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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. On July 1, 1999, the executive office on aging  
2           launched its statewide long-term care program called kupuna  
3           care. Kupuna care was developed in partnership with the county  
4           area agencies-on-aging to address the growing numbers of elders  
5           with long-term care needs.

6           Services provided by kupuna care are intended to help meet  
7           the needs of older adults who cannot live at home without  
8           adequate help from family or formal services, and includes  
9           services such as adult day care, respite care, assisted  
10          transportation, attendant care, case management, chore, home  
11          delivered meals, homemaker, transportation, and personal care.

12          Kupuna care was designed to assist, not totally support,  
13          Hawaii's older adults to live independently, safely, and healthy  
14          for as long as possible. The care may cover United States  
15          citizens or legal aliens sixty years or older who are not  
16          receiving other comparable government assistance, who need help  
17          with activities of daily living (eating, dressing, bathing,



1 toileting, transferring, and mobility) or because they have  
2 reduced mental capacity, and who are not residing in an  
3 institution. State funds cover the cost of services for those  
4 who cannot afford to pay. Kupuna care offers a reduced rate for  
5 those who can afford to pay only a portion of the service.  
6 Voluntary donations to the service provider are welcomed for any  
7 service provided and are used to support the cost of care of  
8 additional clients.

9 In addition to the services provided to the elderly, kupuna  
10 care also offers services for the family caregivers of their  
11 elderly clients. As Hawaii's population ages, many more  
12 families will be providing higher levels of long-term care to  
13 frail and disabled older adults at home. For many family  
14 caregivers, their role as family caregiver arises as suddenly as  
15 the care recipient's health declines, leaving the family  
16 caregivers with an immediate need for services, but little  
17 preparation or education regarding who to contact for assistance  
18 or what services are available to them. In addition, the family  
19 caregivers may not know who is capable or qualified to provide  
20 them with the services that they or the care recipients need.  
21 Family caregivers themselves need support services, including  
22 respite services and training, education, and counseling in



1 areas such as caregiving and dealing with end-of-life issues.  
 2 Kupuna care wants to expand its services to family caregivers to  
 3 assist and educate them on and cope with their new role as a  
 4 caregiver to a loved one.

5 The purpose of this Act is to ensure that this worthwhile  
 6 program continues to maintain the quality of life of Hawaii's  
 7 older adults and their family caregivers by appropriating moneys  
 8 to increase program funding.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
 11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the  
 12 kupuna care program administered by the executive office on  
 13 aging.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 15 health for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.  
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**Report Title:**

Appropriation; Executive Office on Aging; Kupuna Care

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to increase funding for kupuna care program administered by the executive office on aging.

