

SB 819, SD1

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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



NOEMI PENDLETON
DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**S.B. 819 SD1, Relating to Kupuna Care
Written Testimony of Noemi Pendleton
Director of Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

February 24, 2010

10:10 a.m. Conference Room 211

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 unspecified appropriation of general funds for State Fiscal Year
5 2011 to the Department of Health for KUPUNA CARE services.

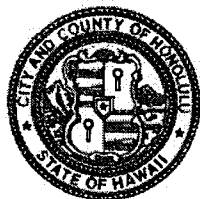
6 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this Act is to provide additional funding for the
7 kupuna care program. Kupuna Care fills an important gap in assistance for the elderly in Hawaii
8 and cuts in service would be detrimental to their ability to live with independence and dignity.

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.

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 23, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members:

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

The City and County of Honolulu's Elderly Affairs Division (EAD) is 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. EAD 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.

This bill affords 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 is essential to maintaining the health and welfare of our most vulnerable seniors. We are also in agreement with SSCR 2243 that the appropriation amount contained in S.B. 819 should be \$2,963,411. This is the figure contained in S.B. 2260 and represents a more accurate figure based on waitlist data from the State's Executive Office on Aging.


We also believe it is critical and 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.

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2010
Page 2

We urge the committee to pass S.B. 819. Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments.

Sincerely,


Deborah Kim Morikawa
Director


Elizabeth Bethea
County Executive on Aging
Elderly Affairs Division

CY:ab

sb 819

kim5 - Deborah

From: Kealoha Takahashi [ktakahashi@kauai.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 5:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: SB 819 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Time: 10:10am

The County of Kauai 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 lone-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.

Kealoha Takahashi
Executive on Aging
Agency on Elderly Affairs
4444 Rice Street, Suite 330
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1340
Phone: 808-241-4474
Fax: 808-241-5113

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2010

THE SENATE
Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Wednesday, February 24, 2010; 10:10 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 819, SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 819, SD1, 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, SD1. Using the State's "Rainy Day Fund" for this purpose is highly appropriate and warranted. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

From: [Patrick](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 2469 SD1 and SB 819 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 9:43:28 AM

Democratic Party of Hawaii
Kupuna Caucus

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re: SB 2469 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care and SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

The Kupuna Caucus of the DPH strongly supports both SB 819 SD1 and SB 2449 SD1. SB 2449 SD1 uses the Emergency and Budget Reserve fund for its intended purpose. Among those purposes, Kupuna Care, which provides Home and Community Based Services for frail elderly seniors is critical. The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund (Rainy Day Fund) should not be used as a short term fix but for critical food and shelter.

SB 819 SD1 appropriates funding for Home and Community Based services for frail elderly people who are in the "gap group" (i.e., not poor enough for Medicaid but unable to afford services).

Patrick Stanley
Millie Saito
Co-Chairs



To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Date: Feb. 24, 2010 - Conference Room 211 – 10:10 a.m.

Re: **SB 819, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE.**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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, SD1. Its purpose is to appropriate funds to the Kupuna Care program which would add to its base budget under the Executive Office on Aging. The base budget has remained flat at \$4,854,350 since 2002, and has not kept pace with the need for services, resulting in cuts to core services for clients. Budget limitations have led to more stringent rules being applied where clients receive less services than their needs require. In addition to the clients currently served, there is a vast underserved population for whom budgetary resources are simply unavailable.

Kupuna Care is a program that reduces the number of older adults from going into poverty due to the high cost of long-term care. Individuals served fall within the “gap group” – people who cannot afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid.

Kupuna Care renders substantial cost savings to the state through the basic services it provides to the homebound elderly, such as meals, baths and personal care. This assistance supplements the care provided by family caregivers and gives them needed respite. The state could not financially afford to replace the estimated 169,000 family caregivers in Hawaii. As the aging population needing care has grown, Kupuna Care services have been reduced. Clients face few alternative long term care options. They cannot afford the \$123,000 annually for nursing home care, and are likely to become Medicaid eligible where the state would have to pick up the \$75,000 annual cost.

The fact that Hawaii has one of the nation’s fastest growing elderly populations points to an immediate need to support home and community based services such as Kupuna Care. The value of the services that Hawaii family caregivers provide to their loved ones by way of deferred paid caregiving and institutionalization is conservatively estimated at \$1.45 billion, which helps to control state and federal costs. The economic value of care provided by family



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM:

Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE of Hearing: Wednesday, February 24, 2010
10:10 a.m., Room 211

RE: Support of SB 819, SD1, 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, SD1, to increase Kupuna Care funding for senior services and ask that additional funding in the amount of \$2,963,411 be included for FY 2010-2011.**

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, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 527-4702 or diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if I can provide any further information.



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www.childandfamilyservice.org



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Bill No: SB 819, SD1	Title: RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE
Committee: <u>COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS</u> Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair	Hearing Date/Time: DATE: Wednesday February 24, 2010 TIME: 10:10am PLACE: Conference Room 211 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street
Submitted by: Name: Howard Garval Title: CEO	Contact Information: Phone: 681-3500 Fax: 681-1449
Testimony in: (X) SUPPORT () 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 wellbeing 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 communitybased programs to the well-being of elders".

Sincerely,

Howard S. Garval



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 Ways and Means
 Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
 Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair

Date: Thursday, February 24, 2010 at 10:10 AM
 State Capitol -Conference Room 211

Re: **Support of SB 819 SD1: Relating to KUPUNA CARE**

Chair, Senator Donna Mercado Kim and Committee Members, I am Merlita Compton, Program Coordinator, writing to express complete and strongest support for **SB 819, SD1 Relating to KUPUNA CARE**. Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) has been one of the Kupuna Care Service providers for the past 10 years. Kupuna Care Services provides Case Management, Caregiver Support and Respite Services, Health Maintenance, Chore and Homemaker, 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 that can help people remain at home for as long as possible.

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 seniors in the KKV Elderly Services Program for the past ten 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 Ways and Means Committee have an open invitation to visit our program and meet the participants first hand.

Thank you for your leadership in continuing the support for this important and essential legislation **SB 819, SD1 Related to Kupuna Care**. I can say with complete assurance and certainty, our community will greatly appreciate and benefit from the services Kupuna Care provides. The need is great.

Sincerely,

 Merlita Compton, MPH
 Kokua Kalihi Valley



Hawaii's Voice for a Better Future

SB819
WAM
Wednesday, February 24, 2010
10:10 a.m.
Room 211

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

February 23, 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."

From: Nahoalohamaui@aol.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: JBoland@aarp.org; MLevesque@aarp.org; Deborah.Arendale@co.mauhi.us
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 819 SD1 - Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 4:42:48 PM



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 mivcmaui@yahoo.com

To: Senate Ways and Means committee, Senator Donna Mercado Kim,
Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

RE: Testimony in favor of SB 819 SD1
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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerri Shapiro".

Gerri Shapiro

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

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

February 23, 2010

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

From: Lyn Moku, Office Manager

Hearing: February 24, 2010 at 10:10 a.m., Conference Room 211

Subject: **SUPPORT OF SB 819, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE. Appropriates Additional funds for the Kupuna care program.**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports SB 819, SD1 which appropriates additional funds for the Kupuna Care program.

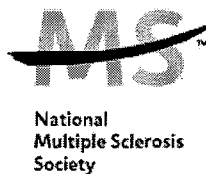
The MS Society is dedicated to helping people living with MS and their families, the elderly, and others with chronic disabling diseases secure the critical services they need. The Society supports expansion of public and private long-term care options, especially those that keep individuals in the community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

For a couple in their late seventies who live in a rural community, finding someone to provide personal care for the spouse with progressive multiple sclerosis was a huge challenge—until they were able to access case management services through the Kupuna Care program. Both partners had physical limitations so it was extremely difficult for the spouse to transport his wife in and out the bed, the shower, or the commode. With the help of personal care attendants, and homemakers to help with housework, the man was able to get several hours of respite during the week, take the car to the shop, and tend to other business around the home. Although the services were not unlimited, they helped this couple get through one of the most difficult periods of their lives. 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, SD1 and ask you to vote in favor of this Bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

###



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

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

From: [Tomoso Home](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 819, SD 1
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 7:14:00 PM

02-22-10

TO: WAM Committee
RE: SB 819, SD 1
Relating to Kupuna Care

Aloha kakou: I am writing to ask for your support of appropriating additional funds for the Kupuna Care Program. The Aging Network, statewide, which represents a continuum of care and services that allow our Kupuna/ Senior population to "age in place", has been built up, over many years, through a rather finely tuned tripartite governmental funding stream, i.e. Fed., State and County. Given the growing number of elders, in our state, (2011 is when Baby Boomers turn 65 years) I believe it would be somewhat myopic for this funding to not continue to be a part of the "safety net" that an increasing "long living" and vulnerable population has grown accustomed to depending on. Please pass this bill.

Mahalo

John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW
Chair

Maui Joint Advocacy Committee on Senior Affairs (JACOSA)
jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com

CC: JACOSA members
CC: Maui County State Legislators
CC: Maui County Council Members

TO : COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, ce Chair

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

HEARING: 10:10 am Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

SUBJECT: SB 819 SD1 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, frail elders are in immediate need of care and meeting their needs for care should be an important priority for public support.

§ The Kupuna Care serves persons not eligible for Medicaid services, enables families to care for their elders at home, and also keeps persons from having to go on Medicaid. Not to fund basic home and community services would result in many 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: Senate Ways and Means Committee, Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 @ 10:10 am

Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to KupunaCare

Chair Kim and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Caryn Sakahashi and I am the Program Director for the Kauai Adult Day Health Center on the island of Kauai. I am writing in support of SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care.

I have been a professional caregiver for Kauai's kupuna for the past 23 years. The day health center provides a well-rounded program of recreational, social, creative, educational, and therapeutic activities in a supportive and protective environment. The fundamental goal of this program is to help disabled adults remain in the community maintaining or improving their functional level; but most of all to maintain their independence, dignity, and self-worth as individuals in society.

Many of these clients that attend the center are on a very limited income and would not be able to attend without the assistance of Kupuna Care. By not attending the center, many of them would be placed prematurely in a long term facility which would greatly deplete their income due the high cost of long term care and then being forced into more costly institutional settings paid for by the tax payer.

Without the support of Kupuna Care, many of our elderly would not have the opportunity to remain at home with their loved ones and receive community based services such as day care centers. I urge you to vote YES on SB 819 to allow Hawaii's kupuna to live life to their fullest. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Caryn M. Sakahashi
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii**

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 (10:10 a.m., Room 211)

RE: Support of SB 819, SD 1, Relating to Kupuna Care

I am 84 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through the State Kupuna Care Program.

Please help Hawaii's growing population of Kupuna by providing **ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS:**

- Transportation
- Housekeeping
- Home-delivered meals
- Case Management
- Adult day care
- Attendant care
- Bathing services
- Respite services

I need TRANSPORTATION because:

I need transportation because I have a walker

If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION:

I have to take the bus (city) and have to walk distant.

Please make additional Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: EDNA M. TAKESHITA

Address: 810 GREEN ST. APT. B

HON, HI 96813

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB819 on 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 11:21:35 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM SB819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 261-2095
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2010

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. For the past five years, I have served as a writer and editor for a report titled, Aging Issues: A Guide for Hawai'i's Legislators, Organizations, & Citizens. The first four editions discussed the needs of our state's older people and their families, and the bills and resolutions which - hopefully - would help meet those needs. These reports contained plenty of facts -- but no people.

This year's edition is different. It includes eight very personal stories of people with heavy burdens of care, whose lives were made more bearable by the services offered through Kupuna Care. Every Legislator will receive a copy of Aging Issues 2010 on Friday, February 26. I urge you to read those eight stories, and to remember their impact as SB 819 makes its way through the Session. I know you will agree that Kupuna Care services are a vital safety net for thousands of frail and vulnerable elders and their families.

Please show your concern for the needs of Hawai'i's older people by passing SB 819. Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments with your Committee.

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.
Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim and Committee Members, my name is Eileen Mena and I am a resident of Kailua Kona. I am testifying in support of SB 819 SD 1 relating 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 SD 1 and mahalo in advance for your contribution to helping older adults.

Sincerely,

Eileen Mena

From: [Eleanore Crowe](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 8:10:43 AM

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Kim,

My name is Jim Crowe. I am submitting testimony in support of SB819, relating to Kupuna Care.

As you know, we Family Caregivers are important to Hawai'i's long term care system. We need your help with this bill so that seniors can receive assistance services.

Please vote "yes" on SB 819. Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Advocacy Forhawaii](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Nancy Harada Testimony in Support of SB 819 SD 1
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 8:17:39 AM

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Kim and Committee members, thanks you for allowing me to testify. My name is Nancy Harada, and I was a caregiver until my mother's death. She had Alzheimer's Disease like so many thousands, soon to be joined by thousands more who reach age 85 (one out of 2 will be afflicted). I am writing in support of SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care.

When I became her caregiver, I became depressed which deepened with the progression of the disease. If it had not been for the Kauai Adult Day Care program, she would not have been able to stay at home as long as she did, which helped save nursing home costs. I feel that in the interest of economics alone it makes good sense to support programs provided by Kupuna Care, not to mention the emotional and moral support they provide. Please support SB819.

Thank you.

Nancy K. Harada
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: [Advocacy Forhawaii](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Joyce Takahashi Testimony in support of SB 819 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 8:23:16 AM

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.
Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

I live in Lihue Kauai and I urge you to maintain, and if possible, increase the current funding provided for Kupuna Care by supporting SB 819 SD1. This is my testimony supporting my position:

As a former caregiver for my now deceased father who had Alzheimer's disease, I can't stress enough the importance of supporting SB 819 related to Kupuna Care. At the time I was caring for my father, I was a wife, mother of a child in kindergarten, and had a full time job. Caring for my father with Alzheimer's in itself was a full time job, in reality a "36" hour job. The stress and tension it created was constant. I had to be with him constantly and could not take my eyes off him, not knowing what he would do next.

I had no knowledge of Kupuna Care 22 years ago. I was not aware of its existence then, and only now, learned of its services. Kupuna Care would have been of tremendous help at that time, as it is now.

I implore and urge you to vote yes on SB 819 SD1

Joyce M. Takahashi, Lihue, Kauai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: haikuhawaii@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB819 on 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 2:39:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM SB819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marilyn Seely
Organization: Individual
Address: 46 402 Haiku Plantations Dr Kaneohe HI
Phone: 235-5466
E-mail: haikuhawaii@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2010

Comments:

Home and community based care is the choice for thousands of Older adults and their families in Hawaii. As I am sure you are aware, a majority of older adults live at home and prefer to stay at home through the course of their lives.

There is a great deal of misunderstanding in our community. Because Medicaid is such a costly program, some feel we can stop there in our care for disabled folks. However, the great majority of those in need of care are not eligible for Medicaid. So given that most cannot afford to pay the thousands of dollars it takes to bring professionals into their homes, where do they turn? First to their families, many of whom are pulled by competing demands from children, jobs, etc. Kuupuna Care is the other major source of support. The budget for this program is pitifully small in comparison to the need. Nonetheless an additional 2-3 million dollars translates into enough care for individuals that it may well be the difference between living at home or entering a care facility at a much greater cost in dollars and happiness.

I can think of many worthwhile programs that would be well served by state dollars. This is one of the very best that will provide desperately needed care at a nominal cost.

I urge you to consider this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

From: sharon@pueo.info
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 819 re: Kupuna Care
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 8:00:33 AM

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

To Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

RE: SB 819 SD1 Kupuna Care

It is so important to keep this service for our neighbors in need. I live in Kula, and would appreciate you considering my concerns for my fellow UpCountry neighbors. Kupuna Care can offer quality of life and in some cases life itself.

I used to live nextdoor to a quadrapalegic man, who required living assistance. He enlisted some shady characters to care for him. They prepared his meals, cleaned his house and provided daily hygenic care for him. Although they did an ok job, their motivation seemed to be focused on extracting money from his wallet. Over time some things went missing. Also over time my neighbor mentioned how he was running out of money, which in his mind ment the end.

By the end of the week my neighbor was found dead, assumed suicide. The circumstances were suspicious, with his personl safe wide open and all its contents missing. Whether it was his own decision or that of some of his caregivers, it appeared that he felt he had no choices.

If he were aware of Kupuna care, his last days may have been more enriched. He may even be alive today. Kupuna care saves lives. This vital service is necessary for the people in our community who need assistance with their daily living needs, like transportation, meals and in home care. It is my hope you will find the funds necessary to keep this sevice for our community.

Mahalo,

Sharon Boucher
UpCountry, Maui

TO: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 State Capitol Room 211 at:10 a.m.
RE:: SB 819 SD1 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Committee Members, my name is Kathryn Okazaki and I live in Halawa Heights (Aiea). I am testifying in support of SB 819 SD1 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 22, 2010

From: [Mayumi Levesque](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 9:52:29 AM

Mayumi Levesque
1125a 2nd Ave. #10
Honolulu HI 96816
mootopia@gmail.com

To:Com mittee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.
Re:SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

February 23, 2010

Chair Kim and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Mayumi Catherine Levesque and I live in Kaimuki, Honolulu. I am writing to urge your support of SB 819 SD1. As a graduate student in social work at Hawai'i Pacific University I am deeply committed to ensuring that all people are guaranteed a life of dignity and well-being, from childhood through to elder years. With our current economic climate I understand the difficulty in funding direct services and that there are many populations in need of limited pool of funding.

However, conscious of the tremendous worth of our Kupuna and the services they have provided to our communities through years past, we cannot afford to sacrifice their well-being; and we cannot afford to sacrifice our own. For we all will grow old, and at one point, all of us will find ourselves in need of services. Even before then, many if not most of us will find ourselves providing care to loved ones who are growing frail, and will most likely need help in doing so.

I have found myself in a position of caregiving to my mother who has been fighting ovarian cancer and had recently undergone major surgery. Fortunately, her prognosis and recovery were good and I was able to return to school. However, if her care were to have become a long-term situation, I don't know how I would manage to balance my studies and commitments while ensuring that her basic needs would be met. Kupuna services are critical to people like my mother, and to people like myself who want to balance a commitment to society with a commitment to family.

The numbers of those entering retirement and needing services continue to escalate, and the burden on family caregivers grows to meet their needs while the caregivers too are trying to lead a balanced lifestyle. The only sustainable solution I see granted the cost of institutionalized care and the limited amount of beds in Hawaii; and granted the desire of our Kupuna to age in place, is to ensure that long term care services receive ongoing funding that matches the needs of our Kupuna.

For this reason I strongly urge you to support SB 819 SD1.

From: [Mary Huebner](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB819 SD1 in Support
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 9:53:47 AM

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10am
Re: SB819 SB1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Senator Kim and Committee members. As a former caregiver, and a volunteer member of the Hawaii Community Caregivers Network, I testify in strong support of SB819 SD1 relating to Kupuna Care.

Home and Community Based Services through Kupuna Care are an important resource for frail elderly people and their caregivers. Every day I see friends and community members who need and want to remain in their homes as they age, yet many are forced to leave their homes because they lack access to those services, or they simply waste away for lack of care. Kupuna Care is the safety net for those not poor enough for medicaid but unable to afford services. Please appropriate funding for this important program.

Mary Huebner
Kailua Kona

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 am

Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Kim and Committee Members, please accept this written testimony in support of SB 819 SD1. I am Barbara Brennan, a volunteer and Site Coordinator with Project Dana. On behalf of all the organizations who serve the kupuna in Hawaii I urge you to pass this bill. I am also a long distance caregiver for my mother who lives on the mainland. Many of Hawaii's elders live alone since their adult children no longer live in Hawaii. They are also long-distance caregivers. There is an increasing need to assist these and other elders not only with companionship and personal needs, but with transportation to the market or their doctor appointments. Taxi fare often exceeds the cost of their few groceries.

The services provided by the various organizations need your support to continue to provide the funding for their programs. Thank you for this opportunity to be an advocate for the kupuna in our community.

Barbara Brennan, Honolulu

Committee: WAM
Room: 211
Hearing Date: 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM
SB819 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

SUPPORT:

Kazako had just started showing signs of dementia. Her daughters were too young to have remembered their grandmother's decline when she began her forgetfulness.

What to do? Who to call? Where to turn? One big questions was out of the discussion. Where to put her?

She wanted to stay at home. She was born in Japan and Japanese was her first language. The solution was a caregiver who could speak her beloved language and feed her food she could enjoy. How much joy this care has been, but it is costly and though sshe is at the advanced stages of her illness, the superb care she has received show in her smiling face when we go to visit her.

Please assure that this type of care continues and the funding needed should be unquestionably of prime concern. Many of our Seniors want to be where they lived with their mate for many years.

Thank you
Rose M. Protcaio
Tel. 949-2904

Cc: Sen. Galuteria
Rep. Brower

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee

Room: 211

Hearing Date: Feb. 24 2010 10:00 AM

RE: Support of SB 819, relating to Kupuna Care Program

Chairwoman Donna Mercado Kim and members of the Committee, I'm Fred Lee, an ILWU Retiree and member of the Hawaii Alliance (HARA) urging you to approve SB 819. I live in Manoa.

I worked hard for the ILWU and during my working years, I rarely stayed at home for any illness. But after retirement, I suffered from kidney problems. I needed dialysis three times a week for several years. My kidney condition got worst and I needed a kidney transplant. I waited three years for one. I was very fortunate to get one at the age of 80 in July 2007. After the transplant I was incapacitated for about four months.

Starting from the time of my kidney dialysis and through the recuperation period following kidney transplant, well over ten years, my wife provided me with family care. She transported me for the three times a week dialysis sessions; took me to doctor's appointments; fed me; cleaned me up; took me anywhere I needed to go and do. For about a four month period following the transplant, she did everything for me. I was helpless.

Then my wife needed a hip replacement and I served as her caregiver. Take my word. It is not easy at all to be a caregiver and any kind of help is appreciated.

SB 819 will help family caregivers. Please approve it. Mahalo.

Fred Lee
3272 Paumaka Place
Honolulu, HI 96822
cc. Isaac Choy

TO: SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

ROOM: 211

HEARING DATE: 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM

RE: SUPPORT OF SB 819, RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE PROGRAM

CHAIRWOMAN DONNA MERCADO KIM AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS CAROLINE BATALON, AN UPW RETIREE AND MEMBER OF HARA. I LIVE IN AIEA. PLEASE APPROVE SB 819.

MY HUSBAND AND I PROVIDED FAMILY CAREGIVING FOR MY MOTHER-IN-LAW, WHO PASSED AWAY AT AGE 103. SHE WAS BEDRIDDEN FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS. WE FED HER, CLEANED HER UP, GAVE HER BATHS; TOOK HER TO HER DOCTORS AND OTHER PLACES THAT SHE NEEDED TO GO. CAREGIVING IS A VERY DEMANDING TASK, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

SB 819 WILL HELP FAMILY CAREGIVERS AND THEY NEED HELP AND SUPPORT. PLEASE APPROVE IT. MAHALO.

**CAROLINE BATALON
98-138 KANUKU STREET
AIEA, HI 96701**

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee

Room: **211**

Hearing Date: **2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM**

RE: Support of SB 819, relating to Kupuna Care Program

Chairwoman Donna Mercado Kim and members of the Committee, my name is Juanita Keawemauhili, an UPW Retiree and member of HARA. I live in Alewa Heights. I'm writing to urge you to approve SB 819.

I have first hand experience of being a family caregiver. I provided caregiving for my Son-in-law, who was on a kidney dialysis machine. As a retired practical nurse, I did his treatment three times a week at home. I also transported him to where he needed to go such as: doctor's appointment, hospital, shopping, etc. I also prepared his meals and helped out in many other ways. After about six years my Son-in-law passed away.

His spouse, my daughter, is also a practical nurse. But she had to work to support her family. So I helped out. Many younger working people also need to take care of their disabled relatives and friends. As caregivers they need help too.

SB 819 helps family caregivers, who sacrifice so much to provide the care of their loved ones. Most family caregivers do their care with love. They need help and support. So, please approve it. Mahalo.

Juanita Keawemauhili
1326B Alewa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817

Committee: **WAM**

Room: **211**

Hearing Date: **2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM**

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim

SUPPORT for SB819

My name is Carol Nitta and I live in your district. I am asking that you support SB819 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE because of my experience with caregiving.

An 83 year old aunt and I took turns caring for a 91 year old relative living alone. Finding a suitable care facility was difficult.

Another senior citizen I know left the islands to live in an affordable care home on the mainland leaving her family behind.

Another family member had to take early retirement to care for a parent.

If there was no waiting list or a shorter one for Kupuna Care, these people could have been helped.

Sincerely, Carol Nitta
1824 Ala Noe Place
Honolulu 96819
Tel. 839-1115

TO: Senate Ways and Means Committee

Room: **211**

Hearing Date: **2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM**

RE: Support of SB 819, relating to Kupuna Care Program

I am a BSW student at University of Hawaii at Manoa. Gerontology is my primary field of interest. I have been working for an adult day care program for five years.

I respectfully would like to testify in favor of SB819 to continue appropriations and add money from the rainy day fund to shorten the waitlist for Kupuna Care.

The need for community programs is important not only for the Kupuna to be safe on a daily basis but to also offer social stimulation that is unavailable at home as their families are working and going to school. The daily cost of adult day care ranges from \$65-\$85 perday. This is a small price for direct care, monitoring client health, two meals and social interaction.

As the aging population continues to grow, Kupuna Care is a urgent need to fulfill services.

Sincerely,

Deborah Miller

1599 Pele St. Apt.D

Honolulu HI 96813

Tel 282-1141

CC:Rep. Della Au Belatti

Sen. Carol Fukunga

From: [Yumori](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB819 SD1
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 8:51:34 AM

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee, Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010, State Capitol Rm. 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re: SB819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chairperson Kim and Senate Ways and Means Committee Members, I appreciate the opportunity to testify. I'm Wendie Yumori, 61 years of age, and I am on the Project Dana Board at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin and am also active at the Kaneohe Community and Senior Ctr. I am very much in support of SB 819 relating to Kupuna Care.

As a Project Dana volunteer, I am very much aware of the need for a network of services for aging seniors -- we get calls all the time from elderly seniors who are becoming frail and need support but wish to continue living at home. Friends of mine at the Kaneohe Community and Senior Ctr. are struggling to care for their aging parents at home and I can see the emotional and financial toll that this responsibility is taking on them. Other friends at the Senior Ctr. are in their 80's and it's a constant worry for them whether they will be able to remain at home and how they can possibly manage -- they don't wish to impose a heavy burden on their children.

I encourage you to vote yes on SB 819.

Wendie Yumori, Kaneohe

From: [Janice Margaret Deif](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 4:55:21 PM

To: Committee on Ways & Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Date: Wednesday February 24, 2010 at 10:10 a.m., State Capitol Room 211
Regarding: SB 819 SD 1, Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Janice Deif and I live in Waikiki, Honolulu. I am testifying in support of SB 819 SD 1 related to Kupuna Care.

Most people want to age at home and it is far less expensive for individuals and for government that they should do so.

A safety net of home and community based services is needed to allow people who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid but not wealthy enough to pay for services, access to care.

Family Caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system and currently provide 1.4 billion dollars a year of unpaid care. But they need help – in the form of respite and some services.

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 their survival.

I urge you to support SB 819 SD1 relating to Kupuna Care.

Respectfully yours,

Janice M. Deif

Hotmail: Trusted email with Microsoft's powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kaufman@maui.net
Subject: Testimony for SB819 on 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 5:17:18 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM SB819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alan Kaufman, DVM
Organization: Individual
Address: POB 297 Kula
Phone: 808 870 9861
E-mail: kaufman@maui.net
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

SB 819 deserves support. We have an obligation to fund Home and Community Based services for our frail elderly population who do not qualify for Medicaid but who are unable to afford services. This bill speaks to our character as a society.

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair
Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee
From: Roy Masuda
Subject: Testimony Supporting S.B. No. 819, Relating to Kupuna Care

I strongly urge your support of S.B. No. 819, relating to Kupuna Care. As a volunteer coordinator at a non-profit organization, I regularly receive telephone calls from individuals who are seeking assistance because they are frail, elderly or living alone. They do not have or have limited financial means to pay for social services whether it is in the area of transportation, respite, home safety, bathing, housecleaning, mental health, meals on wheels, adult day activities or case management. Oftentimes, multiple assistance is needed during the week or within a month.

Our State and City and County agencies have already begun to cutback their services. This has begun to impact our elderly population through anxiety and fear. It will be disheartening to see what the effects of S.B. No. 819 will have on our community if it is not passed.

I strongly urge your support through passage of S.B. No. 819.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this matter.

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

From: Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana

Subject: Testimony Supporting S.B. No. 819 SD 1: Relating to Kupuna Care

I strongly support S.B. No. 819 SD 1 – 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 SD 1 is imminent to Hawaii's Kupuna to age in place with your whole hearted and sensitive support.

Thank you very much.

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Committee Members. My name is Michael Hirano and I am a caregiver to my 91 year old mom and was a caregiver to my father who fought cancer for three and one-half years before passing away.

Fortunately we had the resources to cope with financial pressures that we endured, but we appreciate the many Kupuna Care agencies that help the elderly with information, advice, and support.

Many caregivers do not have the time, resources and finances to care for their elder parents or relatives and need to have the support of these Kupuna Care agencies.

In Hawaii our elder population is growing and their needs are also growing. Do not be "penny wise and dollar foolish". Elder care will be more costly without the continued support of the Kupuna Care agencies.

I am also a volunteer caregiver to elder recipients. I wouldn't be able to help them if not for the Kupuna Care agencies that support them

Please support SB 819 SD1.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Michael Hirano, Manoa

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

From: Cyndi Osajima

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Conference Room 211
@10:10 a.m.

Subject: Testimony Supporting S.B. 819 SD 1-Relating to Kupuna Care

I strongly support S.B. 819 SB 1 - Relating to Kupuna Care. I have witnessed frail elderly who have received services, funded by Kupuna Care, that has enabled them to remain at home. These services include: meals on wheels, bathing assistance, volunteer assistance and case management. Just the thought that funding will not be available for these valuable services and threatens their independence and dignity is beyond their comprehension. The lack of funding for these services leave only one option – placement. This will cost the government even more!

Please consider the funding request in S.B. 819 SD 1 for Hawaii's Kupuna.

Thank you very much.

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.
Re: SB 819 SD 1 Relating to Kupuna Care

To Whom It May Concern:

As a full time caregiver, I am getting assistance from Project Dana. I believe caregivers as well as our island elders increasingly are in need of additional funding for vital services. Therefore I support SB 819 SD 1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Carolyn Bennett, Caregiver

From: [David Klemer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony supporting Kupuna Care in SB819
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:35:48 PM

Chair Kim and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is David Klemer and I live in Anahola, Kauai. I'm submitting testimony in support of Kupuna Care as noted in SB819.

* My wife had a dear family friend who needed community support. She helped out when she could, but we were raising foster children and we both worked.

* She gave of herself until she got hit by a car on her way to work. I think she would have paced herself more, if she knew her friend had sufficient support.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 819.

Thank you so much for your time, David T. Klemer

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: akotake@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB819 on 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 4:22:37 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM SB819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ALice Kotake
Organization: Individual
Address: 26 Kepola Place Honolulu
Phone: 595-0370
E-mail: akotake@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

Senior care is way too expensive in Hawaii. Any study will show that Hawaii ranks among the highest in providing care for our kupuna. Kupuna Care provides long-term care services to the elderly in their homes, which is what our island people prefer. My parents looked at the hospital as a coffin.

Please give SB819 careful consideration. For eight years the funding for Kupuna Care Program has been flat while the cost of caring for seniors has grown well above U.S. averages.. Don't let the seniors fall into the poverty category.

From: Marv Paularena
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony on SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:45:50 PM

To: **Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair**

Date: **Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.**

Re: **SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care**

Chair Kim and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Marv Paularena and I'm a retired 75 year-old in a wheel chair that lives in senior housing in Kahului, Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care.

- Many seniors wish to live at home, either in their own residence or in subsidized senior housing. The waiting list to get into places like Hale Mahaolu is months long as it is. If funding does not increase, demand will place seniors who need this type of support in the painful position of having to become wards of the state.
- Many seniors in our housing units regularly utilize aid such as chore services, meals on wheels, transportation and other helps that allow them to live with dignity as they age.
- As you know, Family Caregivers are the key to Hawaii's long term care system and currently provide 1.4 billion dollars a year of unpaid care. These family members need help – in the form of respite and some services.

My wife cares for me which allows me to live a useful and active life. If I were forced to pay for services she provides or do without, my life would degrade to barebones existence. I am deeply concerned for those not blessed with a spouse such as my wife or family members to provide for their care. Please remember, my wife's services are provided at no cost to the state but are, in no way, free as she expends much time and energy caring for my needs.

Please vote yes on SB 819. Remember, we all age and will all face these issues sometime in the future. Mahalo for your consideration.

Marv Paularena
Kahului, Maui

From: [Marv Paularena](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 4:00:31 PM

To: **Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair**

Date: **Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.**

Re: **SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care**

Chair Kim and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Michele Paularena and I am a housewife who cares for my 75 year-old husband who is in a wheel chair. We live in Hale Mahaolu senior housing in Kahului, Maui. I am submitting testimony in support of SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care.

- My husband has his phone company retirement and Social Security as our source of income. I am not yet able to draw on my future benefits. As a consequence, we live on a limited income that precludes high cost rental housing. Without the housing that is partly funded by the Office on Aging and other kupuna care agencies we don't know what we would do.
- Many seniors in our housing units regularly use chore services, meals on wheels, transportation and other helps that allow them to age with dignity..
- As you know, us Family Caregivers are key to Hawai`i's long term care system. I have heard that we are currently providing about 1.4 billion dollars a year of unpaid care. We need your help with this bill so that we may avail ourselves of respite and sometimes assistance services.

I am happy to support my husband but if I were unable to assist him he would be in a world of hurt. Like my husband, I am deeply concerned for those not blessed with family members to provide for their care. Please remember, our services are provided at no cost to the state but are act of love for our family.

Please vote yes on SB 819. Thank you for your consideration.

Michele Paularena
Kahului, Maui

From: TonyABF@aol.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB819 SDI Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 4:06:21 PM

DATE: Wednesday February 24, 2010 State Capitol room 211 10:10 AM

To: Donna Mercado Kim - Chair Committee on Ways and Means

My Name is Tony Fisher and I live on Maui and as the former President of the South Maui Chapter of AARP, I am writing in strong support of SB 819.

There is no single group in our society that is more at risk than those seniors who have health issues and in many cases just "being old" issues that prevent them from functioning in our society like their younger counterparts. SB-819 provides funds for such things as personal care, transportation, home delivered meals, and many other support services that mean the difference between living as Hawaii's kapuna have always lived and living below what most would find to be acceptable.

I am sure that you have received many examples of the issues that face these seniors.

Please support this legislation for this group of people who are not eligible for Medicaid so that they may continue to live in their own homes and not burden the health care system with the considerably higher cost of rest home or hospital care.

Thank you for your consideration of this most important legislation.

Tony Fisher
295 Ohina Pl
Kihei, HI 96753
808-874-3735

State of Hawai'i
Testimony in Support of SB 819, SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care
February 24, 2010
Committees on Ways and Means

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Committee Members:

I am in strong support of SB 819, SD1, Relating to Kupuna Care. My name is Colette Browne, Professor of Social Work. I testify here today as a private citizen who has worked for more than 30 years in community and university settings to promote the well-being of older adults.

Life expectancy in Hawaii is the longest of any US state. The vast majority of older adults hope to age-in-place with dignity and purpose. Elders are often able to do so when they receive supports from families, friends, and service programs offered through programs like Kupuna Care.

The funds allocated to serve our elders through Kupuna Care are a wise investment, as research informs us that care at home is more cost effective (and often preferred) when compared to more institutional types of care.

I believe it is critical that our state continue to provide funding for these services.

I ask for your support in passing SB 819 SD1.

Respectfully,

Colette V. Browne
7805 Makaaoa Place
Honolulu, HI 96825
Brownec001@hawaii.rr.com

From: Barbara Dinoff
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 1:55:24 PM

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

I strongly support SB 819 because I am a senior and may one day need the services provided by this organization when funded. We have an aging population, which is increasing exponentially and expected to explode within 20 years. The adult day care services are being utilized in greater numbers. The frail seniors, who are poor but do not qualify for Medicaid, need homemaker and attendant care, bathing and grooming, transportation to medical appointments, and home delivered meals now more than ever before. Kupuna Care, with additional funding for this program, through SB 819, can continue to offer these vital services to our most needy seniors.

I urge you to support passage of this bill.

Mahalo,

Barbara Dinoff
222 Liliuokalani Ave 404
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: [Roger Katsutani](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: JBoland@aarp.org
Subject: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 2:29:21 PM

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol, Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

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 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 folks", 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
Kaunoha Assisted Transportation Program

County of Maui.

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

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.
Re: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

To Chair Mercado Kim and Committee Members:

My name is Steve Tam and I am a resident of Hawaii Kai and a caregiver for both my father in Aina Haina, and father-in-law in Maunawili. I am testifying in support of SB 819 SD1 relating to Kupuna Care.

The State is faced with a “ticking time bomb,” as in 20 years, 1 in 4 people will be over 60 years old, and faced with unfathomable long term care costs. Nursing home costs are now in excess of \$120,000 annually. Most families cannot afford such an expense, and instead rely upon a combination of utilizing unpaid family caregivers, and draining life savings to pay for in-home care. It’s ironic in that spending life savings will qualify seniors for Medicaid, which would in turn be more expensive and a larger cash drain for the State and all taxpayers.

I urge that you appropriate funds for Kupuna Care. This Home and Community Based Service allows seniors to remain in their home as long as possible, and gives caregivers respite by helping their loved ones with baths, hot meals, toileting assistance, transportation, and other household chores. These seniors are part of the unlucky “gap” group that does not have enough monies to pay for all the assistance to meet daily needs, yet have enough money and thus cannot qualify for Medicaid. This gap group is the beneficiary of Kupuna Care.

Caregivers also benefit from Kupuna Care. A staggering 1 in 4 adults in Hawaii (approximately 169,000 people), 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 “burn out” without occasional help to care for parents, and allowing time to take care of themselves and their children. Cutting the Kupuna Care Program would not result in a cost savings, but instead result in a cost increase 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.

As a caregiver for my father who has Alzheimer’s, and my father-in-law who had a stroke, this is of great personal interest to me. 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. 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 their caregivers, and cannot be put off to a later date, as to do so, will severely lessen the quality of life of our seniors, and ultimately place extreme financial burdens on the State, when forced to deal with the issue. Thank you in advance for your help.

Steve Tam (Hawaii Kai)

From: Deana Shelby
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony supporting SB 819 SD1 relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 2:59:19 PM

Chair Kim and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Deana Shelby. I am the current President of our Kauai AARP Chapter and I live in Anahola, Kauai. I'm submitting testimony in support of SB 819, specifically relating to Kupuna Care.

* I was a supporter of a very dear friend who feared going into a nursing home and wanted desperately to remain in her own home, which she did with government support until the age of 85. I am sure she is not the only one who appreciates the dignity of remaining in familiar surroundings.

* Though my friend was poor and qualified for assistance, as president of our local AARP chapter, I am familiar with many seniors who need a safety net of community based services which will allow them access to some form of assistance.

* My friend's family lived too far away to provide daily services, so I pitched in when I could. However, those who have nearby family are overwhelmed by their own employment, their children and personal needs, as well as, caring for their aged loved one. They need help – in the form of respite and some transportation and/or meal services.

I can't help but feel that I too am just a fall away from needed these kinds of services myself.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 819.

Thank you so much for your time, Deana R. Shelby

From: [Christine Olah](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care. Feb. 24, Room 211 @ 10:10 a.m.
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:10:52 PM

2/22/10

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Marcado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

RE: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Most Honorable Senator Donna Marcado Kim, and Committee members: Senators Shan Tsutsui, Suzanne Chun Oakland, J. Kalani English, Carol Fukunaga, Brickwood Galuteria, Clayton Hee, Gary Hooser, Michelle Kidani, Russell Kokubun and Fred Hemmings

I testify in support of SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care. Please use your vote to signify "YES" to this important bill.

My name is Christine Olah, a resident of Honolulu, advocate for AARP, and friend of those who are caregivers.

Maintaining the funding for a proven program like Kupuna Care makes good sense. Every year Kupuna Care provides direct services to individuals in our communities...individuals who cannot afford to pay for care. The recipients of Kupuna Care do not qualify for Medicaid due to age (under 65)...so there is NOWHERE for them to turn when they have two or more physical needs that cannot be met by themselves in their own homes alone...NOWHERE in the State of Hawaii, in the United States of America.

Kupuna Care fills that need.

The Kupuna of Hawaii are your constituents. Please protect them as they are at home alone and in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Olah
TropicalHawaiiUSA@gmail.com
Advocate for AARP

From: [Gary A. Powell](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:00:17 PM

To:Com mittee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Re:SB 819 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

I work with the senior population rather extensively and would commend every possible level of support be appropriated to these individuals. We owe to them all we have, they have literally paved the way we now walk and to do anything that takes away from their health and comfort is a direct lack of respect and obligation. The Kupuna Care program is a very small percentage of the overall budget and one that should we fail to support today, will cost us far more in the future both in terms of financial means and social responsibility.

Continued support for the Kupuna Care program demonstrates by your support, a commitment to our elders that should not even have to be considered. On my behalf, and on behalf of your constituents across the islands - you must support this bill. Remember, you and I will be old sooner than we imagine and someone else will be sitting in your seat deciding what support we should receive. Please leave for them a good example to follow.

Sincerely,
Gary A. Powell
95-099 Lauaki Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789

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PH: 808-625-3782

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: hulamom2002@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB819 on 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:03:14 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM SB819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elmer Yuen
Organization: Individual
Address: 1728 Alencastre St Honolulu HI 96816
Phone: 223-6449
E-mail: hulamom2002@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

Chairwoman Donna Mercado Kim and members of the Committee, my name is Elmer Yuen, a retiree with the HGEA Retirees and the Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA). I've lived in St Louis Heights for a long time. I urge you to approve SB 819.

Unlike many of my friends, I have not been long involved with caregiving, thanks in part to some good Chinese genes. My Mom lived to age 92 and she was very healthy and alert and almost independent. Just before she passed on, she still drove her car up and down Alencastre Street, did much of the cooking at my home, and took care of herself until a week or so before she passed away rather suddenly. She was a good cook and we do miss her cooking.

I hope that I'll be fortunate enough to not be a family caregiver because I know from the experiences of a number of my friends of the great many difficulties and challenges that individual family caregivers have. Caregiving is often a 24/7 responsibility and family caregivers need help and support so they may continue to care for their loved ones.

SB 819 will provide help and support to family caregivers. Please approve SB819. Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mauicrowe@mailshack.com
Subject: Testimony for SB819 on 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 22, 2010 3:19:55 PM

Testimony for WAM 2/24/2010 10:10:00 AM SB819

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: james crowe
Organization: Individual
Address: 30 Alanui Pl Kula, HI 96790
Phone: 808 876 1975
E-mail: mauicrowe@mailshack.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

I am Jim Crowe from Kula. Please support SB 819. Appropriate \$1.5 to 3 million for Kupuna Care. I am a caregiver. I have three friends in my neighborhood who are caregivers. We give each other encouragement, but we can't give each other financial support. We rely on you to truly honor and financially help our Kupuna, some of our most precious Hawaii citizens.

To: Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010, State Capitol Room 211 at 10:10 a.m.

Subject: Testimony on SB819, SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Kim 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, SD 1 Relating to Kupuna Care.

I am a retired state employee, and since retiring I have had the opportunity to 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 really believe have added to the quality of life in their senior years, giving them more social contact and even teaching them new skills.

➤

I strongly support SB 819, SD1 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.

kim5 - Deborah

From: bob [rzahl@maui.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 3:41 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: S.B 819 S.D. 1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Chair Mercado Kim and committee members. Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Robert Zahl and I am a recent retiree on Maui. I strongly support SB 819 relating to Kapuna care.

I have worked as a volunteer with various senior groups for several years now. I was surprised at the number of seniors who depended on medical transportation and home delivered meals. Many of these people are are able to live in their own home, only because of these and other similar services. If it was not for this help, many would be facing a bed in a nursing home.

Please support SB 819 SD 1

**Robert Zahl
Wailuku, Hi**

kim5 - Deborah

From: Liz Graham [lizgraham@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 3:31 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Boland, Jackie E. McCarter
Subject: SB 819 SD1

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chairperson

Dear Senator:

I strongly support SB 819 SD1. Many of the frail and elderly in Hawaii are in very much in need of home and community based services which they now receive. This group of elderly are not eligible for Medicaid but are unable to afford the vital services that would provide them with some semblance of a "normal" life during their supposed "golden years". Please appropriate funding for this "gap group" by approval of SB 819 SD1.

Thank you.

Elizabeth L Graham
Kuliouou

TO: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 (10:10 a.m., Room 211)

RE: Support of SB 819, SD 1, Relating to Kupuna Care

I am 72 years old and use the **TRANSPORTATION** service of Catholic Charities Hawaii, which is partially funded through the State Kupuna Care Program.

Please help Hawaii's growing population of Kupuna by providing ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR KUPUNA CARE SERVICES, SUCH AS:

- Transportation
- Housekeeping
- Home-delivered meals
- Case Management
- Adult day care
- Attendant care
- Bathing services
- Respite services

I need TRANSPORTATION because:

*I have no other +
getting groceries with
no transport is not fun*

If I did NOT HAVE TRANSPORTATION:

who knows

Please make additional Kupuna Care funding a priority so that seniors like me can remain independent in the community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Sylvia Adams

Address:

545 Queen St

96 613

kim5 - Deborah

From: Bob Graham [bgraham@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 3:23 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To: House Finance Committee, Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair

Date: Monday, February 1, 2010, State Capitol Conference Room 225

Re: SB 819 Related to Kupuna Care

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members, thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Bob Graham and was a family caregiver who lives in Kuliouou. I'm submitting testimony in support of SB 819 Relating to Kupuna Care.

Shortly after I retired my late wife was dianosed with lung cancer. The illnes was terminal and her major desire was to live out the rest of her days at home. The cost of in home medical care was prohibative. Only through volunter respit help was I able to meet her last desires.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 819.

Aloha - Bob Graham