



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Human Services  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

By  
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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 Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

As Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Center on Aging's (COA) role in convening a task force to assess the current state of services for elders and kupuna as well as the anticipated future demand for the services. The COA's mission is to enhance the well-being of older adults through interdisciplinary and collaborative efforts in research, educational programs and service to the community. Its focus is often on applied, translational and community engaged research with attention on the multicultural populations of Hawai'i and the Asia Pacific Region. Among its priorities the Center seeks to provide state-of-the art information to policy makers, program managers, clinicians and the general public.

The Center would be pleased, as directed in HCR 35, "... to convene a task force to review the current elder and kupuna care services situation and anticipated demand for those services and determine requirements for adequate training, workforce expansion, service expansion, and financing to correct the current situation and meet anticipated demand."

With support from the legislature, the UHM COA can take a leading role in building capacity to respond to these elder and kupuna care issues. Potential members of the task force have been identified in HCR 35 and represent the leading figures in the State of Hawai'i's aging network. Based on this initial assessment of services, the COA and members of the task force will 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.
- Allocation of \$150,000 to support one fulltime researcher and associated research costs.