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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The State's kupuna care program (kupuna care)  
2 was established in 1999 to address the needs of the aging  
3 population and the issues arising from those needs. The program  
4 is home- and community-based, designed to address the increasing  
5 need for affordable long-term care and the desire of the elderly  
6 to age in place. Kupuna care is an alternative to traditional  
7 long-term care options, which are often more costly, and the  
8 program fills an important gap in assistance for the elderly in  
9 Hawaii.

10           Along with an aging population come issues relating to  
11 disease. Several of kupuna care's core services, including  
12 adult day care, attendant care, and personal care, address  
13 problems brought on by diseases and other health-related issues.  
14 Among the more common diseases that Hawaii's elderly battle are  
15 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. The Alzheimer's  
16 Association, Aloha Chapter, estimates that twenty-eight thousand  
17 Hawaii residents suffer from Alzheimer's disease and related  
18 dementia. Further, the Alzheimer's Association reports that



1 Alzheimer's disease is an illness of long duration, often  
2 lasting eight to twelve years. Six out of ten people with  
3 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia will wander during the  
4 course of their illness. Wandering can be dangerous and  
5 sometimes fatal, and causes stress among caregivers and family  
6 members.

7 The legislature finds that there are registration services,  
8 such as MedicAlert + Safe Return, through which individuals who  
9 wander can be more easily located, identified, and returned  
10 safely to their families. This and similar services also aid  
11 police and other first responders in the safe return of elders  
12 who are found but who cannot remember essential contact  
13 information.

14 The purpose of this Act is to support the kupuna care  
15 program by appropriating funds as a grant to the Alzheimer's  
16 Association, Aloha Chapter, to support and promote participation  
17 in elder registration services in the State.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
22 year 2012-2013 as a grant, pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii



1 Revised Statutes, to the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders  
2 Association, Inc., dba Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter,  
3 to:

- 4 (1) Support and promote an elder wanderer's registration  
5 service, as a component of the kupuna care program, in  
6 the State to protect individuals with Alzheimer's  
7 disease and related dementia;
- 8 (2) Conduct targeted outreach throughout the State to  
9 increase enrollment in the State of Hawaii in the  
10 national wanderer's registry and offer scholarships  
11 and subsidies to low-income families, as defined by  
12 the United States Department of Health and Human  
13 Services' 2010 poverty guidelines for Hawaii, who want  
14 to enroll in the registry;
- 15 (3) Conduct annual training for first responders and other  
16 community members to increase awareness and provide  
17 ongoing education on best practices for search and  
18 rescue efforts for people with dementia; and
- 19 (4) When authorized by the family, issue customized  
20 updates and information through social media to  
21 provide alerts to community members and assist with  
22 search and rescue efforts.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
2 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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**Report Title:**

Kupuna Care; Wanderer's Registry; Appropriation; Kupuna Caucus

**Description:**

Appropriates funds as a grant to the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, to support and promote participation in elder registration services to protect individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

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