



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 9:45 a.m.

By

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And

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HB 838 – RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The College of Social Sciences (CSS) supports the intent of HB 838. We suggest that the focus of the commission be changed to 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.

This commission is in line with President Lassner's UHealthy initiative that brings components from across UH to support health outcomes in Hawai'i. It will build on existing CSS partnerships with Hawai'i State agencies including the Department of Health; Department of Human Services, and the Med-Quest Division. It would also deepen other partnerships with entities such as HMSA, Kaiser, Queens, and other health delivery partners.

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; 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); JABSOM; and Nursing. The resources required to support the launch of this Commission would include a faculty specialist/program manager, graduate student assistants, and administrative support to encourage relevant research and report development.

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 replace, or 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.