



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health and House Committee on Human Services & Housing

March 19, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Dr. Gary K. Ostrander
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB2831 SD1 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON AGING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Chair Green, Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports Senate Bill 2831 SD1, which would allocate funds to the University of Hawai'i Center on Aging for program expenses and faculty positions in an effort to bolster research and education on issues related to eldercare in the State of Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) is deeply committed to education, research, and service across multiple disciplines in the area of aging. The Center on Aging was established by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents in 1988 to address the needs of the elderly in the State of Hawai'i, and Hawai'i's demographics underline the importance of such a center. Therefore and in response to legislative requests, we have prepared a funding proposal for a Center on Aging that is sustainable, inclusive, transparent, and interdisciplinary to address the needs of the elderly across the state.

The Center will bring together people and resources within the State of Hawai'i to advance healthcare, public policy, education, legal concerns, research, and other issues associated with the process of aging. Its focal point will be to strengthen efforts dedicated to understanding the aging process and addressing the needs of the elderly in Hawai'i. To provide this focal point, the Center will maintain both a multidisciplinary UHM and statewide scope of activities.

I hope you will agree that this is an important endeavor that will greatly benefit the State of Hawai'i's growing elderly population. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.