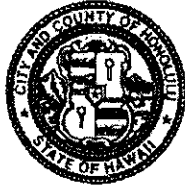


**SB 819**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

715 SOUTH KING STREET, SUITE 311 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • AREA CODE 808 • PHONE: 768-7762 • FAX: 768-7792

MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



DEBORAH KIM MORIKAWA  
DIRECTOR

ERNEST Y. MARTIN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 8, 2010

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services  
The State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and Members:

**Subject: Support of S.B. 819, Relating to Kupuna Care**

The City and County of Honolulu's Elderly Affairs Division is Honolulu's designated Area Agency on Aging and operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate, and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. We are strongly in support of S.B. 819 Relating to Kupuna Care with a revision to the appropriation amount and the need to add this amount to the base budget.

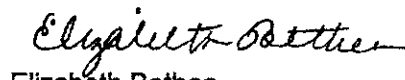
This bill provides additional funding for the Kupuna Care program which provides for essential services that support the needs of the increasing population of frail elderly residents in Hawaii. The funding included in this bill would be essential to maintaining the health and welfare of senior citizens in Hawaii. However, we feel that the appropriation amount contained in SB 819 should be revised to \$2,963,411. This is the figure contained in SB 2260 and represents a more accurate figure based on waitlist data from the State's Executive Office on Aging.

We also strongly support the inclusion of the Kupuna Care Program appropriation and Caregiver Support funds as part of the Executive Office on Aging's base budget to reduce administrative costs of utilizing these funds and to maximize the framework of long-term care and caregiver services that already exist in each county.

We urge the committee to pass SB 819. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

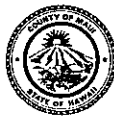
  
Deborah Kim Morikawa  
Director

  
Elizabeth Bethea  
County Executive on Aging  
Elderly Affairs Division

CHARMAINE TAVARES  
Mayor

LORI TSUHAKO  
Director  
Housing & Human Concerns

JO-ANN T. RIDAO  
Deputy Director  
Housing & Human Concerns



DEBORAH ARENDALE  
Executive on Aging

PHONE (808) 270-7755

FAX (808) 270-7935

E-MAIL: [aging@mauicounty.gov](mailto:aging@mauicounty.gov)

**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS  
**MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING**  
AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING

ONE MAIN PLAZA  
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 547  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
TO: The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Human Services  
FROM: Maui County Office on Aging  
RE: SB 819, Relating to Kupuna Care

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 819, Relating to Kupuna Care included in the February 9, 2010 Hearing at 4:30 p.m., Room 016 at the State Capitol Building.

**Maui County Office on Aging testifies in strong support of SB 819.**

As an Area Agency on Aging, MCOA interfaces each day with kupuna in our community in need of assistance in order to continue living independently. While the funding for Kupuna Care has remained at a static level since 2002, the number of kupuna in our County has risen. Additionally, the population of those over the age of 60 is expected to increase exponentially in the next few years.

In Maui County, we currently have waitlists for many of the critical services that support basic health and safety of our elders. An increase in the amount of funding will assist us in meeting the growing needs. The additional monies appropriated and released in 2007 and 2008 proved invaluable as we were able to keep pace with need. However, services are currently being drastically reduced because the funds appropriated since that time have not been released.

The current estimates for institutional care equal approximately \$8,000 per month. Maintaining adequate levels of in-home services cost a mere fraction of this amount. Thank you for your assistance in helping to ensure that Hawaii's kupuna receive the help needed to maintain independence and dignity.

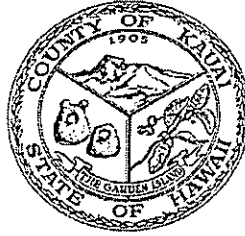
Thank you for considering the testimony of the Maui County Office on Aging.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Arendale".

Deborah Arendale, Executive on Aging  
Maui County Executive On Aging

BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.  
MAYOR



LUDVINA K. TAKAHASHI  
EXECUTIVE ON AGING

GARY K. HEU  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
AGENCY ON ELDERLY AFFAIRS

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Testimony of Ludvina Takahashi, County Executive on Aging  
Support of SB 819, Relating to Kupuna Care

The County of Kaua'i Agency on Elderly Affairs is in full support of SB 819 which relates to an appropriation for the Kupuna Care program. This appropriation would continue to provide funds to support our ability to deliver services to the older adults in our community who need long-term care options and services.

Older adults throughout the State of Hawai'i and within our County have been receiving vital services to meet their long-term care needs such as case management, Kupuna Care transportation, home-delivered meals, homemaker and personal care services. These services not only help our seniors remain in their homes for as long as possible, it provides needed support to our family caregivers who may, on a daily basis, give care to their elder spouse, parent or family member.

As our older population increases, it is imperative to maintain these essential services that are the core of the Kupuna Care program and helps to provide long-term care options to our older adults and families in the continuum of care system and the provision of home and community-based services.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 819.


(Ms.) Ludvina Takahashi  
County Executive on Aging

NSS



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Less Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services

FROM:   
Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 (4:30 p.m., Room 016)

RE: **Support of SB 819, Relating to Kupuna Care**

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH), is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves approximately 5,000 older persons each year. **We support SB 819 to increase Kupuna Care funding for senior services and offer the following recommendations:**

1. **Please include bill language from SB2260:**
  - a. Replace funding amount with **\$2,963,411** for FY 2010-2011.
  - b. Specify that this requested Kupuna Care funding amount is **"in addition to the \$4,854,350 in the executive office on aging base budget"**

Catholic Charities Hawaii has provided Kupuna Care Transportation Services for a number of years. In addition, we have been partners with other aging network providers who also provide essential State-funded Kupuna Care Services such as home-delivered meals, case management, chore & housekeeping, bathing service and more.

State-funded Kupuna Care currently funds a set of basic, essential services that help frail elders remain independent and avoid institutionalization or homelessness. In addition, these services support family caregivers who are providing support to frail elderly relatives who still want to maintain their independence but require supportive services, from family and the community, in order to do so.

Aging network providers cannot meet the **growing demand for services** when faced by years of **flat or reduced State and Federal funding** and the **growing cost of service delivery** due to aging vehicles, increased cost of gas and utilities, increased cost of providing health insurance for employees, etc.

At a cost of approximately \$7,000 a month per person, institutionalization of elders is a burden on taxpayers and government. Additional funding for community-based Kupuna Care services will allow our kupuna to remain in the community (which they prefer) and avoid costly institutionalization.

Please support SB 819. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 527-4702 or [diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if I can provide any further information.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone (808)524-HOPE(4673) • [www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org)



91-1841 Fort Weaver Road  
 Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
 Phone 808.681.3500  
 Fax 808.681.5280  
 Email [cfs@cfs-hawaii.org](mailto:cfs@cfs-hawaii.org)  
[www.childandfamilyservice.org](http://www.childandfamilyservice.org)



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<b>Bill No:</b> <b>SB819</b>	<b>Title:</b> RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE
<b>Committee:</b>  <b>COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES</b> Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair	<b>Hearing Date/Time:</b>  DATE: Monday, February 9, 2010 TIME: 4:30 pm PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street
<b>Submitted by:</b> Name: Howard Garval Title: CEO	<b>Contact Information:</b> Phone: 681-3500 Fax: 681-1449
Testimony in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSITION    of proposed bill.	

We support the appropriation of an additional funding for the Kupuna Care Program with 2 amendments:

- 1) Change amt to \$2,963,411 for FY2010-2011. Reason: Amt in current SB819 is about \$1 mil. \$2,963,411 is the amt that was in SB 2260 (bill that was deferred because AG's office didn't like the title of the bill). My understanding is that the \$2.9 amt was recommended by EOA for Statewide.
- 2) Add wording from SB2260: That this additional amount be added to EOA base budget.

The mission of Child and Family Service is strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children. We do this by providing services from our youngest Keiki to our oldest Kupuna. Hawaii's strength comes from its 'Ohana which includes our elders. We believe that supporting our seniors will also help us to stabilize our economy by preventing premature institutionalization which in turn will increase the state dollars needed to pay for long-term care for our Kupuna.

The Kupuna Care Program is directed at serving those who fall through the gaps in services. It provides a safety net to prevent institutionalization and support seniors in their homes. The waitlist for these services continues to grow as the senior population grows and more seniors face difficult economic times. They are often times choosing to pay for food or medication, doctor visits or rent.

Evidenced-based studies have reported that early intervention is the key to better outcomes for seniors requiring supportive services to remain in their community. A 2002 study reported in The Gerontologist, "Effects of a Community-Based Early Intervention Program on the Subjective Well-Being, Institutionalization, and Mortality of Low-Income Elders", "those elders who received the intervention (case management) had significantly higher subjective well-being and were less likely to be institutionalized or die than those in a comparison group (remained on waiting lists for case management) across the 18-month period." The study states that the implications of the results are that they "make a strong case for the importance of community-based programs to the well-being of elders".

Sincerely,

Howard S. Garval  
 President & CEO





Building Independence for Challenged Lives

PRESIDENT & CEO  
Marian E. Tsuji

Lanakila Rehabilitation Center, Inc.  
DBA Lanakila Pacific

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Teri Yamashige  
Sherri Yim

1809 Bachelor Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
Phone: 808-531-0555  
Fax: 808-531-7264  
www.lanakilapacific.org



State of Hawaii  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Legislature

February 9, 2010; 4:30p  
Room 016

SB 819, Relating to Kupuna Care

Good afternoon, Chair Chun Oakland, and the Senate Committee on Human Services. Lanakila Pacific is in strong support of measure SB 819. As a nonprofit organization that serves thousands of seniors we understand that this group is an especially vulnerable population in our community.

As a Kupuna Care service provider Lanakila Meals On Wheels and *more!*, a program of Lanakila Pacific, serves more than 250,000 meals for seniors each year. Our staff and volunteers deliver more than a nutritious meal, as they may be the only person that the senior will spend time with each day. Our average meal recipient is a woman of Asian or Pacific Island decent, 83 years old with an income of less than \$1,000 per month.

Ms. Edna F., one of our precious program participants is 91 years old and said "I don't know what we'd do with out them," commenting about Lanakila and the volunteers who bring her food. "He used to do all of the cooking, but now he can't see any more," Edna said of her husband. Edna closed by saying "I really thank them for the good meals they bring."

As a Kupuna Care program we also provide nutritional education and counseling, monitor health and welfare, and serve as an important bridge to support services, helping seniors remain in their homes rather than more costly premature institutionalization.

It is so important that Kupuna Care services remain as a safety net for frail elderly people and their caregivers in Hawaii. Funding for Kupuna Care services is of vital importance, as they go to serve the most isolated and vulnerable seniors in Hawaii.

For all these reasons and more I urge you to support SB 819.

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Fegers, Director, Lanakila Meals on Wheels and More



The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2010

THE SENATE  
Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
Tuesday, February 9, 2010; 4:30 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 819  
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 819, which appropriate funds for the Kupuna Care program..

Kupuna Care is a highly recognized program to support the elderly who live independently in their own homes. Due to the State's budget shortfall, the program has suffered deep cuts in funding at a time when services actually should be expanded to meet the needs of a rapidly growing elderly population. Kupuna Care services like adult day care, chore services, home-delivered meals, attendant care, homemaker services, personal care, and transportation help to prevent institutionalization, which comes with huge costs that will, ironically, require even more taxpayer support.

While we fully understand the State's continuing budget crisis, we believe appropriation of funds for Kupuna Care will be an investment in keeping the elderly at home and will, in the long run, save the State the dollars required to match Medicaid funds for long-term care. Kupuna Care, like other safety net services, is vital to allowing the elderly to remain independent and in the community.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 819. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.





February 8, 2010

RE: SB 819

Dear Senator –

It is with great concern that I am urging the Senate Committee on Human Services to pass SB 819. This bill will appropriate funds for the very important Kupuna Care Program.

SB 819 provides that essential funds for the Kupuna Care Program be included in the base amount of general funding at a rate that meets with current population rates. The fact that the amount of funding for Kupuna Care has remained flat since 2002 despite steady growth in this population group, has already placed undo strain and hardship on this essential program. Hawaii elders and their families need your support on this important bill.

SB 819 will ensure that the amount of general funds appropriated will at least meet with current population trends helping to meet the needs of this gap group of Kupuna.

Please support SB 819.

Robin Pilus  
Maui AgeWave

40 Ohia Lehua Place  
Makawao, HI 96768  
808-281-0094

[www.mauiagetwave.com](http://www.mauiagetwave.com)



Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

SB819  
HMS  
Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
4:30 p.m.  
Room 016

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

February 7, 2010

Re: SB819 — Relating to Kupuna Care

**In Support**

This bill appropriates \$1,025,000 for Kupuna Care for fiscal years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. These funds are needed to continue this vital program, and Kokua Council supports this appropriation.



We also urge the Legislature to be creative this session in making appropriations. There is strong competition for limited state funds due to the economic recession. While the appropriation provided for in this bill is necessary, it is not sufficient to ensure that the Legislature's intent will be fulfilled.

When Governor Lingle withheld more than \$500,000 that was to go to Kupuna Care in 2006, reports circulated of seniors leaving the hospital who had to be re-admitted because they could not get services needed to stay at home.

Several organizations had written letters asking that the money be released to no effect. Finally, the Friday before Election Day a flock of press releases resulted in the release of the funds.

That money was withheld before the current recession. Now that funds are limited, we are afraid that senior services will be among the first to be cut instead of the last.

Anything that this Committee or the Legislature is able to do to effectuate the Legislature's intent in structuring the state's budget would be of great benefit to seniors and others who depend on these programs.

Larry Geller  
President

*Larry Geller*  
Kokua Council

The Kokua Council is one of Hawaii's oldest advocacy groups. Kokua Council seeks to empower seniors and other concerned citizens to be effective advocates in shaping the future and well-being of our community, with particular attention to those needing help in advocating for themselves. "We embrace diversity and extend a special invitation to any senior or intergenerational minded individual interested in advocating for these important issues in Hawaii."

To: The Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

From: Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana

Subject: Testimony Supporting S.B. No. 819: Relating to Kupuna Care

I strongly support S.B. No. 819 – Relating to Kupuna Care. Kupuna Care has for years through the Executive Office on Aging in partnership with the county area agencies on aging provided much support to the elders throughout the State of Hawaii. The numbers of elders needing long term care assistance are ever increasing as the demographics lean heavily towards an aging society.

Aging in place is the desire for everyone in Hawaii and assistance in various nature i.e. case management, information and referral, meals on wheels, transportation, housing, personal care, attendant care, etc. is increasing. Kupuna Care is a cost effective program and plays a vital role in maintaining seniors to live happily in their homes. Many older adults are isolated, shut-in, lonely and helpless and need some assistance in coping with daily living.

Additional funding as stated in S.B. No 819 is imminent to Hawaii's Kupuna to age in place with your whole hearted and sensitive support.

Thank you very much.

TO : COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.  
POLICY ADVISORY BOARD FOR ELDER AFFAIRS (PABEA)

HEARING: 4:30 pm Tuesday February 9, 2010  
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care

POSITION: The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs **strongly supports** SB 819 which would provide additional funds for the Kupuna Care program.

RATIONALE:

The Policy Board for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

- § We understand the current fiscal crisis facing the state of Hawaii. However, the care of frail elders is an immediate need and should be an important priority for public support.
- § The Kupuna Care services, which persons not eligible for Medicaid services, enable families to care for their elders at home and also keep persons from having to go on Medicaid. Not to fund basic home and community services would result in many cases of persons having to use higher cost residential care, usually at public expense.
- § The current Kupuna Care services fall short of meeting the critical need, and the demand for these services will continue to grow. As of September 30, 2009, there were 594 older adults waitlisted for services. As of June 30, 2009, the estimated wait time to receive home delivered meals was over 4 months. The state is falling far short of providing for its most vulnerable citizens who are in critical need.
- § These critical services have major impacts on the quality of life of frail elders and their caregivers and the cost of the services is relatively low compared to other expenditures of the state. Thus, we strongly recommend support for additional funding in order to meet our moral obligations to those in greatest need.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill.

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., State Capitol Room 016  
Regarding: SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, my name is Eileen Mena and I live in Kailua Kona. I am testifying in support of SB 819 related to Kupuna Care.

Kupuna Care is a very important safety net for our elderly people who are frail and their caregivers. As in previous testimony regarding this subject I was a caregiver for my husband and mother. I was fortunate to have the help of my daughter, son, a good job and health insurance. For many of our elderly population, which is growing, Kupuna Care is sometimes all they have to get a decent meal or a ride to their doctor's appointment. It is getting harder now to qualify but for those that do, they (the elderly and the caregiver) need the safety net of Kupuna Care.

I urge you to support SB 819 and mahalo in advance for your contribution to helping older adults.

Sincerely,

Eileen Mena

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

---

**From:** Shirlee M. Shumway [shirl72025@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 06, 2010 6:38 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** Jackie McCarter Boland  
**Subject:** SB819

**Importance:** High

**To:** Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland Chair  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., State Capitol Room 016  
**Regarding:** SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, my name is Shirlee M. Shumway and I live in the County of Hawaii.

I am asking for your support of SB 819 related to Kupuna Care.

Providing Kupuna Care services as a safety net for frail elderly people and their caregivers is very important.

I urge you to support SB 819

I thank you in advance for your contribution to helping older adults.

Sincerely,  
Shirlee M. Shumway  
79-7199 Mamalahoa Hwy.  
G-258  
Holualoa, Hi 96725

## chunOakland5 - Michael

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 06, 2010 1:56 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB819 on 2/9/2010 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/9/2010 4:30:00 PM SB819

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer  
Organization: Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition  
Address:  
Phone: 261-2095  
E-mail: [Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/6/2010

### Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii family caregiver coalition, in strong support of Senate Bill 819. Recently, leaders of Hawaii's five major senior advocacy organizations met to consider their legislative priorities for the 2010 session. These organizations were: the Hawaii family caregiver coalition, Kokua Council, the policy advisory Board for elder affairs, AARP, and the Hawaii alliance of retired Americans. It was unanimously decided that supporting, and if possible improving, funding for the kupuna care program was our collective first priority.

Kupuna care program is our state-funded home and community-based services program. It is designed for older individuals who fall within the gap group, that is, people who cannot afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid. It provides an important safety net that can help people avoid going into poverty, due to the high cost of long-term care. Because kupuna care services are designed to help people remain at home for as long as possible, the need for institutional care can be postponed or avoided altogether. Thus, Kupuna care services can help reduce Hawaii's Medicaid expenditures for institutional care.

Senate Bill 819 Appropriates approximately \$1 million for this program for each of the next two fiscal years. While this will be extremely helpful, it by no means meets all of the needs of this program. The base budget for kupuna care from Hawaii's general fund has remained flat at at \$4.8 million since 2002. Thus the program's funding has neither kept up with inflation nor with the additional services needed by the increasing numbers of Hawaii's older citizens. We hope that the legislature may find it possible to provide more funding for this program, and that such funds be added to the program's general fund base budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

## chunOakland5 - Michael

---

**From:** Robin Elcock [relcock001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 07, 2010 3:51 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** Jackie McCarter Boland  
**Subject:** SB 819

To: Committee on Human Services, senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.  
State Capitol Room 016  
Regarding: SB 819 Related to Kaduna Care.

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, my name is Margaret Elcock and I live in Hilo. I am testifying in support of SB 819 related to Kapuna Care.

I think that as a person of 70 years with a spouse of 72 years that Kapuna care will be vital to our wellbeing in the near future. I do hope that this important care is not reduced by this legislature. I am not a care giver at present but may be one at some point.

I urge you to support SB 819.

I thank you in advance for your contribution to helping older adults.

Sincerely,

Margaret Elcock. RN. BSN



## chunOakland5 - Michael

---

**From:** Janice Margaret Deif [jandeif@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 07, 2010 7:11 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

**To:** Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland Chair  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., State Capitol Room 016  
**Regarding:** SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, my name is Janice Deif and I live in Waikiki, Honolulu. I am testifying in support of SB 819 related to Kupuna Care.

Providing Kupuna Care services as a safety net for frail elderly people and their caregivers is important and, I believe, vital to the proper functioning of our communities. The elderly population is growing at a steady pace and therefore our health and human services must likewise be kept afloat to serve this segment of the population. These services, in addition to providing transportation, home based care, medical and personal care, create jobs for the local economy.

My personal observations of the frail, elderly persons who live in Waikiki, many of them living alone, bring to light the necessity of providing essential services for survival.

I urge you to support SB 819.

Respectfully yours,

Janice M. Deif

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## chunOakland5 - Michael

---

**From:** Patty Paranada [Patty@mfss.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 9:01 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** deborah.arendale@co.maui.hi.us; JBoland@aarp.org; Hau'oli Tomoso  
**Subject:** Support for Kupuna Care

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to support the Kupuna Care funding. As a Coordinator for the Grandparent Program(R.O.K.K.), I am well aware of the needs of our Kupunas. I feel that the care and well being of our elderly population is of utmost important. The needs are great and we should all join together to take care of them. In my group(ROKK), there are many elders that are caring for their adult children and grandchildren (even great grandchildren!). I think that times and generations has changed tremendously, in that there are many different kinds challenges that people are faced with today. Making it harder for the Kupunas to live a relaxed and worry-free lifestyle, (no such thing as "retire" anymore). In life, we are faced with many difficult situations, and as we age, we are more vulnerable to the difficulties in life, especially if funding for the care and well being for the Kupunas are cut.

I pray that there will be more support for the Kupuna Care and that there will be no cut backs for Kupuna Care. After all, we are all heading in that direction and will be traveling down that road sooner than we think.. We should keep all the programs and services for the Kupunas, because we need it even more now and will be needing it in greater measure.

Thank you for your time and effort,

Patty Paranada, ROKK Program(Raising Our Keikis Keiki)  
Maui Family Support Services

Ph. 242-0900 ext. 236  
Email: [patty@mfss.org](mailto:patty@mfss.org)

The Mission of Maui Family Support Services, Inc. is to promote healthy family functioning by providing supportive services which build on family strengths.

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## chunOakland5 - Michael

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**From:** jkim@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 8:40 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** Boland, Jackie  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Kupuna Care

**To:** Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland Chair  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., State Capitol Room 016  
**Re:** SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, my name is James Kim and I live in East Oahu. I am testifying in support of SB 819 related to Kupuna Care.

I believe providing Kupuna Care services as a safety net for frail elderly people and their caregivers is important. My experience with my mother-in-law being terminal with cancer a few years ago has given me a profound understanding of what people must go through when dealing with these types of issues. Death is inevitable for people so it is quite important that one's remaining days prior to it is lived with comfort and dignity for the elderly and the pain and loss, as well as any financial burden for the surviving family is alleviated or minimized.

I urge you to support SB 819.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to helping older adults and all the families that will be dealing with this at some point in the future.

Aloha!

--

James A. Kim

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

---

**From:** jkim@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 8:40 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** Boland, Jackie  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Kupuna Care

**To:** Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland Chair  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., State Capitol Room 016  
**Re:** SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, my name is James Kim and I live in East Oahu. I am testifying in support of SB 819 related to Kupuna Care.

I believe providing Kupuna Care services as a safety net for frail elderly people and their caregivers is important. My experience with my mother-in-law being terminal with cancer a few years ago has given me a profound understanding of what people must go through when dealing with these types of issues. Death is inevitable for people so it is quite important that one's remaining days prior to it is lived with comfort and dignity for the elderly and the pain and loss, as well as any financial burden for the surviving family is alleviated or minimized.

I urge you to support SB 819.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to helping older adults and all the families that will be dealing with this at some point in the future.

Aloha!

--

James A. Kim

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland Chair  
RE: SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care  
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 4:30 p.m., State Capitol Room 016

To Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

My name is Steve Tam and I am a resident of Hawaii Kai and a caregiver for both my father and father-in-law. I am testifying in support of SB 819 relating to Kupuna Care.

I urge that you appropriate funds for Kupuna Care. Most seniors want to remain in their home as long as possible, and Kupuna Care gives caregivers and seniors the ability to remain in their home, by helping seniors with baths, hot meals, toileting assistance, transportation, and other household chores that seniors can no longer perform.

A staggering 1 in 4 people in Hawaii, over the age of 18, provide caregiver services worth about \$1.4 billion annually. Caregivers provide these services at no cost to the State. However, caregivers cannot do it alone, and would eventually "burn out" if they could not get occasional help with meals, baths, and chores for parents, and time to take care of themselves and their children. Without Kupuna Care there would be no cost savings, but instead an increase in cost to the State, as caregiver "burn out" would mean that the State would be burdened with the entire senior long term care costs, rather than the smaller Kupuna Care costs for occasional caregiver respite and senior assistance.

The issue of senior long term care is urgent and needs to be addressed now. The State is faced with a "ticking time bomb," as the cost of caring for seniors is getting more severe each day. In 20 years, the number of people over 60 years old will increase by 50%, when 1 of 4 will be over 60 years old. Many of these seniors are part of the unlucky "gap" group that does not have enough monies to pay for the assistance to meet daily needs, yet have enough money and thus cannot qualify for Medicare for this help. This gap group will need Kupuna Care.

I have a personal interest in this matter, as a caregiver for my father who has Alzheimer's, and my father-in-law who had a stroke. I left my full-time job in part to care for my parents and in-laws. However, I need to return to work to pay for my children's college education. I have found that there are many families in similar situations. I understand that there are approximately 169,000 caregivers in Hawaii. If all these caregivers were unable to give of their own time, the State would be faced with a severe social service catastrophe.

In summary, funding for Kupuna Care is essential to the senior population, and cannot be put off to a later date, as to do so, will severely lessen the quality of life of our seniors, and place extreme financial burdens on the State, when ultimately forced to deal with the issue. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Steve Tam

Committee on Human Services  
S.B. 819, Relating to Health and Human Services; Kupuna Care  
Testimony by Jason Landgraf, UH Manoa MSW student  
808-393-0606

Monday, February 9, 2010  
4:30 pm, Conference Room 016

Aloha and good afternoon, Honorable Senators Chun-Oakland and committee members,

My name is Jason Landgraf, and I am currently a student at UH Manoa in Social Work. While volunteering with the Elderly Affairs Division I am learning about how important the Kupuna Care Program is. I am in support of S.B. 819 which appropriates additional money for the Kupuna Care Program.

I have met many elderly citizens who are in a predicament. They struggle to remain in their homes while reliant on help given through the Kupuna Care Program, like home-delivered meals when they cannot stand for long periods of time and cook for themselves, or bathing services when they cannot bend and wash themselves, or chore help for when they cannot move around and pick up laundry, trash, or personal items. Simple help can go a long way to keeping our Kupuna in their homes with dignity and respect.

If more money isn't allocated for Kupuna Care, then we'll see waitlists to services that could jeopardize independent living; seniors would be forced out of their homes and into dependent care which costs our state even more money. Or even worse, some kupuna may become homeless if they cannot afford placement in a care-home or nursing facility. Additional monies that go towards helping our kupuna is worth every cent. Without the successful funding of the Kupuna Care Program, we send a grim message to all our citizens young and old that senior's wisdom, knowledge and sacrifice for our way of life is not worth our attention.

Thank you for your time and support of S.B. 819.

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 9:29 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** kahukama@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB819 on 2/9/2010 4:30:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/9/2010 4:30:00 PM SB819

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Natalie Kama  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1803 Nani Street Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: (808) 242-5803  
E-mail: [kahukama@aol.com](mailto:kahukama@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/8/2010

Comments:  
Aloha Senators,

I URGE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL.

This bill is about keeping our aging parents in a place where they can be healthy, happy and safe.

When we were in their care they did the same for us. Even when money was tough and it was, they never denied us our basic needs.

I believe that many island families understand the value of family and as such would know that to pass this bill is the right thing to do.

I URGE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL.

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Gimberley Almeida [Gimberley.Almeida@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 10:41 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** JBoland@aarp.org  
**Subject:** Support SB 819

I support SB 819, which appropriates funds for the Kupuna Care program. Kupuna Care services benefit the frail elderly and their care givers.

Thank you,

Gimberley T Almeida

Certified Information & Referral Specialist for Aging

Maui County Office on Aging

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**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Hyenie Martin [Hyenie.Martin@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 10:33 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Support of SB 819  
**Attachments:** Hyenie Martin.vcf

I strongly support funding of SB 819.

Aloha, Hyenie Martin

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**From:** Boland, Jackie [JBoland@aarp.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 10:31 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** deborah.arendale@co.maui.hi.us; Tara Sabado  
**Subject:** Tara Sabado Testimony in Support of SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Testimony for HMS 2/9/2010 4:30:00 PM SB819

Conference room: 016

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Testifier: Tara Sabado

My name is Tara Sabado and I am testifying in support of SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care.

There are several reasons why the Kupuna Care Program should be deemed as a "service needs" program. Firstly, individuals that have retired and worked their lives as a professional employee and have a fixed income additional to their social security, spend most of their pension on their monthly medical premium. Secondly, this formula does not leave enough income to provide adequate living needs, sacrifices are made to adjust the monthly income changes. Thirdly, the aging process continues to be a vigorous change that is a reality for everyone and the cost of living does not adjust to your age. Programs like this one are necessary for everyone that need care and will not afford it independently.

My grandfather is one of these people, he canceled his phone, cable television, and trash service to meet his monthly needs. He has partial sight loss, partial hearing loss, daily disorientation, and severe heart and lung conditions. He is a retired Electrician and 79 this year, he is a candidate for Kupuna care services. He lives alone because he worked his whole life to buy the home he is currently residing, he will not move out and my family of 4 will not fit to move in. My husband and I work full time and care for him as much as possible. We have an appointment for the Cardiologist this week and will most likely be told that he will need an attendant after his heart surgery. I am the Inclusion Specialist for the County of Maui, and I am unable to provide reasonable accommodations for my own family member without the Kupuna Care program that can help us support our grandfather's in-home care. It is a community effort that will be ongoing for our aging population. My story is one of many for our County.

Please support the funding for Kupuna Care services, one day, you as a professional will need gap services that your family will utilize in order to preserve your independence as the aging process continues.

Mahalo.

Tara Sabado

Maui County Parks and Recreation

Inclusion Specialist

275-D Uhu Street

Kahului, HI 96732

Phone: (808) 270-7979

## chunOakland5 - Michael

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**From:** dnr@dr.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 12:29 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** JBoland@aarp.org; Deborah.Arendale@co.maui.hi.us  
**Subject:** Support of SB 819, Kapuna Care Program

Dear Senate Committee on Human Services,  
My name is Dr. Dara N. Rampersad. I am the Forensic Coordinator for Maui County, and am also actively involved in Maui County's Geriatric Hui through Maui County's Office on Aging. I am writing to you today in support of SB 819, and ask that you pass this bill to nurture the rights of our Kapuna.

Please feel free to contact me if needed. I can be reached at 404-245-4208.

Mahalo,

Dara N. Rampersad, Ph.D., LPC, NCC

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Cary Valdez [Cary.Valdez@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 1:38 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** JBoland@aarp.org  
**Subject:** Support of SB 819

As an information and outreach worker for the Maui County Office on Aging I am in direct contact with the kupuna who are frail and homebound. The Kupuna Care services they receive are allowing them to live independent and dignified lives. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this funding.

Mahalo,  
Cary Valdez

Cary D. Valdez, CIRS-A  
Maui County Office on Aging  
Information & Outreach Aid  
Phone: 661-2387 / 270-7774

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**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Christine Olah [tropicalhawaiiusa@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 11:57 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

2/8/2010

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 pm; State Capitol Room 016  
Re: SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr. and Committee Members:

I am testifying in SUPPORT of SB 819 related to Kupuna Care.

My name is Christine Olah and I am a resident of Honolulu. I appeal to you on behalf of the caregivers and elderly of Hawaii, numbering in the thousands, who are unable to be here today; they are busy being caregivers, and the Kupuna are too frail to make the trip.

Let Hawaii continue to be known as the State that cares for their elders in need. It is vital that funding be available for the care of those who have given their lives as parents, workers, and constituents in the State of Hawaii. Please do not forget our Kupuna.

Thank you in advance for your contribution by voting for SB819 to maintain the health of elders by providing funds for their needs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Olah  
P.O.Box 3294  
Honolulu, HI 96801

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Larry Carter [larcarter@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 11:15 AM  
**To:** Robin Pilus; HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Re: SB 819

I concur with the importance of this inclusion. We are in an aging explosion for elder care. This legislation will help

Yes I am in favor

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Robin Pilus  
**To:** HMSTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 9:34 AM  
**Subject:** SB 819

Attached is testimony in support of SB 819. Please forward as appropriate.

Mahalo,

Robin Pilus  
Maui AgeWave

[www.mauiagewave.com](http://www.mauiagewave.com)

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Rachelle IngKupau [Rachelle.ingKupau@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 11:14 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Yestimony from Molokai

Aloha,

My name is Rachelle K. Ing Kupau and I reside on Hawaiian Homestead in Hoolehua, Molokai. I would like my voice to be heard about the disservice that is being done to our kupuna (Senior Citizens). We here on our island cherish our kupunas and feel they are our examples or role models. We are very limited on our island in resources and especially funds for our loved ones. Please don't cut our funds to support our needy ones, there is already talk about terminating lives because our kupunas are unable to have their 3x's a week bath, laundry done once a week, room cleaned 3x's a month, or have 5 days a week one meal. Ask yourself do you go without a bath daily, do you eat only 1 meal a day, how about laundry if you are bedridden and unable to change yourself or soiled bedding? We need to reverse this decision and increase the funds, so our Kupunas can live their last days comfortable and humane.

Thank you,

Rachelle K. Ing Kupau  
PO Box 194  
Kualapuu, HI 96757

Rachelle Ing Kupau  
(808) 553-5241

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## chunOakland5 - Michael

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**From:** Kumiko Oshiro [kumikoo@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 11:01 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Supporting S.B. 819

To The Senate Committee on Human Services:

I am a student studying gerontology in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I am supporting the Bill of SB 819 which is Kupuna Care. This Senate Bill supports Elder's healthy lifestyle. It is especially important when Hawaii's older population is growing three times faster than Hawaii's total population. With Hawaii's longest average life expectancy (77.3 years), we need to have a hope for positive and healthier lifestyle in aging. It is important for maintaining senior citizens' dignity and independence.

Kumiko Oshiro

February 8, 2010

To: Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

From: Roy Katsuda, Hale Mahaolu Executive Director  
Kathy Louis, Hale Mahaolu Personal Care Program Director  
Phone: 808 873-0521

Re: Testimony SB819, Relating to Kupuna Care  
Hearing on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 4:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

We whole heartedly support SB819 and the appropriation of Kupuna Care funds to help the hundreds of Kupuna Care clients who rely on their home and community based services to remain safely in their homes. As a personal care service provider in Maui County, we see first hand how effective Kupuna Care services are to the clients we serve. Many of our clients would be institutionalized without these critical and crucial services. These services have been proven to defer institutionalization, keep our Kupuna safely at home, and save our families, communities, and government long term care dollars.

Thank you for your support of our Kupuna and helping them maintain their dignity and independent lifestyle in the comfort of their own home.

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Elinor Takahashi [Elinor.Takahashi@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 12:01 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** JBoland@aarp.org  
**Subject:** SB 819

I strongly support SB 819, which appropriates funds for Kupuna Care programs. Our office provides services for the frail elderly so I see the need firsthand.

Certified Information & Referral Specialist for the Aging Maui County Office on Aging

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February 8, 2010

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

**RE: SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care**

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

Both national and local news have highlighted in the past years the growing needs of the 60+ population. Aging is no more evident than in Hawaii; we have higher life expectancies here but also have to deal with a higher cost of living. The four counties are trying to make things work with the current funding it receives for Kupuna Care (KC) services and it is not enough. In the past few years, KC services funds remained static while the needs have grown exponentially. There are too many people falling through the cracks and the safety net has to be repaired immediately.

Services like transportation, personal care, homemaker and chore services, case management, day care and home delivered meals are critical. Too many individuals and families suffer in silence and sacrifice their own needs because they feel others are worst off. These are the people we need to also help.

Kupuna Care services help seniors to live in their own home and community for as long as it is safe and appropriate. According to AARP Hawaii, 88 % of Hawaii residents want to be able to do just this. KC honors that commitment. Now is a critical time to keep these services. The government can support our seniors by listening to their stories and understanding their basic needs. Please continue to maintain funds while considering additional funding for KC services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 819.

Sincerely,

James Mariano, MSW  
Wailuku, Maui

TO: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland C hair  
DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., State Capitol Room 016  
RE:: SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, my name is Kathryn Okazaki and I live in Halawa Heights (Aiea). I am testifying in support of SB 819 related to Kupuna Care.

Funding for Kupuna Care is needed to support those currently accessing the services provided through these funds and to address the growing unmet need for home and community based services by frail elderly people who don't qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford the services needed.

I left my job to provide care for my parents who are in their 90s and experiencing a variety of health problems. I found that it was too difficult to balance both work and caregiving at the same time so I gave up my steady income and ability to save and earn Social Security for my own retirement. I've now been taking care of them for three years and I have been fortunate to keep my parents at home. Currently my parents have been able to pay for the services they need, or I have been able to provide them. However, it is evident to me from speaking to friends in my situation, that there are many others that are not as fortunate as my family. Not everyone can leave their job to care for their parents. And, given the high cost of care, I know that one day my parents will run out of money and I may be faced with depleting my own savings.

Hawaii needs a program in place to help those who are unable to afford the services without requiring that they become impoverished to get it. Please support Kupuna Care.

Kathryn Okazaki  
99-515 Kaholi Pl.  
Aiea, HI 96701  
February 8, 2010

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Sarah Shim [Sarah.Shim@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 2:41 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Kupuna Care funds

Please continue providing Kupuna Care Funds. The programs are needed to provide older persons with services so they can maintain their independence in the community. Being able to stay at home saves tax dollars by delaying institutionalization.

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County of Maui.

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## **chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** TonyABF@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 3:04 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** JBoland@aarp.org; mpaularena@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony-SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care -Suzanne Chun Tuesday Feb. 9 4:30

My name is Tony Fisher and I live on Maui and SB 819 is one of the key pieces of legislation this year.

There is no better place for a person to "get well" than in familiar surroundings and this bill provides funding that is not available elsewhere in the current fiscal situation of Hawaii.

At 77 years of age, my greatest fear is to be placed in an unfamiliar setting to "get well" after some illness. However, SB 819 provides funding to assist my caregiver (wife) to insure that I don't require the significantly more expensive hospital care or nursing home care.

SB 819 SAVES significant money by NOT requiring hospitalization.

This is a win/win situation from a financial standpoint as well as a health care standpoint.

Thank you for your consideration and hopefully approval of SB 819.

Tony Fisher  
285 Ohina Pl.  
Kihei, HI 96753  
874-3735

# Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

*AFT Retirees  
HGEA Retirees  
HSTA – Retired  
ILWU Retirees  
Kokua Council  
Machinists Union Retirees  
UPW Retirees  
ADA/Hawaii  
Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition*

An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans  
c/o AFSCME · 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES Senators Suzanne Chun Oakland, Les Ihara,

Tuesday, February 9th, 2010, 4:30 p.m. Room 016

SB 819 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

SUPPORT

I am Laura Manis and strongly support this bill, which is to appropriate Funds for the Kupuna Care program.

I am submitting testimony on behalf HARA, The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans. HARA has nine affiliates, listed on this letterhead, representing 21,000 members

This program is one of the few State programs that address the needs of the gap group: those elderly people who are just above the poverty level, are not eligible for Medicaid but don't have enough discretionary income to either buy Long Term Care Insurance, or pay for help in services that would keep them at home.

Kupuna Care has long waiting lists to provide the services that are critical to meet the needs of these vulnerable elders. At present, there are of very substantial unmet health and human services needs in this population. Funding this service would save the state money by enabling them to stay at home, and avoid high cost institutional care that very soon would make them Medicaid recipients at State expense.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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*HARA is a strong voice for Hawaii's retirees and seniors; a diverse community-based organization with national roots; a grassroots organizer, educator, and communicator; and a trusted source of information for decision-makers.*