students like me, are always learning from scratch or from the same handful of gerontologists in the state.

Permanent faculty positions in the COA can foster workforce development, strengthen local research and collaboration, build capacity within Hawaii's elderly care systems, and give priority to Hawaii's kupuna. COA is Hawaii's only interdisciplinary academic organization that supports and conducts elderly research, provides outreach support, and educate future gerontology researchers and practitioners. Since the absence of a permanent director, COA activities have

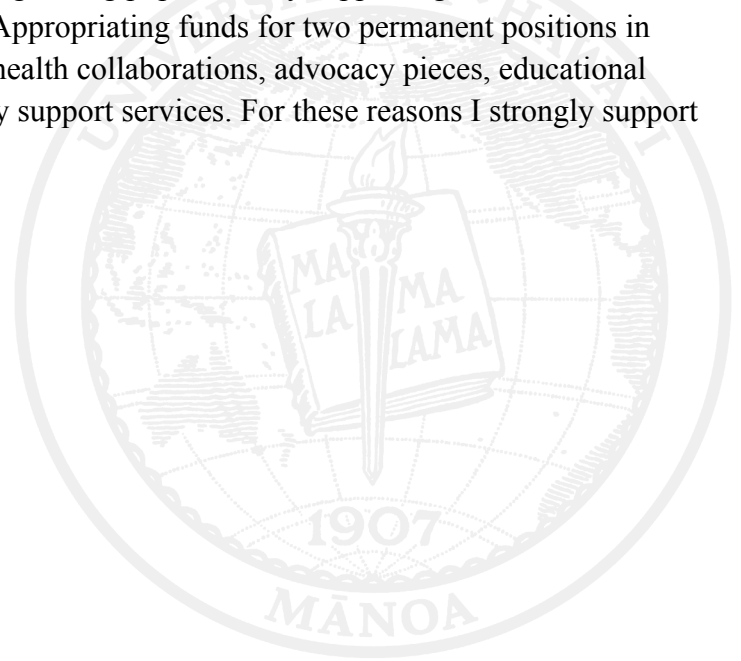
U N I V E R S I T Y O F H A W A I I ' I A T M Ā N O A

been at a stand still. The many gerontology classes and certificate programs that were once offered to students no longer exists. I believe that the presence of a permanent leader can realign academic and administrative priorities and open doors to additional funding opportunities.

In Hawaii, 1 in every 5 individual is a senior citizen. We have the highest average life expectancy (81.3 years) compared to any state in the United States. As our population begin to age, I believe it is Hawaii's responsibility to preserve this growing population by supporting those who have the elderly population's best interest in mind. Appropriating funds for two permanent positions in COA will kick start a series of older adult health collaborations, advocacy pieces, educational programs, applied research, and community support services. For these reasons I strongly support HB 493.

Sincerely,

Phoebe Hwang



Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 10:30am
By Sierra Greene
Senior at 'Iolani School

HB493 – Relating to the University of Hawaii (\$). Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Chair Rep Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

Last semester, I was a student in One Mile Project class at 'Iolani. In this high school class, I learned about aging issues and created projects to help older adults in our community. Since the beginning of this innovative class in the Fall of 2013, the University of Hawaii Center on Aging and Dr. Christy Nishita closely involved and a great partner. With Dr. Nishita's support, we learned about age-friendliness by doing a walkability audit of our community. We also met and developed relationships with Club 100 and met with Project Dana clients. We did empathy challenges so I knew how it felt to have a visual and physical impairment. We also had discussions about complex issues like ageism and caregiving problems.

Through the class, students have developed projects to help the community, such as giving a presentation to the Hawaiian Airlines staff that trains flight attendants about how to better serve and help kupuna on their flights. Another group of students collected \$1 from 500 people and donated the \$500 to St. Francis Hospice.

Inspired by the One Mile Project class at 'Iolani, there are more intergenerational activities on campus, including a student and grandparent book club, Grandparent Relations Committee projects, class involvement with Moiliili Community Center, an Adopt-a-Grandchild program, as well as many more programs and activities.

I appreciate the University of Hawaii Center on Aging's involvement and partnership with the 'Iolani School One Mile Project. I have an appreciation of aging issues and see the importance of intergenerational connections. My eyes are opened to new perspectives and beautiful moments are made for both generations when stories and legacies are passed on. I will take this knowledge with me as I move on to college next year. My experience, learning about aging, has opened my eyes to possible career choices.

Testimony by:
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Testimony Submitted to:
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 4, 2015, 10:30am

Concerning:
HB493 – Relating to the University of Hawaii (\$). Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time director (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time faculty specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Chair Rep Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of HB 493 which proposes to appropriate funds for two permanent positions for the University of Hawaii Center on Aging. I am submitting my testimony as a private citizen concerned about improving care for our kupuna.

As you know, the challenges of aging we face are growing as rapidly as our population is aging. The UH Center on Aging has been a critical resource for many years in researching and piloting innovative ways to improve the lives of our kupuna. But their effectiveness has been hampered by the impermanent nature of their funding and leadership. HB 493 would provide greatly needed institutional stability that would enhance the Center's ability to collaborate effectively across public and private sectors and to access additional public and private funds to tackle the challenges of our aging society. Equally important, the financial and administrative stability would enable the University of Hawaii to reinstate and strengthen the undergraduate and graduate gerontology programs that are the academic backbone to building adequate workforce capacity to care for our aging population.

The UH Center on Aging has done remarkable work for many years under clouds of uncertainty. Please support HB 493 to enable the Center to fulfill its greater potential for the benefit of our kupuna and our entire community.

Respectfully yours,

Linda Axtell-Thompson, DBioethics, MBA