

Hearing: Senate Committee on Health
10/26/07, 9 a.m., Conf Room 016
Subject: HHSC Oahu Region Board –
Elden L. Wegner, Ph.D.
1 copy to Committee Clerk, Room 010



**OAHU REGION
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige
Chair
Senate Committee on Health
415 South Beretania Street, Room 215
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator David Ige:

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Oahu Region Board of Directors. I have an extensive research and teaching background that has been focused on sociology, in addition to an ongoing interest in long-term care. I believe that I can assist with the newly established governance and would be helpful to developing needed policy.

As you are aware, the HHSC Oahu region primarily offers long-term care services, in addition to most recently managing Kahuku Hospital. In light of today's challenging healthcare environment, boards must successfully provide effective and efficient guidance that enables management to successfully to the needs of the communities we serve.

I am committed to working with the HHSC Oahu region board. My interest in this organization stems from my background and public interest. I believe that my advocacy, teaching, writing, and research skill will enable me to make a useful commitment to the community-hospital safety-net mission.

I would greatly appreciate your committee's consideration to confirm me as a member of the HHSC Board of Directors. Please contact me if you have any questions at 956-7152.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elden L. Wegner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eldon Lowell Wegner, Ph.D.

LH - 5091

CURRENT VITA

ELDON LOWELL WEGNER

August 2, 2007

Department of Sociology
Saunders Hall 247
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2424 Maile Way
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

TEL: Office (808) 956-7152;
FAX: (808) 956-3707
E-MAIL: wegner@Hawaii.edu

EDUCATION:

University of Redlands, California 1959-63	B.A. cum laude	Sociology
University of Wisconsin, Madison 1963-65	M.A.	Sociology
University of Wisconsin, Madison 1965-67	Ph.D	Sociology

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

1998-now Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hawaii at Manoa (Department Chair 1993-1996; 1999-2005)
1975 -98 Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hawaii at Manoa
1970-75 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Riverside
1969-70 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania
1967-69 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hawaii at Manoa

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS: Health Care Delivery Systems; Long-Term Care of Elderly; Social Psychology, Sociology of Aging

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND GRANTS:

N.I.M.H. Training Program in Medical Sociology, University of Wisconsin, 1964-67, (David Mechanic, P.I.).
Faculty Investigator, Program Research on Integrated Multi-Ethnic Education, University of California at Riverside, U.S. Office of Education Contract, (Jane Mercer, P.I.), 1970-74.
Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Laurence Kolonel, Reasons for Variation in Cancer Patient Survival by Race, National Cancer Institute Grant No. 1R01CA21828-01, \$118,000, Sept. 1977-Aug. 1979.
Faculty Supervisor, Research Training Program in Institutional Racism, N.I.M.H. Grant No. 1T32MH15511-01, August 1978-June 1981, (Kiyoshi Ikeda, P.I.).
Co-Chair with Laurence Kolonel, M.D., Medical Task Force, E Ola Mau: Native Hawaiian Health Needs Study. Grant to Alu Like, Inc. and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, U.S. Public Health Service, Region IX, \$30,000, June 1985 - Dec. 1985.
Consultant. "Hawaii Long-Term Care Information Management System Project," Kuakini Gerontology Center, \$165,000 from the U.S. OHDS Discretionary Fund Program, October 1985 - March, 1988.
Principal Investigator, "Ethnic and Cultural Variation in Attitudes, Burden and Service Use among Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients in Honolulu." UH-Manoa Center on Aging (\$1000), Alzheimer's Association of Hawaii (\$1000). January-September 1990.

- Consultant. "Home Health for the Uninsured," Maluhia Long-Term Care Services.
 Evaluator for a demonstration project funded by the Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance, U.S. DHS Grant No. CSH15SH01-02-0, May 1990-December 1992.
- Principal Investigator, "Acculturation, Family Support and the Health Needs of Vietnamese Elderly," Intramural Grant, Research Relations Fund, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Dec 1993-Nov 1995.
- Principal Investigator, "Long-Term Care Research and Development Program." Seed-grant from Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawaii at Manoa, \$25,000, Oct. 2000- Oct. 2001.
- Investigator, "Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DHS, Oct 1, 2000-Sep. 30, 2005.
- Co-Principal Investigator, "Leading Long-Term Care Indicators," Hawaii Medical Services Association, \$15,000; May 2002 - July, 2003.
- Co-Principal Investigator, "Leading Long-Term Care Indicators," Hawaii Medical Services Association Foundation, \$15,000; May 2002-December, 2004 (Cullen Hayashida, Principal Investigator).

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

American Sociological Association
 Pacific Sociological Association
 International Sociological Association
 Gerontological Society of America
 American Society on Aging
 Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society

AWARDS:

- 1982 Fulbright Senior Research Scholar Fellowship to study "The Coordination of Medical and Social Services in Yugoslavia," February - June, 1982.
- 1990 Outstanding Teaching Award, College of Social Sciences
- 2000 Outstanding Research/Training Award, Na Lima Kokua Ma Waena O Makua Awards, Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Associate member East Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council, and member of Planning Committee, 1977-1979; Chair of task force on Wellness.

Research Committee, Kuakini Hospital, June 1982 - Dec 1988.

Advisory Council, State Office of Community Long-Term Care Services (Nursing Home without Walls), DSSH, State of Hawaii, June 1983 - Dec. 1987.

Consumer Board, Kaiser Permanente Medical Plan. January 1995 - 2002.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTINUED:

Ex-officio member, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Hawaii Executive Office on Aging, August 1998 - present. Member Legislative Committee.

Scientific Advisory Board, Asian/Pacific Islander youth Violence Prevention Center, funded by the CDC through the UH Department of Psychiatry (Earl Hishinuma, PI) (2005-2010).

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, 2005-2008.

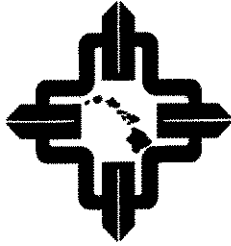
MILITARY SERVICE: None.

REFERENCES:

Dr. D. William Wood, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2424 Mail Way, Honolulu 96822. Tel. 956-8428; email: dwwood@hawaii.rr.com .

Dr. Cullen Hayashida, Long-Term Care Development Coordinator, Kapiolani Community College, Health Sciences Department. Tel. 734-9469; E-mail: cullen@hawaii.edu

Mr. Wesley Lum, Coordinator, Family Caregiver Resource Initiative, Executive Office on Aging. Tel. 586-7319 (office) 343-2165 (cell); E-mail: wes.lum@doh.hawaii.gov



**OAHU REGION
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

Senator David Ige
Chair of the Senate Committee on Health
Senator Carol Fukunaga
Vice Chair of the Senate committee on Health

**TESTIMONY SUPPORTING
THE CONFIRMATION OF ELDEN L. WEGNER, Ph.D.
AS MEMBER OF THE HHSC OAHU REGION SYSTEMS BOARD**

Individual Testimony of
VINCENT H.S. LEE
Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
Oahu Region

I am Vince Lee, HHSC Oahu region chief executive officer. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of the confirmation of Elden Wegner.

Dr. Wegner has a world class reputation as a scholar and educator and is an internationally known expert in the fields of healthcare delivery systems, long term care, social psychology and the sociology of aging. He has been a professor of sociology at the University of Hawaii for many years. He is a former Fulbright Scholar and has received numerous awards for his teaching and research.

We envision that Elden Wegner will bring his knowledge and expertise to bear in this important time when healthcare will need to effectively respond to the growing needs of our island communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to recommend. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 733-7911.

LH - 5086

LEAHI HOSPITAL • 3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-8000 • FAX: (808) 733-7914

MALUHIA • 1027 HALA DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 • PHONE: (808) 832-3000 • FAX: (808) 832-3402

October 22, 2007

The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813

Dear Governor Lingle:

I am writing on behalf of Eldon Wegner, Professor of Sociology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa who has been nominated for member of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation's Oahu Regional Board.

Dr. Wegner has had a long standing commitment to improving the livelihood of seniors and the health status of the people of Hawai'i. He has significant knowledge and experience through his teaching and research in the Sociology of Medicine, health care and the elderly. There are very few if any in Hawai'i with as extensive a background as his in the understanding of the impact of social policy in the health and aging field. What makes Dr. Wegner particularly attractive is not only his interest in teaching and research as they relate to public policy in this area but his standing commitment to assist and aid that that through his direct participation on the Policy Advisory Board of Elderly Affairs of the State Executive Office on Aging and his willingness to support legislative requests for support and technical assistance in these areas.

I believe that Dr. Wegner will be an invaluable addition to the HHSC's Oahu Regional Board that oversees the operations at Leahi Hospital and Maluhia Long-term Care Health Center. Thanking you in advance for your consideration, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Cullen T. Hayashida, Ph.D.
Long-term Care Development Coordinator
Aging and Long-term Care Training Initiative

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health
Friday, October 26, 2007; 9:00am
State Capitol, Room 016

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wes Lum, and I am testifying in strong support of confirming Dr. Eldon Wegner to the Oahu Regional Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Dr. Wegner, who has been a medical sociologist for over 30 years, is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and is well aware of the issues facing Hawaii's healthcare system. Dr. Wegner is also the University's representative to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), an advisory board to the Executive Office on Aging. A member of PABEA's Legislative Committee, he is a strong advocate for Hawaii's older adults and their family caregivers. Dr. Wegner also advocates for persons with disabilities by serving on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center. His voluntary participation with health, long-term care, and social services outside of his professional life is testimony of his values and his commitment to service.

I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Wegner for over 5 years and I can confidently say that Dr. Wegner's confirmation to the Oahu Regional Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation would be an asset to the Board, especially as it reinvents itself to meet the needs of Hawaii's aging population.

Therefore, I strongly encourage you to confirm Dr. Eldon Wegner. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.