UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

SB2152 – RELATING TO THE TASK FORCE ON AGING

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

January 29, 2008 at 1:30 pm

by

Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education &
Interim Dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr., and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of this measure so long as it does not adversely impact the priorities set by the University in our Board of Regents approved budget request. The University has many needs, most notably repairs and maintenance, maintaining our library collections, and safety and emergency preparedness. Addressing these urgent needs is critical to our ability to perform the functions the state needs us to perform – including the study of aging.

However, we do believe that the objective of re-developing the Center on Aging is worthwhile. In fact, Chancellor Hinshaw recently charged me with the re-development of the Center on Aging under the auspices of my office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education. This is because our efforts on aging are truly cross-campus and interdisciplinary in nature. We have begun planning a multidisciplinary approach to what we believe will be a critically important facility for the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.