
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. According to the executive office on aging, the
2 elderly population in Hawaii is one of the fastest growing in
3 the country. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of persons aged
4 sixty and older in Hawaii increased by nineteen per cent,
5 compared to a nationwide increase of nine per cent. Studies
6 conducted by the executive office on aging and the four county
7 area agencies on aging have indicated that the elderly in Hawaii
8 have a significant need for assistance in various areas and this
9 need is outpacing the ability to provide assistance.
10 Significant issues that arise with elderly people include health
11 status, changes in family structure (caregivers), social
12 security stability for the future, fear of health care burdens
13 (financial stability), and changes in public responsibility.
14 Case management and needs assessments of older adults are
15 required to mold programs and services to meet the needs of the
16 elderly community. As Hawaii's culture and values revolve
17 around family, most caregiving of the elderly in Hawaii is

1 provided by family members, which poses financial hardships for
2 these family members. Financial stability and burden are the
3 main issues for the elderly and their caregivers and families.
4 Long-term care services are expensive, and costs are not
5 expected to decrease. The high cost for services may lead to
6 changes in living arrangements and family households, especially
7 in Hawaii.

8 The kupuna care program (kupuna care) was established in
9 1999 as a collaborative effort by several agencies in Hawaii to
10 address the needs of the aging population and the issues arising
11 from those needs. The program is home- and community-based,
12 designed to address the increased need for affordable long-term
13 care and the desire of the elderly to remain in the community.
14 Kupuna care is considered to be an alternative to the
15 traditional long-term care options, which include hospitals,
16 nursing homes, adult residential care homes, adult foster homes,
17 hospice, senior housing, public guardianship, and other programs
18 administered by other state offices. The goal of kupuna care is
19 to give Hawaii's elderly population access to affordable and
20 quality home- and community-based services that are client-
21 centered and family-supportive, allowing the elderly to live

1 with independence and dignity. The nine core services that are
2 offered, which are a reflection of the greatest need, are:

- 3 (1) Adult day care;
- 4 (2) Attendant care;
- 5 (3) Case management;
- 6 (4) Chore;
- 7 (5) Homemaker;
- 8 (6) Personal care;
- 9 (7) Assisted transportation;
- 10 (8) Kupuna care transportation; and
- 11 (9) Home-delivered meals.

12 In 2008, thousands of elderly people were served by kupuna
13 care. According to the state program report for fiscal year
14 2008 as prepared by the executive office on aging, 3,277 meals
15 were delivered to homes, 1,744 elders were served by case
16 managers, 874 elders used personal care, and 597 elders used the
17 homemaker services. Kupuna care fills an important gap in
18 assistance for the elderly in Hawaii and cuts in service would
19 be detrimental to their ability to live with independence and
20 dignity.

21 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much

1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to provide
2 additional funding for the kupuna care program. This funding
3 shall be in addition to the \$4,854,350 executive office on aging
4 base budget.

5 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
6 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010

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Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Kupuna Care; Elder Services; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates additional funds for the kupuna care program.
(SD1)