

## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

---

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 21, 2023

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND HIGHER EDUCATION

#### House Bill 838 HD1 – Relating to Long-Term Care

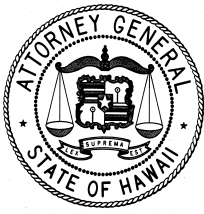
The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 838 HD1 – Relating to Long-Term Care. This bill would reestablish the Long-Term Care Commission within the University of Hawai'i College of Social Sciences Social Science Research Institute to identify further needed reforms of Hawai'i's long-term care system.

Virtually all of Hawai'i's seniors, including seniors with disabilities, prefer to age in place at home rather than in a care home or institution, and many seniors will require more intensive services and caregiving at the end of their lives. This measure responds to the urgent need to make quality long-term care services as accessible, efficient, and effective as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

---

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 838, H.D. 1, RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023                      **TIME:** 3:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 229

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

---

Chairs San Buenaventura and Kim and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Long-Term Care Commission within the Social Science Research Institute in the College of Social Sciences of the University of Hawai'i to identify further-needed reforms of the long-term care system, research program changes and resources necessary to meet the State's long-term care public policy goals, and explore an array of funding options that may help support the provision of long-term care services in the future.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



# 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.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Tuesday, March 21, 2023**  
**Conference Room 229, 3:30 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
RE: Support for H.B. 838, HD1 Relating to Long Term Care

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

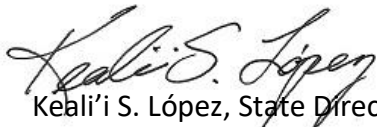
**AARP Supports H.B. 838, HD1** which re-establishes the long term care commission to identify further needed reforms of Hawaii's long-term care system.

Back in 2008, AARP played a key role in establishing the initial Hawaii long term care commission that was tasked to address the state's long term care system. A report was submitted to the legislature in 2012 with recommendations to improve and strengthen it. Since then the state long term care system has evolved over the last 10 years, particularly with the expansion of home and community based services (HCBS), and the impact of COVID has certainly revealed new challenges and opportunities. We are also facing a health care workforce shortage especially in the long term care industry that continues to be challenging as the demand for more care increases with our aging population. We support this initiative that will provide an update on the current state of our long term care system, look at new trends and explore more options in long term financing and services, and recommend additional system improvements that are needed.

AARP respectfully recommend that when the commission is formed that there are representation from the home and community based service providers and/or organizations, and others who represent the voices of the care recipient and family caregivers.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support for **H.B 838, HD1**.

Sincerely,

  
Keali'i S. López, State Director

# THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



HHS-HRE\_03-21-23 3:30 PM HB838

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

and

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: HB 838 HD1 (HSCR960) - Relating to Long-Term Care

POSITION: Support but Disappointed at Lack of Progress

ALOHA, Chairs Buenaventura and Kim, Vice Chairs Aquino and Kidani, and members of both Committees

The Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has a membership of more than 2,000 politically active and aware seniors. The DPH Kūpuna Caucus reluctantly supports HB 838, which would re-establish the Long-Term Care Commission in the University of Hawai'i College of Social Sciences' Social Science Research Institute to identify further needed reforms of Hawaii's long-term care system. The bill would appropriate funds for the Commission.

As we all know or should know, Long-Term Care is becoming one of the most important issues for all Kūpuna and their families all over the country, as well as here in Hawai'i. As the population of our nation ages and the birth rates go down, the issue of long-term care for our elders is affecting us all. This is of special concern to those Kūpuna who have little or no family, and/or limited finances.

Hawai'i is horribly short on care homes intended for long term care and programs and services intended to address the needs of those who need care at home. We have all known this for a long time. Several other bills are currently being considered which, if passed, will help a lot but more is needed. This program would re-establish in-depth research into Long Term Care Issues and institutions that can be of some benefit to our State and all the Kūpuna who live here.

MEANWHILE, we are disappointed with HB 838, because all it does is call for yet another study. If we are truly trying to keep our Kūpuna safe in the community, we need more access to LTSS (long term services and supports). Creating more facility beds is not cost effective and we don't have enough money in the State coffers to pay for that. This was the whole basis for creating the Kūpuna Care program -- to stretch our dollars and provide quality

care in a much more affordable model. Perhaps we should advocate for more money to LTSS/Kūpuna Care vs creating more facilities/beds.

Creating another commission to write another report is questionable. Some of the recommendations from the last “report” were never implemented and some were only partially implemented. The issues are really still the same. If we want to make a difference, the Legislature needs to put the funding in place to fully implement the recommendations and strategies, and we shouldn't wait several more years. Also, we are wondering why the commission would be housed in SSRI rather than UH Center on Aging.

We are also concerned that there are no guardrails in place to assure there is equitable representation from Neighbor Islands, AAAs, and those who have experienced family caregiving. Since a significant amount of caregiving is provided by family members, we need to listen to them and support them -- again, with increasing access to LTSS which includes respite services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Chair  
Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i



**March 21, 2023 at 3:30 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

**Senate Committee on Higher Education**

To: Chair Donna Mercado Kim  
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani

From: Robert Choy, MPH  
Director, Post-Acute Care  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Support**  
**HB 838 HD 1, Relating to Long-Term Care**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** this measure, which would re-establish the Long-Term Care (LTC) Commission at the University of Hawaii to better understand what programs and resources will be needed to take care of Hawaii's increasingly aging population. Most importantly, this measure would consider what sources of funding and financial support might be needed to meet the demands that will be placed on the post-acute care sector in the near future.

Hawaii's population aged 75 and older is expected to double by 2045, which would mean that the number of seniors in this category would increase from 8% of the population to 15%. At the same time as this increased need for services will be felt, the nursing home industry will require more attention and resources to meet the demand. The pandemic was devastating for nursing homes in terms of finances and staffing. Just recently, the American Health Care Association released a report on the state of nursing homes in the country. The report found that the industry lost more than 210,000 workers—a nearly 15% decline in the overall workforce—due to burnout, retirements, or movement to other settings of care. Around 85% of nursing homes are facing moderate to high levels of staffing shortages, and nearly 100% have reported great difficulty in hiring staff.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Fact-Sheets/FactSheets/State-of-Nursing-Homes-Infographic.pdf>



The future of the nursing home and post-acute care industry must be a priority for policy-makers in the state, and an LTC Commission that can help to provide innovative program ideas and sources of funding and labor can be an important part of that. We support any efforts by the state to support the post-acute care industry, especially as the population ages and demand grows.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair**

**Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair**

**Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**HEARING DATE: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 3:30PM**

**Re: HB 838, HD1 - RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE**

**Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Kim, and Committee Members.**

**My name is Linda Dorset, a resident of Wailuku, Maui. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the above referenced legislation. I strongly support HB838 that will reestablish the long-term care commission to identify further-needed reforms of the long-term care system, research program changes and resources necessary to meet the State's long-term care public policy goals.**

**I am concerned for my future due to rising long term care cost, workforce shortage and other challenges facing the growing elderly population. I hope re-establishing the LTC Commission will provide an opportunity to examine our current system to address areas for improvement, study new trends and explore more options in long term financing and services.**

**Linda Dorset**

**Wailuku Resident**

**HB-838-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 6:28:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/21/2023 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB838 HD1.