



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

By

Denise Eby Konan, Dean
College of Social Sciences

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 838 HD1 – RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

Chairs San Buenaventura and Kim, Vice Chairs Aquino and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

The College of Social Sciences (CSS) supports the intent of HB 838 HD1, and agrees that the secretariat of the long-term care (LTC) commission be housed in the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) in the College of Social Sciences. SSRI would act as a convener/secretariat through our Health Policy Initiative, as we have a goal to establish a health policy institute.

We recognize that the LTC commission would meet a state need for Hawai'i's aging population, and that research and evaluation are required to explore public and private approaches to support long-term care services.

This commission is in line with President Lassner's UHealthy initiative that brings components from across the University of Hawai'i System to support health outcomes in Hawai'i.

Medicaid is a major financier of LTC. Medicare does not currently pay for LTC, but linkages from acute settings to short-term nursing facilities and referrals to LTC for Medicare patients is also a key concern. CSS-SSRI has an ongoing collaboration with the Department of Human Services Med-Quest Division (MQD), that involves establishing a health analytics program using all-payers claims data (APCD) and other PII data to evaluate health policy, expenditures, and quality of care. Given the expertise of UHERO and other SSRI researchers that are part of the College's health policy initiative, the commission will be well-placed within CSS-SSRI.

We have strong interest and expertise to contribute within the College and across the university, including a dozen faculty with research interests in aging and long-term care;

academic programs relevant to long-term care including Public Administration; Sociology; Certificate on Aging; UHERO; Economics; and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. CSS will partner with other units across campus involved in long-term care including Center on Aging (School of Social Work and Public Health); and Nursing. The Dean of JABSOM also stands in support of HB 838 HD1, and requests that the Commission include an appointee from their Department of Geriatrics, as many faculty are serving as directors or associate directors at long-term care facilities.

The resources required to support the launch of this Commission would include a faculty specialist/program manager, graduate student assistants, funds to release faculty from teaching duties to engage in research, funds to commission third party research, and administrative support to encourage relevant research and report development.

\$120,000	1 FTE	Faculty Specialist/convener
\$ 50,000	2x.50 FTE	Graduate research assistants
\$150,000		Funds to release faculty to engage in research
\$200,000		Funds to contract with third-party consultants

Total request is \$520,000 per year and 2.0FTE.

The College of Social Sciences is committed to the vision and mission of this Commission and would be delighted to serve as the convener and administrator for the commission.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of this measure, provided that its passage does not impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony on HB 838 HD1.