



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 9:20 a.m.

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

HB 2151 – RELATING TO A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF THE AGING POPULATION

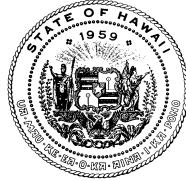
Chairs McKelvey and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Hashem and Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education and the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

As Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, I am appreciative of the legislature's recognition of the Center on Aging as a leader in research associated with aging. While we regard the task force as a step toward gathering necessary data associated with aging in Hawai'i, without an allocation of financial resources, the Center on Aging is unable to convene the taskforce.

The Center on Aging is willing to contribute to task force efforts by sharing information (i.e., contact information of participants compiled for the previous HCR35 task force) necessary to convene the group.

We support the Executive Office on Aging's position that financial resources are necessary to conduct a meaningful and much-needed review of the future impact of Hawaii's aging population.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB2151
Relating to Aging

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 13, 2018
9:20 a.m.

Room Number: 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health is in opposition to this measure.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill is unfunded. It places unknown staffing and operating expenses
- 4 on the Executive Office on Aging.
- 5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is for the University of Hawaii Center on
- 6 Aging to convene a task force to review the impacts that the aging population on Hawaii will
- 7 have in five, ten and twenty years and for the Director of the Executive Office on Aging to
- 8 determine the scope and objectives of this review.
- 9 EOA appreciates the intent of this bill. However, the proposal seems redundant to House
- 10 Concurrent Resolution 35 that was passed in 2017, which also requested the University of

1 Hawaii Center on Aging to convene a task force to assess current elder and kupuna care services
2 and the anticipated demand for those services in order to improve those services and meet
3 anticipated demand. While the task force formed under HCR35 was convened, the deliverables
4 could not be completed due to the lack of resources dedicated to the effort. Similarly, HB2151 is
5 also unfunded but specifies that EOA shall be responsible for reimbursement of related expenses,
6 including travel expenses.

7 As Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, the need and demand for both long term
8 services and supports (LTSS) and a well trained work force to provide these services will
9 increase. The growing number of older adults is likely to put a severe strain on the State's
10 resources. By 2029, the baby boomer population will be 65 years or older with many of them
11 having multiple complex chronic conditions that require a caregiving workforce with a diverse
12 set of caregiving skills to address their physical, mental, cognitive and behavioral health needs
13 (Eldercare Workforce Alliance, Issue Brief, February 16, 2011). The shortage of well trained,
14 competent, and committed caregiving and service providers (professional and paraprofessional)
15 will make it increasingly more difficult for Hawaii's kupuna to find the support services and long
16 term care that meet their needs. The October 2011 Urban Institute and the American Association
17 of Homes and Services for the Aging report entitled, "*Who Will Care for Us? Addressing the*
18 *Long-Term Care Workforce Crisis*," cited the high turnover rates; vacancies and shortage of
19 nursing assistants, home health and home care aides, and other paraprofessional workers; smaller
20 pool of middle-aged women who have traditionally provided care to the elderly; and poor wages
21 and unpleasant working conditions are issues that need to be examined to develop strategies and

1 requirements needed for adequate training, workforce and service expansion, and financing to
2 meet the needs of our growing aging population.

3 If resources are provided to support this critical endeavor, the Executive Office on Aging would
4 be willing to participate on the task force to have a more accurate understanding of the impacts
5 that the aging population will have in Hawaii and will offer any assistance requested. However,
6 we cannot support yet another unfunded mandate. Thank you for the opportunity to share our
7 concerns with you.

TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AN HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
Board of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC)

**SUBJECT: HB 2151 Relating to a Task Force to Review the Impacts
Of the Aging Population**

HEARING: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 9:20 am
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition **supports HB2151**, which requires the University of Hawaii Center on Aging to convene a task force to review the impacts of the aging population on Hawaii in 5,10 and 20 years. The Director of the Executive Office on Aging shall determine the scope and objectives of the review.

However, we suggest that the measure be amended to include an appropriation. There needs to be realistic thinking about the resources to include representatives from each county and to consult with educational and health care institutions across the state.

The aging of the population is a profound social change with implications across all institution. One of the most pressing needs is to address the shortages in the eldercare workforce with the growing number of persons facing chronic disease and disability. The Coalition suggests that the focus of the taskforce address these workforce issues. There are many sides to this problem, including such issues as access to appropriate training, addressing the need for creating opportunities in these paraprofessions to keep current in their knowledge and skills, and have career opportunities to increase their levels of skills and responsibilities. Currently, pay levels are very inadequate and these tend to be dead-end jobs. There needs to be major shift in order to assure that our citizens have access to quality care at all levels.

I urge you pass this bill with an amendment incorporating these suggestions.

Thank you considering our testimony



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State of Hawaii House of Representatives

Committee on Higher Education
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Committee on Health and Human Services
Re. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

HB 2151 Relating To A Task Force To Review The Impacts
Of The Aging Population
Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 9:20AM
Conference Room 329

From: David Howe, Executive Administrator

Re: Support for HB 2151

Lanakila Pacific is in support of HB 2151 which will convene a task force to review the impacts of the aging population on Hawaii in 5, 10, and 20 years.

Lanakila Pacific has served Hawaii's communities for more than 78 years, creating independence for challenged lives. As a Kupuna Care service provider, Lanakila Meals on Wheels serves more than 2,500 Hawaii kupuna a year.

Understanding the impact of Hawaii's rapidly growing aging population will help the State and service providers be best prepared to make data driven decisions in delivering healthcare and other vital services for our State's kupuna. This task force would draw from a wide array of service providers, educators, and community members to ensure an informed, solid foundation from which to provide adequate care and services in the years ahead.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Howe
Executive Administrator

HB-2151

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 10:45:57 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/13/2018 9:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate	Support	No

Comments:

House Committee on Higher Education and House Committee on Health and Human Services

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

TIME: 9:20 a.m.

RE: HB2151- RELATING TO A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF THE AGING POPULATION

Chairs McKelvey and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Hashem and Kobayashi, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and the House Committee on Health and Human Services:

As director of the UHM COA, I appreciate this opportunity to voice my thoughts regarding HB2151. Please note that my testimony is that of an individual, rather than that of an employee of the University of Hawai'i. I agree that passage of HB2151 should not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. As a member of the faculty at the University of Hawai'i, I support the prioritization process that the administration utilizes to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

Few states are aging as rapidly as Hawai'i. By 2020, approximately 25.8% of the State's residents will be 60+ years old. In response to such radical demographic change, members of the workforce in Hawai'i should receive basic gerontological training to better serve growing numbers of older patients, clients, and consumers. While Hawai'i needs more geriatric health professionals and eldercare workers to address the medical and basic care needs of its aging population, it also needs workers in fields such as architecture, law, design, engineering, business, urban planning, fashion, the tourism and hospitality industry, and so on, who understand basic aging-related changes and know how to accommodate and support older adults by making their products and interactions age-friendly. An understanding of the impact of Hawai'i's aging population, both in the near future and longer term, would guide preparations to develop and provide basic training in applied gerontology for all workers who serve and interact with older adults.

The proposed bill would contribute to achievement of this goal, and its intent is laudable. However, given its limited resources, the COA does not have the capacity to perform the requested tasks. The proposed task force calls for participation of the identical set of members who served on a recent unfunded task force convened by COA under resolution HCR35. We would be pleased to share the contact information that we assembled. We agree with EOA's position that, although the proposed task force would provide useful information, it cannot be accomplished without allocation of adequate resources to support the effort.

HB-2151

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:13:59 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/13/2018 9:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments: