



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

By  
Noreen Mokuau, Dean  
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 34 HD1 – REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON AGING TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FREE SENIOR ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

As Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, I appreciate the opportunity to provide an update on efforts by the UH Center on Aging (COA) in examining adult education offerings in Hawai'i.

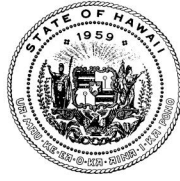
In response to SR 118 SD1 from 2015, the Hawai'i Department of Health, Executive Office on Aging (EOA), contracted with the UH COA to carry out the tasks outlined in the resolution. SR 118 SD1 listed recommended potential participants to be involved in the workgroup, and the UHM COA approached these participants. The resolution also tasked the workgroup with examining program offerings statewide, identifying potential areas of duplication and assessing the need for consolidation, and producing policy recommendations. The 2017 resolution, HCR 34, has similar language and goals.

The workgroup convened three times between September and December 2016. Then, the UH COA produced a draft report, incorporated comments and feedback from the adult education workgroup members, and produced a final report to EOA at the end of February 2017. EOA will submit the report to the Legislature, as appropriate.

To summarize, the report identified a diverse range of programs offered for free or low-cost through the UH system and Department of Education. The group did not recommend consolidation of programs. Although programs may seem duplicative of each other, they are often necessary due to geographic constraints and transportation challenges of our kūpuna. The group's findings include the need to better assess the interests and preferences of kūpuna for adult education topics and programs, to strengthen outreach and marketing activities, and to pilot new ideas.

If the House of Representatives is requesting additional information regarding learning opportunities for adult education, the COA would be pleased to support such efforts in collaboration with the current workgroup participants. This concurrent resolution creates a workgroup already in place. As such, the University of Hawai'i believes that HCR 34 HD1 is not necessary and request that this measure be deferred.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS  
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR0034, HD1**  
**Requesting the Executive Office on Aging and the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to**  
**Establish a Working Group to Review the Department of Education Adult Education Services,**  
**the University of Hawaii Free Senior Enrollment Opportunities, and the Potential to Provide**  
**New Learning Opportunities to Senior Citizens**

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
REPRESENTATIVE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE MARK J. HASHEM, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Terri Byers  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: March 28, 2017  
2:00 p.m.

Room Number: 309

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health would like to provide comments on this measure.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to request the EOA and
- 4 University of Hawaii Center on Aging to establish a working group to review adult education
- 5 services and opportunities presently offered to seniors, consider whether it would be effective to
- 6 consolidate some programs in order to provide new and improved learning opportunities, and
- 7 explore other potential education programs that might be beneficial to seniors.
- 8 This concurrent resolution was previously introduced in 2015 and 2016. Recognizing the
- 9 importance of improving adult education services and opportunities for Hawaii's growing older
- 10 adult population, the EOA, through a contract with the University of Hawaii Center on Aging,

1 formed a working group in the Fall of 2016. This working group assessed adult education  
2 services and opportunities that are provided to Hawaii's seniors and then developed a report of  
3 their recommendations and findings.

4 The working group met between September and December 2016, and consisted of  
5 representatives from the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Department of Education, City and  
6 County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation Department, Kokua Council, AARP Hawaii, and the  
7 EOA. Over the course of these meetings, the work group shared each other's programmatic  
8 efforts, and discussed areas of focus, strengths, issues/gaps, and the need for adult education  
9 services and opportunities in Hawaii. The broad range of educational courses offered was  
10 recognized as a strength, but the group also identified the need to better understand the specific  
11 target group of older adults that each of the different educational programs serve to enable  
12 improved marketing of these programs to the community. After in-depth discussions, the  
13 working group made the following recommendations in their report:

- 14 1. The consolidation of adult education programs for seniors are not recommended.  
15       Though some adult education programs may seem duplicative they are often  
16       necessary due to geographic constraints and transportation challenges of our kupuna.  
17       Rather than consolidating programs, the group recommended sharing effective  
18       marketing strategies, program instructors, and other resources.
- 19 2. Continue existing collaborations between different agencies that provide adult  
20       education and learning opportunities for seniors. The working group members  
21       recommended that they continue to meet as a group to discuss issues and lessons

1           learned in administering their education programs for seniors. In addition, the group  
2           is open to identifying and collaborating on new learning opportunity initiatives.

3           3. It is important to have commitment from the Hawaii State Legislature for ongoing  
4           support on issues relating to the aging population and the vital role that adult  
5           education plays to Hawaii's older adults. The working group is willing to share  
6           information on existing educational opportunities available to Hawaii's aging  
7           population and their ideas on the direction that adult education should take in the  
8           future.

9           4. New ideas, initiatives, and pilot projects that encourages opportunities to advance  
10          educational opportunities for older adults are recommended by the working group.  
11          The work group recommends opportunities to advance adult education, including  
12          scholarships or reduced tuition for adult learners, an adult education resource website,  
13          or a needs assessment and small scale piloting of best practice programs.

14         In summary, work group members valued the opportunity to discuss their ideas on how to more  
15         effectively provide adult education opportunities for seniors. They appreciated the interest and  
16         support from the Legislature to examine and advance these issues.

17         **Recommendation:** While the work group report prepared by the University of Hawaii Center  
18         on Aging recommends next steps, EOA has limited resources both financially and  
19         administratively to implement these recommendations.

20         Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/28/2017

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309

**Committee:** House Higher Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** HCR 034, HD1 REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON AGING TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES, THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FREE SENIOR ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

**Purpose of  
Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HCR 34 HD1 to establish a working group to review currently offered adult education services and opportunities.

We are committed to our continued interagency work and collaboration with the Executive Office on Aging; the University of Hawaii; City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation Department; Kokua Council; and the AARP Hawaii to provide new and improved learning programs for older adults.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR 34 HD1.



House of Representatives  
Committee on Higher Education  
Tuesday, March 28, 2017  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

To: Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair

**RE: HCR 34 REQUESTING TO CONVENE A WORK GROUP TO REVIEW ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES AND NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates and provides information on issues that matter to our kupuna and their families, including affordable, accessible, quality healthcare, financial resiliency, and livable communities.

HCR 34 requests the Executive Office on Aging and the University of Hawaii, Center on Aging to establish a working group to review the Department of Education adult education services, the University of Hawaii free senior enrollment opportunities and the potential to provide new learning opportunities to senior citizens.

In response to SR 118, SD1, a similar workgroup was convened in 2016 in which it produced a report identifying adult education programs and learning opportunities statewide, and included their findings and recommendations. Highlights of the report's recommendations are:

1. Continuation for work group members to identify and collaborate on new initiatives;
2. Commitment to ongoing support from the legislature for aging issues and understanding the vital role that adult education plays;
3. Pilot new ideas and explore innovative opportunities to support lifelong learning

If the Legislature finds the need for this workgroup to continue, AARP Hawaii will be happy to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

hashem2 - Michael

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 6:59 PM  
To: HEDtestimony  
Cc: mamaupin@hotmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HCR34 on Mar 28, 2017 14:00PM\*

**HCR34**

Submitted on: 3/23/2017

Testimony for HED on Mar 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Margaret Maupin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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