



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and Human Services
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

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

SB 529 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Green, Vice Chairs Kidani and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

As Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, I strongly support SB 529. 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.

TO : SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

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

HEARING: 1 pm Tuesday, February 14, 2017
State Capitol Room 414

SUBJECT: SB 529 Relating to the University of Hawaii

POSITION: The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs strongly **supports** SB 529 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:36 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: deborah.stone-walls@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB529 on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM*

SB529

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HRE/HMS on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 414

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.

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Senate
Committee on Higher Education
Committee on Human Services
Tuesday, February 14, 2017
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 414

TO: Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Chair

RE: **SB 529- 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.

SB 529 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** SB 529.

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.



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

Testimony Is Directed To: Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Human Services

MEASURE: SB529
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, 1:00 p. m.

Place: State Capitol Conference Room 414

Position: **The Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports SB529.**

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kidani, Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

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 thirty 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 full-time associate professor position and permanent full-time 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, the COA needs staff to help 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 the 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 SB529 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:51 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: glcasburn@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB529 on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM

SB529

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HRE/HMS on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Aging is universal but not well understood. The UH Center on Aging is a logical and effective way to advance our knowledge. Providing staff to do the work is a critical first step.

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COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Higher Education and Human Services

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2017

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414

RE: SB 529 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII'

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORT

Chairs Kahele and Green, Vice Chairs Kidani and Chang, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of SB529, 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 SB529: 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 SB529, 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

February 12, 2017

RE: SB 529 – Relating to the University of Hawaii

Hearing date 2/14/2017

Conference Room 414, 1:00PM

Senate Committee on Higher Education, Sen. Ka'iali'i, Kahele, Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services, Sen. Josh Green, Chair

Most distinguished Chairs Kahele and Green and members of the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Human Services:

I strongly support SB 529

AND request the Committees on Education and Human Services 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 (in companion bill HB 609) 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 529** 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 6:18 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: joyl247@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB529 on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM

SB529

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for HRE/HMS on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I strongly support SB 529. As a graduate student at UH Manoa, the state needs to support the Center on Aging because it would benefit Hawaii's community.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 4:59 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB529 on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM

SB529

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HRE/HMS on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB 529 for passage. This bill enables the UH Center of Aging to address the growing needs of the aging population and to increase the number of community and public health professionals to educate the families and caregivers who provide care of our elders. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:08 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB529 on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM

SB529

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HRE/HMS on Feb 14, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm an old guy, so of course I like this bill. And thanks for holding the hearing on Valentines Day -- I appreciate the love!

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