



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 2:03 p.m.

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

HB 609 HD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hasham, 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 strongly support HB609 HD1. By 2030, 24% of Hawai'i's population will be age 65 or older, compared to 21% nationally. The graying of Hawai'i is associated with challenges including elder abuse, dementia, caregiving, affordable age-friendly housing and transportation, and long-term care.

With support from the legislature, the UHM Center on Aging (COA) can build capacity to respond to such issues. Currently, with a permanent G-funded Director and a temporary researcher, funded through short term grants and contracts, the COA's capacity to expand is limited. Ongoing projects address important community needs, but are limited to activities specified in grant and contract language. The larger systemic needs of the community, for example, developing the eldercare workforce and retraining older adults to remain in the workforce, require additional professional support. Funding for a permanent associate professor position and associate specialist position, 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 on critical aging-related areas; and to provide state-of-the-art gerontological information to policy makers, program managers, clinicians and the general public.

The UHM COA is committed to the highest level of excellence in education, research and service to our community. Specifically, we need staff to help us:

- Respond to requests from the state to address the escalating needs and challenges faced by our growing aging population.
- Assist state agencies to develop and evaluate services for older adults.
- Seek and secure extramural funds for aging research from local, federal, and international sources as well as support state agencies in grant proposal development.

- Provide high quality gerontological education programs, both on the Mānoa campus as well as continuing education and training in the community and through online courses to neighboring islands.
- Reinstate (currently on hold) and administer the undergraduate and graduate certificates in gerontology, informed by the latest national *Standards and Guidelines for Gerontology and Geriatrics*, as defined by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) and also conforming to AGHE's *Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education*, to build a workforce that is well-prepared to care for our aging population.
- Work with faculty and students interested in gerontology to further their scholarship and publication.

Your support is requisite in providing UHM COA with the capacity to be a community resource for older adults, 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, I strongly support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Biennium Budget.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:37 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: deborah.stone-walls@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB609 on Feb 14, 2017 14:03PM*

HB609

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 14, 2017 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Stone-Walls	Maui County Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

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



House of Representatives
Committee on Higher Education
Committee on Education
Tuesday, February 14, 2017
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TO: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair

RE: **HB 609, HD 1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

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.

HB 609, HD 1 appropriates funds for a permanent full time associate professor and associate specialist positions within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

AARP Hawaii **strongly supports** HB 609, HD 1.

The rapid aging of Hawaii's population calls for greater capacity in gerontological education programs aimed at responding to the needs of the state's elderly residents and their families, including a workforce that is educated and prepared to address their needs. The funding of two permanent positions at the UH Center on Aging would represent an important step in meeting the evolving need of Hawaii's older adult population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Higher Education

DATE: Tuesday February 14, 2017

TIME: 2:03 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE: HB 609 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

KOKUA COUNCIL POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

Chair Woodson Members of the Committee

In spite of having a population that is aging faster than that of most states, Hawaii has been a bit slow in responding to their needs. We woefully underfund our quality control mechanisms, from failing to inspect and post reports on residential facilities, to starving our Long Term Ombudsman.

At the University of Hawaii, public policy units are not seen as high priorities. Most survive by stretching the workloads of existing faculty. With our rapidly increasing aging population, we might hope that our state in general, and our University in particular, would appreciate the need for good policy research and growing our gerontology workforce.

This bill is important in two respects. It recognizes that the UH can play an important role in the state's intelligent commitment to our seniors. And it recognizes that the Center on Aging in particular is a valuable asset deserving of more financial support.

Kokua Council strongly supports more funding for this program.

Mahalo for your sincere consideration of our testimony.

Prepared by Jim Shon on behalf of Kokua Council.

The **Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. Kokua Council seeks to empower seniors and other concerned citizens to be effective advocates in shaping the future and well-being of our community, with particular attention to those needing help in advocating for themselves. We meet monthly at Hawaii United Methodist Church.



Kokua Council is an advocacy group basing its policy recommendations on the type of information

summarized below. Also see Demographic profile:

http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/477d1_Hawaii's%20Older%20Adults%20-%20A%20Demographic%20Profile%20HZ%2009-13-16%20v2.pdf

- In 2010, persons aged 60 and over made up 20.6% of the state's population. This share is projected to increase to 28.5% by 2040.
- In Hawaii, 35% of those aged 60 or older live alone.
- By 2020, 40% of Hawaii's workforce will be providing care for older parents.
- Family caregivers provide 70% of all care for frail elderly persons.
- Forty percent of Hawaii workers do not have access to a single day of leave from work for family caregiving.
- There are approximately 12,000 residents of nursing and other residential care facilities.
- The Long-Term Care Ombudsman, with a staff of one, serves all 12,000, or a staff to resident ratio that is six times the recommended ration of one for every 2,000.
- In Hawaii, 46% of the long-term care beds are in small community residential care homes (1,630), and 54% in larger nursing and assisted living facilities.
- The state faces a shortage of eldercare workers and currently many people entering these jobs have no formal training in gerontology.
- In 2016, the cost of home health care in Hawaii was almost \$10,000 higher than the national average.
- The Alzheimer's Association projects that in 2025 ten percent of all Hawaii residents age 65 and over will have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

The **Kokua Council** is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. Kokua Council seeks to empower seniors and other concerned citizens to be effective advocates in shaping the future and well-being of our community, with particular attention to those needing help in advocating for themselves. We meet monthly at Hawaii United Methodist Church.

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

1130 N. Nimitz Highway Suite A-265, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

February 8, 2017

Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Committee on Higher Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 405
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB609 – Relating to the University of Hawaii Center on Aging (\$). Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time associate professor (1.0 FTE) and permanent full-time associate specialist position (1.0 FTE) within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

The Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter is in strong support of HB609. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Hawaii's older adults with dementia and their family members.

In 2015 there were 26,000 Hawaii residents diagnosed with of Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias. With our rapidly aging state, this number is expected to grow to 35,000 by 2025, an increase of 34.6%. In Hawaii, we must be prepared for this public health crisis by ensuring a well-trained professional and paraprofessional workforce.

We see the UH Center on Aging as a vital partner in the aging network. The Center has the capacity to be the leader in gerontological education in the state. There is a significant need to attract students to the field of aging. Within the current aging network, professionals need continuing education and training, particularly on dementia care issues. The Center is already doing good work, partnering with us to offer dementia training to health care professionals through a federal Administration for Community Living grant.

Without the Center on Aging's leadership in this area, we are concerned about the future growth of the older adult population, the rise in dementia diagnoses, and the capacity of our workforce to care for our kupuna.

The request for 2 permanent positions will provide the Center on Aging with the permanent positions it needs to develop and implement educational initiatives both on campus and in the community. Thank you for allowing me to testify in strong support of HB609.

Sincerely,



Christine Payne
Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter



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

Testimony Is Directed To: House Committee on Higher Education
House Committee on Education

MEASURE: HB609, HD1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Appropriates funds for a permanent full-time associate professor and permanent full-time associate specialist position within the University of Hawaii Center on Aging.

Date & Time of Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 2:03 p. m.

Position: **The Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB609, HD1.**

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Honorable Members of the House Committee on Higher Education, Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education:

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-nine years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of HFCC.

In 2030, 24% of Hawai'i's population will be aged 65 or older, compared to 21% nationally. This dramatic increase is associated with growing and devastating challenges including elder abuse, dementia, care giving, affordable age-friendly housing and transportation, and long-term care.

With support from the legislature, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH Mānoa) Center on Aging (COA) can build capacity to respond to such issues.

Currently, with a permanent Director and a temporary researcher who is 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 grant and contract language.

The larger systemic needs of the community (for example, developing the eldercare workforce and retraining older adults to remain in the workforce) are not being addressed.

Funding for a permanent associate professor position and associate specialist position, with support from ancillary UH Mānoa 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 on critical aging-related areas; and to provide state-of-the art gerontological information to policy makers, program managers, clinicians and the general public.*

The UH Mānoa COA is committed to the highest level of excellence in education, research and service to our community. Specifically, COA needs staff to it:

- Respond to requests from the State to address the escalating needs and challenges faced by our growing aging population.
- Assist state agencies to develop and evaluate services for older adults.
- Seek and secure extramural funds for aging research from local, federal, and international sources as well as support State agencies in grant proposal development.
- Provide high quality gerontological education programs, both on the Manoa campus as well as continuing education and training in the community and through online courses to neighboring islands.
- Reinstate and administer the undergraduate and graduate certificates in gerontology (which are currently on hold), informed by the latest national *Standards and Guidelines for Gerontology and Geriatrics*, as defined by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) and also conforming to AGHE's *Gerontology Competencies for Undergraduate and Graduate Education*, to build a workforce that is well-prepared to care for our aging population.
- Work 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 our kupuna, care givers, 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 HB609, HD1 and to recommend its passage, and we thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Sincerely,



Gary Simon

President

Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition

Phone 808 547 8140

Email gsimon@stfrancishawaii.org

TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)

HEARING: 2:03 pm Tuesday February 14, 2017
State Capitol Room 309

SUBJECT: HB 609 HD 1 Relating to the University of Hawaii

POSITION: The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs **supports** HB 609 HD1 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 at the University of Hawaii is committed to 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. The request for these 2 faculty positions is essential to implementing efforts to accomplish these goals:

- One position would be for a full-time Associate Professor in the Center on Aging at \$92,000, 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 Associate Specialist position in the Center of Aging at \$92,000. 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. The person will work cooperatively with institutions across the state to assure that high quality training and education are available statewide. 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.

The Center on Aging (COA) suffered retrenchments of its programs due the severe Budget restrictions at the University in the past years. However, with the current strong support of the University Administration, the COA is poised to revitalize its role and to take on the serious challenges accompanying the rapid aging of our population:

- In January 2017, Dr. Peggy Perkinson arrived as the new Director of the Center on Aging, after many years without a permanent director. The University Administration provided the funds for the COA to fill this position. Dr. Perkinson is a highly successful Gerontologist and has served in some of the most prestigious institutions and programs in the field. She has broad experience in gerontological education and research as well as years as a practitioner. She has also been instrumental in developing programs in other institutions.
- The COA also received a generous \$2 million bequest to establish an endowment fund for the COA at the UH Foundation. The income from the Endowment is now available to support new initiatives and grants for the educational and research mission of the COA.
- The Center on Aging has an outstanding record of service to the State of Hawaii. It has secured many contracts for needs assessments and evaluation research for community agencies and the Executive Office on Aging. The Center has also received other research grants and its staff has an impressive record of publications and awards.

The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs urges passage of the requested appropriations to make it possible for the COA to create the needed training programs and to coordinate access to these programs statewide in order to achieve high quality eldercare for our residents.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony.



Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education

Testimony by Patrick J. Duarte, President & CEO, Kāhala Senior Living Community, Inc.

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Support of HB 609, HD 1, Relating to the University of Hawai'i Center on Aging

Kāhala Senior Living Community, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that operates Kāhala Nui, a life plan community that is home to approximately 450 seniors, and Live Well at Iwilei, a senior wellness center. As a provider of residential services, day care services, assisted living, memory support, and nursing care, we are faced with the challenge of finding enough qualified staff to serve the needs of our senior population. We are also well aware that the seniors served by institutional providers like Kāhala Nui represent only a very small percentage of the kūpuna needing care or assistance in Hawai'i. With the expected continued growth of our senior population, we are likely approaching a severe care-provider workforce shortage in our state. It is vital that action be taken now to help our state avoid a future crisis.

Development of the eldercare workforce has to be one of our state's top priorities, and HB 609, HD 1, will be instrumental in enabling the state to address this looming issue. The University of Hawai'i at Manoa Center on Aging (UHM COA) can play a pivotal role in workforce development by providing gerontological education programs at the University and continuing education and training in the community and online. They can also provide assistance to state agencies tasked with developing and evaluating services for seniors. With the additional staff HB 609, HD 1 will provide, UHM COA will be able to reinstate the undergraduate and graduate certificates in gerontology, which will be crucial in preparing students for careers in service to older adults. A fully operational Center on Aging will ensure that Hawaii's providers, policy makers and general public have access to state-of-the-art gerontological information and practices.

My organization strongly supports the passage of HB 609, HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick J. Duarte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Patrick J. Duarte
President & CEO

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Higher Education

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2017

TIME: 2:03 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309

RE: HB 609 HD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hasham, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB609 HD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center on Aging (UHM COA). I am Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD, the new director of the UHM COA. My doctoral degree is in Human Development and Aging from UC San Francisco, and I have been actively involved in the field of gerontology for over 35 years. It is from this perspective that I speak, rather than that of an employee of the University of Hawai'i. I strongly support this bill, provided that its passage does 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.

In this testimony I will review some unique challenges of aging in Hawai'i and potential contributions the COA could make toward addressing these challenges as outlined in the Hawai'i State Plan on Aging.

The State of Aging in Hawai'i : As noted in the State Plan on Aging, "the State of Hawai'i is on a voyage through uncharted waters" in regard to its aging population. In only 13 years, 24% of Hawai'i's population will be aged 65 or older. Older adults in Hawai'i face unique challenges: they have the longest life expectancy of any state; they confront cost of living and housing costs that are among the highest in the nation; they represent a highly diverse group, requiring culturally competent service providers; and almost 18% speak English "less than very well," requiring services that are linguistically accessible. The State requires a gerontological workforce that is equipped to meet these challenges.

The Hawai'i State Plan and Potential COA Contributions The State Plan calls for the forging of strategic partnerships and alliances to meet the needs of Hawai'i's elders. With appropriate resources, the COA could be an essential partner in those alliances, acting as consultant to identify state-of-the-art research relevant to pivotal aging issues as defined by the State, such as:

- (1) Maximize opportunities for older adults to age well, remain active, engage in meaningful activities, and contribute to the community. Gerontological research on "successful/positive aging" (e.g., what is it, how to facilitate it, barriers to it) could suggest ways to optimize life situations and choices for elders.
- (2) Address issues of affordable housing and enable older adults to "age in place" at home. NORCs, i.e., "naturally occurring retirement communities" of older adults aging in place are a growing phenomenon, prompting the development of new models of community-based long-term support and services (LTSS) that are less expensive than traditional nursing home care. Gerontologists in housing, community development, technology, and urban planning are proposing various solutions to allow older adults to age in place, and the State's constituents could benefit from this knowledge.
- (3) Support family caregivers. Family members provide approximately 80% of long-term care for older adults. Research on caregiving stress and coping, burden, and uplifts can inform evidence-based

programs to support and enable families to provide more effective care and avoid dropping out of the workforce (at added cost to the State) due to overburden.

(4) Advance social justice and protect the human rights of older adults. Gerontologists in ethics, law, and counseling psychology have addressed issues of elder abuse, whether physical, emotional, financial, sexual, neglect, abandonment, or self-neglect. Occupational justice, promoting the right to engage in activities that are meaningful to the individual, is especially relevant for older adults who are seeking opportunities to engage in the community, whether remaining in the workforce, embarking on second careers, volunteering, redefining the role of grandparenthood, engaging in life-long learning experiences, or exploring new types of meaningful activities as yet unknown.

The COA should be viewed as a resource to the State. It should serve as a conduit to relevant gerontological developments, identify best practices, and convey relevant research findings that will further advance the goals expressed in the State Plan. The field of gerontology is vast, interdisciplinary, and rapidly changing, especially in areas such as technology, the understanding of cognitive changes in later life, and evolving models of LTSS. The field is assuming a less medicalized approach to aging, recognizing that assistance to older adults should not be limited to healthcare and that the impact of an aging population permeates all sectors of society. There is a growing interest in developing supportive, enabling physical and social environments. Practically every component of contemporary life could be made “age-friendly”: transportation (an effort currently underway in the State), housing, business and finance, law, fashion design, and so on. Especially relevant to Hawai‘i, age-friendly tourism could redefine recreation in later life by offering supportive environments either through technology, enhanced physical environments, or personnel trained in basic applied gerontology.

In addition to identifying relevant information and practices, the COA could assist in (1) adapting these resources to best fit the particular needs and resources of the State’s elder population, (2) informing implementation of evidence-based practice, and (3) evaluating both the process and impact of gerontological programs and policies.

Why HB609 HI1: Professional gerontologists with interdisciplinary training and specialized, complimentary expertise working in synergy within the COA can make significant contributions to the fulfillment of the State Plan on Aging. In addition to informing community stakeholders of the latest relevant gerontological findings and conducting our own research on Hawai‘i -specific aspects of aging, we can provide gerontological training to students, service providers, members in other sectors of the workforce, family caregivers, policy-makers, and to older adults themselves through certificate programs, continuing education offerings, focused seminars and workshops, and small conferences. We will work with stakeholders to develop a system of gerontological (and intergenerational) programs and policies that are evidence-based, person-centered, and participant-directed.

However, the field of gerontology is vast, bridging numerous disciplines and addressing numerous issues. It is too vast to be absorbed and translated into practice and policy by one or two individuals. Thus, we strongly support the addition of the two positions requested in HB609 HD1, one a traditional faculty member who will generate new research and assist in training the upcoming gerontological workforce in Hawai‘i, the other a gerontological specialist who will focus on working with community partners to address aging issues.

map3@hawaii.edu

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2017

TIME: 2:03 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

SUPPORT FOR HB 609, HD1(HSCR37)

**Permanent FT Faculty-Associate Professor and Associate Specialist
Position for the UHM Center on Aging**

Dear Higher Education Committee Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Hashem and Education Committee Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har, committee members,

My name is Barbara Yee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak as a private citizen who moved back to live with and provide care for my frail 91 year old father. I am also a gerontologist, Professor and Chair of Family and Consumer Sciences. Hawaii is experiencing a caregiving and gerontological crisis. The Gray tsunami is already here. 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. Hawaii families highly desire to take care of their frail relatives themselves, but put their families and the State of Hawaii in economic peril. For the large majority of Hawaii's citizens, quitting their job or jobs, will put their families in financial jeopardy. Creative elder care strategies, with the development of a gerontological professional and workforce infrastructure is badly needed in Hawaii. The Center on Aging will provide the infrastructure needed to address this Gray tsunami in education and training of aging workforce, provide research and evaluation strategies for high performing aging services, and provide consultation for the aging networks in Hawaii.

Hawaii needs to IMMEDIATELY prepare 2-4 future generations of gerontological professionals. There is already massive retirements in the aging workforce and Hawaii is NOT prepared. 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. I strongly urge you to provide needed personnel for the UHM Center on Aging, so that we can take giant steps to provide gerontological education and training of personnel in Hawaii.

Respectfully, Barbara Yee
Honolulu, HI 96816

HEDtestimony

From: Anthony Lenzer <tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:05 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 609 HD 1

To: Committees on Higher Education and Education
From: Anthony Lenzer, PhD
Re: Testimony in Support of HB 609 HD 1
Hearing: Tuesday, 2/14/17, 2:03 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

Chairs Woodson and Takumi and Committee Members:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I taught courses in Gerontology, the study of aging, at UH Manoa for 25 years, and served as the first Director of the UH Center on Aging. Since retiring in 1994, I have continued to remain active in the field of Gerontology, serving on several advocacy and public policy agency boards. My testimony today is as an individual, albeit one with a deep commitment to the area of aging.

Workers in the field of aging in Hawaii have long 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 609 HD 1 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 permanent director together with a part-time researcher, 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 609 HD 1 will greatly strengthen the Center, by funding (a) an Associate Professor position for professional education and training, including reinstating the undergraduate and graduate certificates in Gerontology for students interested in careers in aging; and (b) an Associate Specialist position to stimulate and coordinate paraprofessional training and workforce development. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 609 HD 1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:53 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: glcasburn@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB609 on Feb 14, 2017 14:03PM*

HB609

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 14, 2017 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geoffrey Casburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

February 12, 2017

RE: HB609,HD1 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Hearing date 2/14/2017

Conference Room 309 at 2:03PM

House Committee on Higher Education, Rep. Justin A. Woodson, Chair

House Committee on Education, Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair

Most distinguished Chairs Woodson and Takumi and members of the Education Committees:

I strongly support HB 609.

AND request the Committees on Education recommend the funding of 2 faculty members for the Gerontology Program at the U. of H. Center on Aging.

Our State Legislators need to show leadership and advance planning in this area, as the needs are great with over 20% of the State's population aged 60 and over.

I read the testimony of Dr. Margaret A. Perkinson, the new director of the UH Center on Aging. Her energy, ideas, vision and objectives for the Center on Aging, Gerontology Department, are clear and ambitious. The faculty positions to be funded with **Bill 609** would provide the funds for a successful outcome of her plans.

Please vote affirmatively on this measure.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah
Honolulu Resident

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 6:15 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: joyl247@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB609 on Feb 14, 2017 14:03PM

HB609

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 14, 2017 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Lacanienta	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a graduate student at UH Manoa, the State's support for the Center on Aging is highly important. Please pass this bill.

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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 12:30 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB609 on Feb 14, 2017 14:03PM*

HB609

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for HED on Feb 14, 2017 14:03PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har and committee members.

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. I am a member of AARP, Kokua Council, the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans and the Legislative Committee of PABEA.

I'm testifying in strong support of HB609, an appropriation to the UH Center on Aging for a full-time professor and a coordinator.

It is very important that the Center on Aging be fully operational to ensure that there are enough programs to train those interested in working with the elderly.

Hawaii has more elderly residents than any of state and those numbers are rapidly increasing. Our Kupuna need services to be able to age in place and there aren't enough caregivers to provide these services.

Please pass HB609 to fund these positions in the UH Center on Aging to continue to address the need for an adequate elderly workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service