



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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 35 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON AGING TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS CURRENT ELDER AND KUPUNA CARE SERVICES AND THE ANTICIPATED DEMAND FOR THOSE SERVICES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THOSE SERVICES AND MEET ANTICIPATED DEMAND.

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

As Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, I support HCR 35. By 2030, 24% of Hawai'i's population will be aged 65 or older, compared to 21% nationally. The graying of Hawai'i is associated with multiple challenges, e.g., elder abuse, dementia, caregiving, affordable age-friendly housing and transportation, and long-term services and supports, as well as opportunities to enable older adults to engage in meaningful activities.

The kupuna care program, an alternative to traditional long-term care supports and services, strives to enable older Hawaiians to lead independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities. It also strives to provide a safety net of services for all kupuna and their caregivers, including access to affordable and quality home- and community-based services, hot meals, transportation, case management, and personal care assistance. It is currently difficult to find appropriately trained providers of these services, and demand for kupuna care services is expected to increase as the number of aging people increases. The State needs a work force well trained in elder care and kupuna services to meet the demands of its aging population.

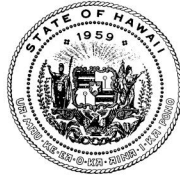
With support from the legislature, the UHM Center on Aging can take a leading role in building capacity to respond to these issues. As stated in HCR 35, the University of Hawai'i Center on Aging has been charged with convening a task force to review both the current elder and kupuna care system of services and the anticipated future demand for those services. Potential members of the task force have been identified in HCR 35 and represent the leading figures in the Hawaiian aging network. Based on this initial assessment of services, the Center on Aging and members of the task force would determine requirements for adequate training, workforce expansion, service expansion,

and financing to address any current gaps in the system and meet anticipated demand. A final report on findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation will be provided.

I recommend the following **amendments** for your consideration:

- The addition of the Dean of the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work or the Dean's designee to the task force membership.
- The proposed task force is a worthy and much needed effort and the UHM Center on Aging represents the logical entity to convene it. However, given the Center's current low level of staffing, we request that the resolution be delayed for consideration until full staffing has been achieved. Given the urgency of the proposed resolution, if such delay would not be feasible, the Center would move forward as requested.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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Testimony COMMENTING on HCR0035
Requesting the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to Convene a Task Force to Assess Current Elder and Kupuna Care Services and the Anticipated Demand for Those Services in Order to Improve Those Services and Meet Anticipated Demand

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 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to request the
5 University of Hawaii Center on Aging convene a task force to review the current elder and
6 kupuna care services situation and anticipated demand for those services and determine
7 requirements for adequate training, workforce expansion, services expansion, and financing to
8 correct the current situation and meet anticipated demands.
- 9 As Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, the need and demand for both long term
10 services and supports (LTSS) and a well trained work force to provide these services will
11 increase. The growing number of older adults is likely to put a severe strain on the State's

1 resources. By 2029, the baby boomer population will be 65 years or older with many of them
2 having multiple complex chronic conditions that require a caregiving workforce with a diverse
3 set of caregiving skills to address their physical, mental, cognitive and behavioral health needs
4 (Eldercare Workforce Alliance, Issue Brief, February 16, 2011). However, the shortage of well
5 trained, competent, and committed caregiving providers (professional and paraprofessional)
6 make it increasingly more difficult for kupuna to find the support services and long term care
7 that meet their needs. The October 2011 Urban Institute and the American Association of
8 Homes and Services for the Aging report entitled, "*Who Will Care for Us? Addressing the Long-*
9 *Term Care Workforce Crisis,*" cited the high turnover rates, vacancies and shortage of nursing
10 assistants, home health and home care aides, and other paraprofessional workers; smaller pool of
11 middle-aged women who have traditionally provided care to the elderly; and poor wages and
12 unpleasant working conditions are issues that need to be examined to develop strategies and
13 requirements needed for adequate training, workforce and service expansion, and financing to
14 meet the needs of our growing aging population.

15 The EOA would like to note a highlight/conclusion of our report to the Legislature pursuant to
16 Act 138 that while the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) may authorize services
17 within a reasonable timeframe, the timely delivery of services may be delayed due to the
18 shortage of qualified service providers. The analysis further indicated that the following two
19 factors may also contribute to the difficulty for service providers to retain and increase qualified
20 staffing:

1 1. *Type of work.* Homemaker, chore, personal assistance, and other similar types of
2 occupations are not inviting areas to work in and, therefore, more difficult to fill,
3 especially in a tight labor market.

4 The providers are competing with businesses that offer more appealing jobs, such as
5 those in the hospitality and retail industries.

6 2. *Funding uncertainty.* The uncertainty of the year-to-year supplemental funding may
7 have resulted in providers' hesitance to increase their staff
8 for fear of having to discharge staff should the funding drop the following year. As a
9 result, it would take the vendor longer to respond to service requests from the
10 ADRCs.

11 The Executive Office on Aging will be willing to serve on the task force and offer any assistance
12 requested.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 35 REQUESTING TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO ASSESS CURRENT ELDER AND KUPUNA CARE SERVICES AND ANTICIPATED DEMAND FOR SERVICES

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 35 requests the University of Hawaii, Center on Aging to convene a task force to assess current elder and kupuna care services and the anticipated demand for those services in order to improve those services and meet anticipated demand.

AARP Hawaii testifies in support of HCR 35 and appreciates the opportunity to participate in this task force.

As Hawaii's older population continues to grow rapidly, there will be a growing demand for services to help keep our kupuna healthy and independent so that they can remain at home as long as possible. This means Hawaii must also develop a workforce to take care of this aging population especially the Baby Boom generation. There will not be enough family caregivers - the backbone of our long term system, to care for the increasing number of older adults. In 2010, there were 6.1 potential family caregivers for every 80 or older. By 2030, that ratio will fall to less than 3 to 1, and will further drop to 2 to 1 in 2050.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

hashem2 - Michael

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 7:00 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: mamaupin@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR35 on Mar 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HCR35

Submitted on: 3/23/2017

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Margaret Maupin | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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