

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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**Committee on Health**

**HB160, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH**

**Testimony of Wes Lum  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

**Tuesday, February 15, 2011**

**10:00 a.m.**

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the intent of this measure and  
2 defers on the fiscal implications until the Executive Budget has been finalized. Should funds be  
3 available, EOA requests that these funds be placed in EOA's base budget (HTH 904).

4 **Fiscal Implications:** EOA currently receives \$4,854,350 for Kupuna Care services on an annual  
5 basis. This measure appropriates an additional \$2,963,411 for each of year of the fiscal biennium.  
6 EOA is currently verifying the accuracy of this request.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The goal of Kupuna Care, which is to give Hawaii's older adults  
8 access to affordable and quality home- and community-based services that are client-centered and  
9 family-supported thus allowing the elderly to live with independence and dignity, is aligned with  
10 the Abercrombie's Administration of "empowering aging at home and in communities," as stated  
11 in "A New Day in Hawaii."

12 The additional \$2,963,411 for Kupuna Care, a relatively small appropriation for direct  
13 services for seniors, goes a long way by helping individuals in the "gap group" keep off of the  
14 Medicaid rolls, thus ultimately providing savings to the State. These additional funds also

1 stimulates the economy by creating jobs in the nonprofit sector to deliver these services, as these  
2 funds are contracted by government agencies to direct service providers in the community. These  
3 additional funds will also give EOA and the county offices on aging the opportunity to expand  
4 Kupuna Care to include consumer directed care and overnight, weekend, and emergency respite  
5 services. Furthermore, should these funds be appropriated, EOA will work with the appropriate  
6 agencies to encumber and expend these funds in the most responsible, efficient, and timely  
7 manner.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: House Committee on Health  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Date: February 15, 2011, Conference Room 329, 10:00am.

Re: **HB 160, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH**

Chair Yamane 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 nearly 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 HB 160. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,963,411 for the fiscal year 2011-2012, and the same sum for the fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Kupuna Care program. This funding shall be in addition to the \$4,854,350 executive office on aging base budget.

AARP is requesting:

1. The appropriation for Kupuna Care be rounded to \$3,000,000, which was the amount appropriated in Act 191, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, Section 5
2. This bill also add an appropriation of \$500,000 for meals for the elderly for kupuna care, as was appropriated in Act 191, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, Section 15. Reference to meals for the elderly for kupuna care is not included in this bill.

The passage of this bill is vital as:

- This bill will provide an ongoing, sustainable source of revenue for Kupuna Care, that can be counted upon each year by seniors and their caregivers who depend and rely upon Kupuna Care to provide occasional, yet important respite services.
- Hawaii's population over age 65 is increasing rapidly and projected to increase by 86% between 2007 and 2030.
- More than one out of every five (22%) Hawaii residents will be age 65 or older in 2030.
- The population ages 85 and over will increase by 64% between 2007 and 2030.
- Approximately 169,000 family caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system and currently provide \$1.4 billion a year of unpaid care. But they need help – in the form of respite and some services.
- The number of family caregivers is declining. The primary family caregiver group is 50-64 years old. This group will decline by 10% by 2030, and cause further strain on seniors and remaining caregivers.

We urge you to support seniors by voting yes on HB 160, as it funds safety net programs that support our most vulnerable population – the elderly, caregivers, and seniors.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.



National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society  
Hawaii Division

February 14, 2011

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Lyn Moku, Office Manager

Hearing: February 15, 2011 – 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 329

Subject: **SUPPORT OF HB 160, RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE. Appropriates additional funding for the Kupuna care program.**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports HB 160 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 services they need.

The Society supports the expansion of public and private long-term care options, especially those that keep individuals in the community and functioning at the highest possible level; the development of a coordinated approach to the delivery of health care and other services provided; and respite services to help caregivers cope with constant, oftentimes overwhelming duties. More than half of persons with MS require some form of assistance with daily activities over the course of disease progression and eighty percent of such care is provided by informal caregivers, usually family members.

The long-term care services offered through the Kupuna Care program help people live independently at home or with their families for as long as possible and provide relief to family caregivers. These services help ensure a better quality of life for both the care recipient and the family caregiver. We need to ensure that Kupuna Care is sustained and available to those who need help the most.

We support HB 160 and ask you to vote in favor of this Bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

###

To: Committee on Health  
Representative Ryan Yamane Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Rm. 329

Testifier: Eudice Schick, Chair Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs  
"PABEA"

Bill: HB 160  
In Strong Support

Chair Yamane and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 160, relating to Health.

I am Eudice Schick, current Chair of PABEA. The following testimony is being given by myself as an individual and in no way represents the views of the Executive Office on Aging.

As Chair of PABEA and, as a Kupuna, the passage of HB160 is vital, as this bill will provide an ongoing and sustainable source of revenue for Kupuna Care. It is important that our Kupuna, as well as their caregivers, each year, have a source of revenue that they can depend on. Our Kupuna, here in Hawai'i, wish to remain at home for as long as possible. By doing so it is far less expensive for the government. Through this bill, and the funds that it would provide, our caregivers would be able to have the much needed respite services.

Family Caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system and currently provide over \$1 Billion a year of unpaid care.

I encourage you to support HB160.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Eudice Schick, Chair PABEA



Building Independence for Challenged Lives

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Marian E. Tsuji

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State of Hawaii  
House Committee on Health  
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Legislature

February 15, 2011; 10:00am  
Room 329

HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health

Good afternoon, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the House Committee on Health.

Lanakila Pacific strongly supports measure HB 160 to provide much needed additional funding for the Kupuna Care program. As a nonprofit organization that serves thousands of seniors each year with meals, we understand that this group is an especially vulnerable population in our community.

Lanakila Pacific is requesting:

1. The appropriation for Kupuna Care be rounded to \$3,000,000, which was the amount appropriated in Act 191, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, Section 5; and
2. For this bill to also appropriate \$500,000 for meals for the elderly for kupuna care, as was appropriated in Act 191, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, Section 15.

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

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

We urge you to support seniors by voting yes on HB 106, as it funds safety net programs that support the most isolated and vulnerable seniors in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji  
President & CEO

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Health  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Tuesday, February 15, 2011; 10:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 160  
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 160, which appropriates additional funding for the Kupuna Care program.

The ILWU is a labor organization with 20,000 members statewide working in a variety of industries from agriculture to tourism to a host of "general trades." When our members retire, many of them remain active, like the members of our 22 pensioner clubs statewide. Some, however, are infirm and need help from family caregivers and others with their daily living needs.

Kupuna Care offers resources to our retired members and others in our communities. The services provided by Kupuna Care are invaluable to seniors who either wish to avoid institutionalization and live in their own homes or must rely on family caregivers due to the high cost of other long-term care services.

As the number of seniors continues to grow each day, especially as the first baby boomers turn 65 this year, the State must be prepared to address the needs of these seniors. Kupuna Care is a much-needed program to supplement the care provided by family caregivers. Home-delivered meals, adult day care, chore services, assisted transportation--these are all services that benefit not only the seniors themselves but those who provide care to them by providing a small degree of respite.

The appropriation proposed in H.B. 160 will be a good investment to keep seniors at home, out of nursing homes, and off the Medicaid rolls.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 160. Thank you for considering our testimony.





## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health

FROM: Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 (10 a.m., Room 329)

RE: **Support of HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health**

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 HB 160 to provide additional funding through general revenues for the Kupuna Care program, which funds essential services for seniors.**

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 over \$100,000 a year,<sup>1</sup> nursing home care is unaffordable for most elders and results in more cost to 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 HB 160. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 527-4702 or [diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if I can provide any further information.

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<sup>1</sup> Genworth Financial, Hawaii State-Specific Data from the Genworth 2010 Cost of Care Survey, April 2010



To: The House Committee on Health  
The Honorable Representative Ryan I Yamane, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair

Date: Feb. 15, 2011  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Room: 329  
From: Rose Nakamura, Administrator, Project Dana

Subject: Testimony Supporting H.B. No. 160: Relating to Human Services and Health

I strongly support H.B. No. 160-Relating to Human Services and Health. More specifically, this House Bill 160 addresses an appropriation of \$2,963,411 for Kupuna Care programs FY 2012-2013 in addition to the Executive Office on Aging base budget.

Kupuna Care has for many 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. In a few years, older adults 60 and over, will make up 25% of Hawaii's population.

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. The numerous unmet needs of elders must be met. Elders are our bridge to our past, our heritage and our treasured resource.

Funding for Kupuna Care is imminent to Hawaii's Kupuna to age in place with your whole hearted and sensitive support.

Thank you very much.

To: House Committee on Health  
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 329

Subject: Testimony on HB 160 Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Yamane 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 HB 160 Relating to Human Services and Health .

House Bill 160 would provide an additional \$2.96 million from the general revenues for Kupuna care and support programs providing vital services relating to the health, safety and welfare of our seniors.

As a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Project Dana, I know how important these types of services are to help our seniors enjoy a better quality of life and to remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

➤

Please support our seniors and provide this additional funding for Kupuna Care programs. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

To: Committee on Human Services, Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair and Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 326, 10:00AM

Aloha Representatives Yamane and Morikawa:

I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in complete support of HB160, relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Elaine Goldberg, a senior citizen, living in Kapolei.

Because of the most fantastic developments in present day health care and the advanced cures for diseases and medical conditions, people are living longer. I have met so many people in their 80's, 90,s and even some in their 100's, enjoying their advanced years ,because of being able to live at home, rather than in nursing homes. This has only been possible as the result of services provided by Kupuna Care. With the increase of cost of living in Hawaii, and decreased payments by health insurers, please appropriate additional funding for the Kupuna Care Program.

May we all live to a ripe old-age of 100 being happy and well taken care of.

Mahalo,

Elaine C. Goldberg

To: Committee on Health, Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 329,  
10:00am.  
Re: HB160, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Yamane and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Roy T. Matsuo. I and my wife Joyce have been caregivers for both of my parents; we live in the Kalihi Valley area on Oahu.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT PASSAGE OF THIS BILL for the following reasons:

. My wife and I have witnessed many local families in dire financial need to help care for their elderly parents. Some of these caregivers must work at two or more jobs just to meet their family budget and additional costs of caregiving.

. The additional responsibilities placed on elderly family member caregivers create much stress in their lives and places an enormous burden on them in taking care of their own immediate family members. Unfortunately, some of these stressed-out caregivers will end up adding to our already overloaded criminal court system and social programs should they resort to abuses of their family members.

. In addition, Kupuna Care services provide an essential safety net for caregiver Respite, as well as some financial help for the elderly member family caregivers.

. As you are well-aware, our aging population is already increasing in greater numbers, and this will create an even greater need for family caregivers' Respite services. If we fail to provide continued support to our family caregivers, our State stands the great risk of having to provide more and more social services support at the expense of our taxpayers and ever dwindling financial resources.

I urge you to support seniors by voting Yes on HB160.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy T. Matsuo  
Citizen of the 30<sup>th</sup> Representative District

TO: Chairperson Yamane and Committee Members,

I support HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health.

My name is Connie Oliva and I am a family caregiver for my 95 year old father and I am the supplemental caregiver for our two grandsons. I live in Kailua. As seniors ourselves, my husband and I are very aware of the particular and necessary needs of senior citizens. We know many people struggling to maintain a home environment for their old and often fragile family members. People want to remain in their own homes even when they are physically and mentally incapable of taking care of themselves. Help is necessary. HB160 is vital to this endeavor. This bill will provide an ongoing, sustainable source of revenue for Kupuna Care, that can be counted upon each year by seniors and their caregivers who depend and rely upon Kupuna Care to provide occasional, yet important respite services.

Kupuna Care monies provide help in so many ways. Most importantly, it is a safety net of home and community based services. The help allows people who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, but not wealthy enough to pay for services, to have access to respite services.

Family Caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system and currently provide \$1.4 billion a year of unpaid care. But they need help – in the form of respite and some services. I urge you to support seniors by voting yes on HB160. Especially in this economy, this bill saves our state money. Supporting HB 160 is the right thing to do.

Wishing you well,

Connie Oliva  
1170D Kamahele Street  
Kailua, HI

Lauren Ho  
793 Wana'ao Rd  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808.224.9044

Written Testimony of Lauren Ho, University of Hawaii Manoa MSW Student  
HB 160: Relating to Human Services and Health  
February 15, 2011

Representative John Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony supporting HB 160. I am currently a student at the University of Hawaii Manoa, for my Masters in Social Work with an emphasis in Gerontology. I am also an intern at Lanakila Pacific, working with their Meals on Wheels program, at the congregate dining sites. I represent myself in this testimony, but I support this bill based on my experience with Hawaii's elderly population through the Meals on Wheels program.

Currently, the need presented by the elderly population is outweighing the availability of assistance and resources. The goal is to ensure that elderly persons stay healthy and independent as long as possible to improve their overall well-being and to decrease the costs of institutionalization. Kupuna Care Services needs additional funding to continue their provision of services to the elderly population in Hawaii and to offset the high costs of institutionalization.

To accommodate for this population-at-risk, Kupuna Care Services provides the elderly population with resources to live independently, safely, and healthy for as long of a duration as possible. The services are widespread and highly beneficial to those who qualify. These services, provided from a range of agencies, offer resources for older adults unable to live independently without sufficient help from family and/or formal services. The services and contracted service providers include:

1. Adult Day Care
2. Assisted Transportation (Catholic Charities)
3. Attendant Care (Project Dana; Waikiki Friendly Neighbors)
4. Case Management (Honolulu Gerontology Program, Kokua Kalihi Valley)
5. Chore (Honolulu Gerontology Program)
6. Home Delivered Meals (Lanakila Pacific Meals on Wheels)
7. Homemaker (Honolulu Gerontology Program)
8. Kupuna Care Transportation
9. Personal Care (St. Francis Health Services for Senior Citizens)

The purpose of Kupuna Care Services is to keep elderly persons in independent living as long as possible, in either home- or community-based living situations. This will offset the high costs of institutional care, especially since Hawaii's nursing homes are the 5<sup>th</sup> most expensive in the US, with the highest occupancy rates in the US. Additionally, between 1990 and 2000, the number

of individuals aged 60 and above increased by 19% in Hawaii, as compared to a 9% increase nationwide. These statistics show that addressing elderly care is especially vital in Hawaii.

Since all social service programs are suffering due to the current financial climate, only those services that are fiscally important are worth maintaining. Kupuna Care makes economic sense because three elderly persons are served at home through Kupuna Care services at the same cost of one living in a nursing institution. Of course institutionalization is expensive, but families are finding that home-based care is a steep financial burden as well. Kupuna Care provides services as a solution to these long-term care challenges, as their contracts with non-profit organizations deliver services at lower costs than government agencies can. Additionally, Kupuna Care is based on the premise that states with service programs like Kupuna Care have slowed the rate of growth in spending on care for elderly persons and people with disabilities.

Kupuna Care is essentially a program targeted for middle-income elderly persons. Basically, those on low-income Medicaid do not qualify, and those able to afford the annual bill of about \$130,000 for nursing home costs are not eligible for the service. This program ensures that middle-income elderly persons will not fall into poverty and prevents them from qualifying for state-financed institutionalized care, which is extremely costly to Hawaii's Medicaid bill. Other terms of eligibility include the impairment of two or more ADL (Activities of Daily Living) or IADL (Instrumental Activities of Daily Living), or significantly reduced mental capacity.

Overall, I am in support of HB 160 because Kupuna Care should receive additional funding. This program is highly beneficial both fiscally and as a social service. Financially, it is cost efficient to provide services to elderly persons living independently. The services provided by Kupuna Care are forward thinking as the number of elderly persons is increasing dramatically over time. As a social service, Kupuna Care works with elderly persons to help them remain in their homes, while maintaining their independence, health, safety, overall well-being, and inclusion in their respective communities.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ho

MSW Student, University of Hawaii  
Intern, Lanakila Pacific Meals on Wheels



## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** SEETIMM@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2011 11:32 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** RE: HB160, Relating to Human Services and Health

To: Committee on Health, Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00am.  
Re: HB160, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Yamane and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Cheryl Timm and I am a grandparent helping to raise a grandchild and live in the Haiku area. I also have assisted in delivering meals on wheels which has made me keenly aware of the needs of our Kupuna Care first hand.

This bill will provide an ongoing, sustainable source of revenue for Kupuna Care, that can be counted on each year by not only seniors, but their caregivers who depend and rely upon Kupuna Care to provide important respite services.

As I'm sure you are aware of the fact that most people want to remain at home as they age. This choice is not only more comforting and comfortable for them, but more importantly for the government, FAR LESS EXPENSIVE.

Passing this bill will allow a safety net of home and community based services that will enable people who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, to have access to respite services they would otherwise be unable to afford.

I am also sure you realize that Family Caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system, providing \$1.4 billion A YEAR of unpaid care, but they need help in the form of respite and other services.

When I deliver meals to some of the homes of these seniors, I can see first hand how important these needs are and just how important these people are. Without help through community services, all of these things will be in jeopardy as well as their well being.

I URGE you to support seniors by voting YES on HB160 !

Thanks you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Cheryl Timm  
Haiku, Hi 96806

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Jim Crowe [maucrowe@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2011 9:40 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB160

To: Committee on Health and Human Services, Ryan I. Yamane Chair  
Date Tuesday Feb. 25, 2011 Conference room 329 10:00 am  
Re: HB160 Relating to Human Services and Health

I am Jim Crowe from Kula. I am in support of SB160. I am a caregiver of a Kupuna and I know six caregivers who are doing selfless caregiving for Kupuna right in my neighborhood. They all expect to continue their service. But what they, and so many caregivers in Hawaii need, is consistent financial assistance.

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2011 7:20 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB160 on 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 2/15/2011 10:00:00 AM HB160

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: John A. H. Tomoso  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/13/2011

Comments:  
02-13-11

To: Committee on Health, Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00am.  
Re: HB160, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Yamane and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is John A. H. Tomoso, and I am a Social Worker who practices in the Aging Network. I am also a Family Caregiver and assist and share this great kuleana with many of my family members, friends and even colleagues.

Most people want to remain at home and it is far less expensive for individuals and for the government, if they should do so. What we need then is a "safety net", weaved through the public and private sectors, of home and community based services. These services are needed by all kupuna and their families who help in their delivery. These are kupuna who represent wide-ranging income categories, if you consider a "sliding fee scale", which are being used by many service providers. Thus, I know that Kupuna Care helps all Kupuna on limited income to those who can't afford the full rate of pay for service. I know that our MEDicaid population is another category not covered by Kupuna Care.

Finally, I know that Family Caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system and currently provide \$1.4 billion a year of unpaid care. But they need help, i.e. "respite services". Thus, I am happy that Kupuna Care includes this category of services in its continuum of care.

Please support the passage of HB160.

Mahalo a me ke aloha,  
John A. H. Tomoso, MSW, ACSW, LSW  
51 Ku'ula Street  
Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906  
[jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jtomoso@hawaii.rr.com)

cc: PABEA, Maui JACOSA

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** flemming carstensen [flemming@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 13, 2011 12:13 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB160, Relating to Human Services and Health

**To:** Committee on Health, Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00am.  
**Re:** HB160, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Yamane and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Flemming H. Carstensen, my wife and I live in a retirement community at Waialae Nui, lower ridge area. We do not have family here. However, there are many families and seniors in our neighborhood who depend and rely upon Kupuna Care. These seniors prefer to stay in their home versus moving into a nursing home, which is far more costly to them, as well as to the government. In view of this, the passage of this bill is vital as:

This bill will provide the funds to maintain Kupuna Care services for seniors and their caregivers who depend and rely upon Kupuna Care to provide occasional, yet important respite services.

This bill also provide a safety net of home and community based services as needed to allow people who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, but not wealthy enough to pay for services, to have access to respite services.

Family Caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system.

Chair Yamane, I urge you to support seniors by voting **yes on HB160**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Flemming H. Carstensen

Waialae Nui, lower ridge area

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Celia Fraser [dcfraser@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 6:16 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** stam@aarp.org; seetimm@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB160-Kupuna Care

To: Committee on Health, Representative Ryan I Yamane, Chair  
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 329,  
10:00 a.m.  
Re: Need for your YES on HB 160 to support kupuna care

For the past year and a half on Maui, I provided respite to caregivers, transportation to seniors without cars to doctors, dentists, and needed shopping, and delivered Meals on Wheels to aged clients up to 96 years old. These kupuna at home rely on such services to live healthily at home, and the mileage reimbursement I was able to receive from Na Hoaloha made it possible to give them services. Please help them with your YES on SB 160.

3920 Hunakai St.  
Lihue, HI 96766  
February 14, 2011

To: Committee on Health, Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011

State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

Re: HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health

Dear Representative Yamane, Chair:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB 160 that appropriates moneys from general revenues (base budget) for Kupuna Care, an additional \$2.96 million from the general revenues, in addition to the \$4.85 million that is already in the base budget.

My name is Janice S. Bond and I am writing in behalf of my mother who passed away last year and I live in the Representative District 15-4 area.

The passage of this bill is vital as this bill will provide the funds to maintain Kupuna Care services for seniors and their caregivers who depend and rely upon Kupuna Care to provide occasional, yet important respite services. Most people want to remain at home and it is far less expensive for individuals and for the government, if 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, to have access to respite services. Family Caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system. They need help – in the form of respite and some services. Hawaii needs to rebalance funds going to home and community based services as only 19% goes to these services.

My mother was cared for by my sister who sent Mom to community day care. She remained in family care until my sister placed her in a residential assisted living facility. Within two weeks she was in the hospital and died. My sister took it badly that Mom could not remain in home with assistance. My adult foster daughter is an NA who provides services to seniors and veterans. We need help through community services.

Please support those needing home and community based services by voting yes on HB 160. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Bond

District 15-4

## **morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Steve Godzsak [patnsteve@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 3:20 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB160

To: Committee on Health, Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 329, 10:00am.  
Re: HB160, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Yamane and Committee Members: thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of HB 160, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Steve Godzsak and I live in the Hilo area. The passage of this bill is vital because:

- Family Caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system and currently provide an estimated \$1.4 billion a year of unpaid care. But they need help – HB160 could provide the financial help for thousands of needy individuals and their caregivers.
- This bill will provide a sustainable source of revenue for Kupuna Care ensuring the services provided to the seniors and their caregivers will remain uninterrupted and furthermore, that the services will be available to Hawaii's escalating senior population.
- Kupuna Care helps people to remain at home for as long as possible. When polled, seniors have overwhelmingly stated they wish to live out their lives in the comfort and familiarity of their own home. Kupuna Care provides meals and home visits for these individuals, many of whom are living alone.
- Cost analyses of home based vs institutional care show it is far less expensive for individuals and for the government when seniors remain at home. Kupuna care provides meals, companionship, housekeeping, personal care, and vital transportation that enables a person to remain mostly independent and stay in their home.
- 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, to have access to the services provided by Kupuna Care.

I urge you to support seniors by voting yes on HB160.  
Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony.  
Steve Godzsak  
Hilo, HI 96720