

**LATE**

**SB 819**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

CHIYOME L. FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



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**Senate Committees on Health/Human Services**

**S.B. 819, Relating to Human Services and Health  
Testimony of Noemi Pendleton  
Director of Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

**LATE**

**February 9, 2010**

**4:30 p.m. Conference Room 016**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is committed to Kupuna Care
- 2 and appreciates the intent of this bill; however at this time, EOA is not able to support this bill
- 3 because of the state's declining economic outlook and rising State budget deficit.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** There is \$1,025,000 appropriation of general funds for State Fiscal Year
- 5 2011 to the Department of Health for KUPUNA CARE services.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this Act is to provide additional funding for the
- 7 kupuna care program. Kupuna Care fills an important gap in assistance for the elderly in Hawaii
- 8 and cuts in service would be detrimental to their ability to live with independence and dignity.
- 9 At this time, EOA regrets that it is unable to support any appropriation from state general funds
- 10 that is outside the Executive Budget because of the state's declining economic outlook and rising
- 11 State budget deficit.
- 12 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



TO: Senate Committee on Human Services (Via Fax, 586-6659, 2/7/10, 1 page)

**Hearing of Senate Committee on Human Services**  
**February 9, 2010, 4:30 p .m. Conference Room 016**

Statement of Al Hamai, President, Supporting SB 819, Relating to appropriation of funds for the Kupuna Care Program

**LATE**

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr., and Members of the Committee,

HARA strongly supports SB 819, which appropriates funds for the Kupuna Care Program. HARA has supported the Kupuna Care Program and its expansion for the past several sessions, as our past written testimonies on this topic can attest.

This program has been a lifesaver for thousands of seniors and retirees, who need assistance to survive and live with some measure of dignity. Yet due to lack of sufficient funding, a great many other seniors and retirees, who need similar assistance are not provided with these essential services.

HARA commends the members of this Committee and of other legislative committees of the past sessions of the Legislature that appropriated additional funds to expand the Program, only to have the Governor restrict the funds.

HARA concurs with the purpose of this bill and urges this Committee to approve SB 819. Clearly it is the right thing to do for supporting seniors and retirees, who need help Mahalo.

*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.*

Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)  
 An affiliate of the Alliance for Retired Americans  
 888 Mililani Street, Suite 101, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
[www.hawaiiretiredamericans.org](http://www.hawaiiretiredamericans.org)





LATE

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

Date: Feb. 9, 2010 - Conference Room 016 – 4:30 p.m.

Re: **SB 819 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE.**

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and Committee Members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with 150,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to championing access to affordable, quality health care for all generations, providing the tools needed to save for retirement, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

AARP strongly supports SB 819. Its purpose is to appropriate funds to the Kupuna Care program.

The Kupuna Care program addresses the need for affordable home and community based long-term care services that help people remain at home for as long as possible. This program helps individuals who fall within the “gap group” – people who cannot afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid. Kupuna Care provides an important safety net that can prevent older adults from going into poverty due to the high cost of long-term care.

Hawaii has one of the nation’s fastest growing elderly populations. This fact alone points to an immediate need to expand home and community based services to support family caregiving and aging-in-place. The value of the services that family caregivers provide to their loved ones by way of deferred paid caregiving and institutionalization helps to control state and federal costs. Unpaid caregivers number about 169,000 in Hawaii, and the value of their services is conservatively estimated at \$1.45 billion. The economic value of care provided by family members and friends far surpasses what is spent on home health care and nursing home care combined. On average, the needs of three seniors can be met in home settings for the same amount it costs to serve one person in a nursing home.

The base budget for Kupuna Care from Hawaii’s general fund has remained flat at \$4,854,350 since 2002 and has not kept pace with the need for services. We appreciate the Legislature’s recognition of the inadequacy of this funding through its appropriations for the years 2007 and 2008 to reduce the waitlists for Kupuna Care services. The 2008 funds were not released by the Governor, however, and Kupuna Care is back to its budget of seven years ago. Today, people are not just on a waitlist; core services to clients are being cut.

## ChunOakland3 - Serena

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**From:** Nahoalohamaui@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2010 10:09 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** JBoLand@aarp.org; Deborah.Arendale@co.maui.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony in Favor of SB 819  
**Attachments:** clip\_image002.jpg; clip\_image002.jpg



**Na Hoaloha – Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

P.O. Box 3208 - 2140A Main Street - Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: (808) 249-2545 FAX: (808) 249-2547  
[www.nahoaloha.org](http://www.nahoaloha.org) [mivcmaui@yahoo.com](mailto:mivcmaui@yahoo.com)

DATE: February 9, 2010

FROM: Gerri Shapiro, MS Ed, Executive Director  
Na Hoaloha - Maui Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers

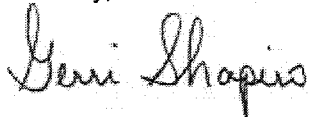
TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

RE: Testimony in favor of SB 819  
Appropriation of funds for the Kupuna Care Program

The mission of Na Hoaloha is to provide compassionate care to seniors to enable them to remain independent and in their homes for as long as possible. These services, which include friendly visits, transportation, chores, errands, shopping, light housekeeping and respite for family caregivers, are provided entirely by volunteer caregivers, at no cost to the State. The alternative is to place these seniors in facilities, which in fact, cost the State much more than providing in-home services.

Kupuna Care provides a vital safety net of home and community based services that benefit the frail elderly and their caregivers. These services include transportation, meals on wheels, chore and housekeeping, case management, personal care and some respite. We urge you to support funding for this critical safety net for older adults and their caregivers.

Sincerely,



Gerri Shapiro

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**Gerri Shapiro, MS Ed., Executive Director**  
**Na Hoaloha - Neighbors Helping Neighbors**  
<http://www.nahoaloha.org>

Email: [nahoalohamaui@aol.com](mailto:nahoalohamaui@aol.com)  
Phone: (808) 250-1212



KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES  
Elderly Services Program  
1846 Gulick Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel:(808) 848-0977 ♦ Fax: (808) 848-8689 ♦

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

LATE

From: Merlita Compton, MPH  
Elderly Program Coordinator  
Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services  
E-mail address: mcompton@kkv.net

Hearing: Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 pm  
State Capitol -Conference Room 211

Subject: **Support of SB 819:** Relating to KUPUNA CARE

I am writing to express complete and strongest support for **SB 819 Relating to KUPUNA CARE-Appropriate Funds for Kupuna Care Program**. Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) has been one of the Kupuna Care Service providers for the past 9 years. Kupuna Care Services provides Case Management, Care Giver Support and Respite Care, Health Maintenance, Individual and Family Counseling, Transportation Services, and full and easy access to Dental and Medical services to frail residents who are 60-years-old or older and their families. We strongly support all Senate bills relating to maintaining and increasing funding for the administration, coordination, and delivery of Kupuna Care services.

The funding for **KUPUNA CARE** provides cost effective health related services that are crucial in assisting seniors to avoid costly and unnecessary premature institutional placement. Being able to continue living in one's own home, with adequate support and regular opportunities for participation in meaningful activities, as an active member of one's community, gives seniors a greater sense of and actual control over their lives, resulting in healthier seniors and a higher quality of life. The improvement in physical and mental function and the reduction in the need for more costly special care and services, following interventions such as those funded by Kupuna Care, are fully evidenced-based as has been repeatedly demonstrated in large scale national studies.

Working with over six hundred (**600**) unduplicated participants in the KKV Elderly Services Program for the past nine years, I see clear evidence on a daily basis of the improved health and quality of life for our elders and the savings in health care costs when people have ready access to useful health promoting education, information, and activities. Committee Members of the Health and Human Services and Ways and Means Committee have an open invitation to visit our program and meet the participants first hand.

Mahalo for your leadership in continuing the support for this important essential legislation. I can say with complete assurance and certainty, our community will greatly appreciate and benefit from the services Kapuna Care provides. The need is great.

Sincerely,

Merlita Compton

**chunOakland5 - Michael**

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**From:** Zoe Jarvis [lgimakahahi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2010 6:27 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** SB819

**LATE**

MY NAME IS ZOE JARVIS AND I LIVE IN WAIANAE. I AM A VOTER IN EVERY ELECTION AND I WISH TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS ABOUT SB819. PLEASE DO NOT REDUCE THE MONEY GIVEN TO THE KUPUNA CARE. SENIORS, IN NEED HAVE NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO. IT IS VITAL THAT THE FUNDS ARE PROVIDED FOR ELDERS, SUCH AS MEALS ON WHEELS, HELP FOR CAREGIVERS, ETC. DO NOT PUT OUR MOST FRAGILE SENIORS AT RISK BY REDUCING THEIR HELP. ZOE JARVIS, P.O. BOX 1644, WAIANAE, HI 96792, 808-696-3369.

February 8, 2010

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

LATE

From: Lyn Moku, Office Manager

Hearing: February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m., Conference Room 016

Subject: **SUPPORT OF SB 819 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE. Appropriates funds for the Kupuna care program.**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports SB 819 relating to Kupuna Care.

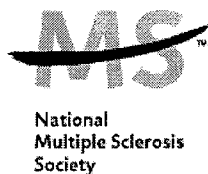
The MS Society is dedicated to helping people living with MS and their families, the elderly, and others with chronic disabling diseases secure the critical services they need. The Society supports expansion of public and private long-term care options, especially those that keep individuals in the community and functioning at the highest possible level.

In speaking with a family caregiver of a woman in her early seventies living with progressive multiple sclerosis, I was told that bathing was one of the most important functions for the woman who was totally disabled and could not perform any of the five basic activities of daily living. It took two people to bath her. The attendants would lift her off the bed, transfer her to a wheelchair, then to a shower chair in the bathroom and wash her, then reverse the process and return her to her bed fresh, clean, and in good spirits. Bathing was extremely important to her and she did not feel good about herself without the twice weekly bath provided through Kupuna Care. It was one of the greatest services she received and one that healthy people take for granted. Those services and many others provided through Kupuna Care are being threatened with little or no options available to the recipients and their family members.

Nearly a quarter of individuals living with multiple sclerosis will require long-term care services and supports at some point during the course of the disease. Individuals with MS who have more significant disabilities require long-term and significant amounts of assistance with virtually all ordinary activities. A recent study on informal caregiving to people with MS found that both caregivers and persons with MS were close to sixty years old, significantly older than the MS population; and eighty percent of such care is provided by informal caregivers, usually family members.

We support SB 819 and ask you to vote in favor of this Bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Hawaii Office, All America Chapter  
418 Kuwili Street, #105  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Phone: 808-532-0806  
Fax: 808-532-0814



In summary, Kupuna Care services help to keep costs down. The state cannot financially afford to replace family caregivers. The support provided to these caregivers through Kupuna Care is the most efficient and effective cost savings to the state. The Kupuna Care program has experienced a no-growth budget since 2002. At the same time, the aging population needing care has grown. With existing and further reductions in the safety net of Kupuna Care services, the state would be faced with paying more prohibitive costs in long-term care.

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

## ChunOakland3 - Serena

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**From:** Roger Katsutani [Roger.Katsutani@co.maui.hi.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2010 10:10 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** In Support of Kupuna Care Funding SB 819

Senate Committee on Human Services:

We ask for your continued support of seniors here in Maui County and throughout Hawaii by funding the Kupuna Care Program.

The Kupuna Care Program enhances the ability of our seniors to remain at home, enables them to continue to participate in the community they have built, and allows them to share their valuable wisdom, traditions, and knowledge with all. Here in Hawaii, we do not label our seniors as "old folk", but call them "kupuna" which literally translate into: "Those who plant". We need to continue their ability to plant the seeds for our future generations. Passage of the Kupuna Care Program will help our Kupuna do this.

Sincerely,  
Roger Katsutani  
Program Specialist  
Kaunoa Assisted Transportation Program

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County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments  
larger than 12 MB, and will block or quarantine  
high-risk file types in attachments.

## ChunOakland3 - Serena

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**From:** Candice Carter [ccarterhi@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2010 9:47 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 819

Please support our most vulnerable Kupuna on the brink of tipping over to a new generation of devalued poor. Passage of a bill to fully fund the Kupuna program is essential to protect the health and safety of our parents, aunties, uncle, who are aging in a time of new poverty. This program has not received the level of funding to keep the pace with the growth of the aged in Hawai'i.

### **Please support SB 819.**

It seems too many promises are made and many are not kept in this changing environment. For our old you keep the promise you made. You continue the commitment. If we do not receive the funding for our Kupuna we not only break our promise but we put our most vulnerable at risk. We have an obligation and they have a right to receive the care. Please support our Kupuna, please keep the promise and protect their health and safety. Support SB 819

Mahalo  
Candice Alelani Carter  
219 Molehulehu St  
Kahului,  
96732

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010, State Capitol Room 016

Subject: Testimony on SB819 Relating to Kupuna Care

LATE

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members: My name is Esther Ueda and I am a resident of Pearl City, Honolulu . I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care.

I am a retired state employee. Since retiring I have become a volunteer for such programs as Meals on Wheels and Project Dana. As a volunteer I have personally seen how important these types of services are to the community, and especially to our growing population of Seniors. Many of my friends and relatives also have family members attending senior day care programs which I believe really have added to their quality of life in their senior years, giving them more contact with others and even learning new skills.

➤

I strongly support SB 819 which would provide funding for the Kupuna Care Program, a critical safety net for older adults and their caregivers..

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.