UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and the Arts
Senate Committee on Human Services
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By
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And
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SB 3042 – RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

Chairs Taniguchi and Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the committees:

As Chancellor and Dean of the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa (UHM) Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, we acknowledge and support the intent of SB 3042, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. We thank Senator Ihara for introducing the bill, and Senator Chun-Oakland and Senator Inouye for co-signing the bill.

We would like to provide the following background at the UH Center on Aging (COA). Since 1988, COA has been actively engaged in a range of community-based projects aimed at improving the capacity of the aging network. It has developed curricula and trained paraprofessionals on the basics of aging and caring for older adults. COA has trained professionals within the aging network on needs assessment, planning, and evaluation.

Recently, the Center has received a 3-year Federal Administration on Community Living grant, aiming to improve dementia care and services in the state. As part of this grant, the Center on Aging is training numerous health care professionals at all levels, community health workers, outreach volunteers, and family caregivers.

It appropriate that COA take a leadership role in professional, paraprofessional, and family caregiver training in the community. However, currently our priority is to secure 2 permanent positions within the COA, and these 2 faculty members will be tasked with the development and implementation of educational programs and workforce development initiatives both on campus and in the community. These positions are our focus this Legislative session, in order to build our capacity to take on new initiatives, like SB 3042. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we appreciate the Senators' ongoing support of the UH Center on Aging.