
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAREGIVING.

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, mobility) or because they have reduced
2 mental capacity, and who are not residing in an institution.

3 State funds cover the cost of services for those who cannot
4 afford to pay. Kupuna care offers a reduced rate for those who
5 can afford to pay only a portion of the service. Voluntary
6 donations to the service provider are welcomed for any service
7 provided and are used to support the cost of care of additional
8 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:

- 8 (1) Appropriating funds to expand the program's in-home
9 and access services for qualified care recipients; and
- 10 (2) Appropriating funds to expand services to family
11 caregivers who often need assistance, education, and
12 support to continue to care for their loved one at
13 home.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000, or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
17 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2008-2009, to expand the kupuna care services program's in-home
19 and access services to qualified care recipients and provide
20 expanded services to family caregivers.

21 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
22 of health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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Report Title:

Kupuna Care Services; Appropriation

Description:

Increases kupuna care program by appropriating funds to expand the program's in-home and access services and provide expanded assistance and support to family caregivers.

