

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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Committee on Human Services

**SB1508, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH**

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

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

2:00 p.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 **Purpose and Justification:** The goal of Kupuna Care, which is to give Hawaii's older adults  
7 access to affordable and quality home- and community-based services that are client-centered and  
8 family-supported thus allowing the elderly to live with independence and dignity, is aligned with  
9 the Abercrombie's Administration of "empowering aging at home and in communities," as stated  
10 in "A New Day in Hawaii."

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

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

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Building Independence for Challenged Lives

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

February 8, 2011; 2:00pm  
Room 016

**SB 1508**, Relating to Human Services and Health

Good afternoon, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services.

**Lanakila Pacific** strongly supports measure SB 1508 to provide much needed additional funding for the Kupuna Care program. As a nonprofit organization that serves thousands of seniors we understand that this group is an especially vulnerable population in our community.

As a Kupuna Care service provider, Lanakila Meals on Wheels, 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

**Marian E. Tsuji**  
**President & CEO**



February 7, 2011

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

From: Lyn Moku, Office Manager

Hearing: February 8, 2011 - 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 016

Subject: **SUPPORT OF SB 1508, RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE. Appropriates additional funds for the Kupuna care program.**

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society supports SB 1508 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.

Nearly a third of individuals living with multiple sclerosis will require assistance and care at home at any one time and eighty percent of that care is provided by informal, unpaid care givers who are usually family members. Individuals with MS who have more significant disabilities require long-term and significant amounts of assistance with virtually all ordinary activities. Programs like the core services offered by the Kupuna Care program can assure vital services are provided for people with MS and others who require assistance in meeting their daily or long-term care needs.

We support SB 1508 and ask you to vote in favor of this Bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

# # #



Hawaii Division  
418 Kuwili Street, #105  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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



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

Date: February 8, 2011, Conference Room 016, 2:00pm

Re: **SB 1508, RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH**

Chair Chun Oakland 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** SB1508. 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 appropriate \$500,000 for meals for the elderly for kupuna care, as was appropriated in Act 191, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, Section 15.

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.
- 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.

We urge you to support seniors by voting yes on SB1508, 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.



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 Head Start Policy Council Liaison

JoAnn Freed  
 Early Childhood Consultant

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Hawaii Island

United Way

Maui United Way

Kauai United Way



Aloha United Way

<b>Bill No: SB 1508</b>	<b>Title: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH</b>
<b>Committee:</b> <u>COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES</u> Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair	<b>Hearing Date/Time:</b> DATE: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 TIME: 2:00 p.m. PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street
<b>Submitted by:</b> Name: Howard Garval Title: CEO	<b>Contact Information:</b> Phone: 681-3500 Fax: 681-1449
<b>Testimony in: (X) SUPPORT ( ) OPPOSITION of proposed bill.</b>	

We support the appropriation of an additional funding of \$2,963,411 for FY 2011- 2012 and FY 2012-2013 for the Kupuna Care Program.

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 community-based programs to the well-being of elders".

Sincerely,

**Howard S. Garval**  
**President & CEO**

My name is Connie Oliva, I live in Kailua, and I am a senior taking care of a 95 year old father in law and I support SB 1508.

My father in law lives with his only child, my husband, and with me. He lives safely in our care, but so many seniors do not have such fortunate circumstances. We cook, clean, shop, take my father in law to doctors and other appointments. He has dementia which is accelerating and needs more and more supervision.

Caregivers like me need a respite once in awhile. My neighbor and friend is a caregiver 24/7 for her 88 year old bedridden husband. The stress on her is considerable and relentless. She is another senior taking care of a senior and her health, physical appearance and energy has declined. She is scrambling for help every day. She cannot do what is required for her husband by herself. She needs help. Kupuna Care is a lifeline for so many seniors. It is often their only help. I urge you to pass SB #1508. Kupuna Care provides necessary, important services. This bill SAVES money by keeping seniors in their homes, and is vital to a significant portion of our state's population.

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 016, 2:00pm.  
Re: SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of SB 1508, relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Elaine Goldberg and I am a Radiologic Technologist, living in Kapolei.

For the past 20 years that I have worked in Hawaii, I have come in close contact with elderly patients who are in need of assistance due to their failing medical conditions of no fault of their own. Some were from nursing homes, and some depended mostly on Kupuna Care to live at home in dignity because of services provided by this Care. If funding for these services is not continued, their well-being will be severely endangered. Often their family members are their primary caretakers, but these helpers do need to continue working and need the continuation of services provided by Kupuna Care.

Family Caregivers are the "Oak Trees" of Hawaii's long term care system and currently give \$1.4 billion a year of unpaid care, but they need help in respite and other services. I fear for the well-being of these elderly, disabled persons using Kupuna care if funding is not continued.

As we age, we shall all need some assistance preferably at home. I urge you to support seniors by voting yes on SB 1508.

Mahalo,

Elaine Goldberg

Kapolei, Hawaii



## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** mak221@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 06, 2011 11:49 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 1508, February 8, 2011, Room 016, 2:00 PM

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

Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 016, 2:00pm

Re: **SB 1508**, Relating to Human Services and Health

TESTIMONY BY **Mark A Koppel**  
31-392 Lepoloa Rd.  
Hakalau, HI 96710

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health

I know from first-hand experience how important Home-Based-Care can be. My father is one of the rare people in the United States who was able to pay for a 24 hour a day aide. He had saved his money all his life and was so pleased that he could live, and eventually die in his own home. I was intimately involved in his care, and knew I could trust his aide to provide the care he needed. Unfortunately, very few people have this option.

I have a second cousin who is using up what little savings she has to pay for as much in-house help as she can afford. She has said she will refuse to go into a nursing home. And why should she? She wants and needs only home care.

If she were to go into a nursing home on Medicaid, it would cost the state THREE TIMES what her home aides cost. And she and I would be miserable.

This is one of those rare bills that speaks for itself.

Home-based care, via Kupuna Care, helps the elderly remain in their homes, helps their o'hana take care of them and their own lives too, AND SAVES THE STATE MONEY.

I urge you to approve SB 1508.

Mahalo.

## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** laura horigan [laurahorigan@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 12:31 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony; LAURA Horigan  
**Subject:** SB1518

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, State Capitol conference Room 016, 2 p.m.  
Re: SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Chun Oakland and committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of SB1518. My name is Laura Horigan and I live in the Moiliili-McCully district. I am 75 years old and have lived and worked in Hawaii for over 46 years. My two children grew up here but now live on the mainland for better employment opportunities. I am in that "gap" group being too "affluent" (!!) for Medicaid but not wealthy enough for an extended stay in a nursing home. I am sure that in the future I will need the services that Kupuna Care provides. Using their services to help keep me in my own home will save me, my family and the state money. I urge you to support seniors by voting "yes" on Sb1518.

Mahalo.

Laura Horigan  
Moiliili/McCully District

## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** Steve Godzsak [patnsteve@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 12:51 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** SB1508

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 016, 2:00pm.  
Re: **SB 1508**, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of SB 1508, 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 – SB 1508 could provide that 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 their own home.
- 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 transportation that enables a person to remain 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 SB1508.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

**Steve Godzsak**

Hilo, HI 96720



## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** flemming carstensen [flemming@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 12:53 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 016, 2:00pm.  
Re: **SB 1508**, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit a written testimony in **strong support** of SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Flemming H. Carstensen, my wife and I live in a retirement community at Waiālae Nui, lower ridge area. We do not have any 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.

Chair Chun Oakland I urge you to support our seniors by voting **YES on SB 1508**

Thank you for taking your time to view my testimony.

**Flemming H. Carstensen**

**Waiālae Nui** - lower ridge

## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** Deana Shelby [deana\_shelby@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 1:08 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Yes on SB1508

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Deana Shelby and live on Kauai in Anahola.

I can remember my grandmother before her death striving for the dignity to reside in her own home. She needed just a little help, which I was too young to give at the time and my parents were too over worked.

I urge you to support seniors by voting yes on SB1508.

Thank you for allowing the submission of this testimony.

Deana R. Shelby, Anahola, Hawaii

3920 Hunakai St.  
Lihue, HI 96766  
February 7, 2011

Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Tuesday, February 8, 2011  
State Capitol Conference Room 016, 2:00pm

Re: SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Janice S. Bond and I am the Kauai AARP Area Volunteer Team Leader and live in Lihue, Kauai, Senatorial District 7.

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.

\* 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 and currently provide \$1.4 billion a year of unpaid care. But they need help - in the form of respite and some services.

Elders in our community want to stay in their homes, but many are cared for by the sandwich group of caregivers who not only take care of their parents, in-laws, or other relatives, but also have children of their own in home. Hawaii needs to work on rebalancing the dollars for care of our elderly. My adult foster daughter is an NA and cares for veterans and elders in our community. She knows how much they want to stay in their own homes and have respite care.

I urge you to support seniors by voting yes on SB1508. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Bond  
Senatorial District 7



## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** David Klemer [davidklemer@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 1:14 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** YES on SB 1508

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, thank you for allowing submission of written testimony in strong support of SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is David Klemer and I live on Kauai in Anahola.

Though my mother died in the hospital, she was looking forward to going home. My father would have been there for her forever, though I feared for his health in doing everything for her. A little help would have made all the difference.

I urge you to support seniors by voting yes on SB1508.

Thank you for accepting this testimony.

David T. Klemer, Anahola, Hawaii

## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 2:01 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** comtnwmn@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1508 on 2/8/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/8/2011 2:00:00 PM SB1508

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Marilyn Yeager  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 1655 Makaloa St. #2405 Honolulu, HI 96814  
Phone: 808 944-4656  
E-mail: [comtnwmn@aol.com](mailto:comtnwmn@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

**Comments:**

Please support our Kupuna by voting FOR SB1508. Our Kupuna depend on your knowledge and wisdom. Please don't let them down.

## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** Jim Crowe [mauicrowe@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 2:19 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 1508

Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Tues Feb. 8, 2011  
Conference room 016 2:pm

My name is Jim Crowe. I am in support of bill SB 1508. I am a family caregiver. I join literally thousands of caregivers in Hawaii who so strongly support allowing our Hawaii senior care receivers the dignity of living and being cared for in their homes.



## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 2:52 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** tracydavidsoncentury21@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB1508 on 2/8/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/8/2011 2:00:00 PM SB1508

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tracy Davidson  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Lahi Pl Lihue, HI  
Phone: 8086526141  
E-mail: [tracydavidsoncentury21@gmail.com](mailto:tracydavidsoncentury21@gmail.com) Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

To: Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Date: Tuesday, February 8, 2011, State Capitol Conference Room 016, 2:00pm.  
Re: SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Roy T. Matsuo, and I and my wife Joyce have been caregivers for both my stepfather and my mother. I have lived in the Kalihi Valley area all of my 62 years of life. The passage of this bill is vital as

I strongly **SUPPORT SB1508** for the following reasons:

- \* 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. In this bad economy, many families are often faced with severe financial problems which add to already existing stress of taking care of a family member.

- \* 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 and currently provide \$1.4 billion a year of unpaid care. But they need help – in the form of respite and some services. My wife Joyce retired early from her career in order to take care of both of my parents. Being the daughter-in-law did not earn her the fullest respect from my parents, and many times she became overly stressed from her care-giving responsibilities, which negatively affected our own family life. Respite services are vitally needed for families in similar situations.

I urge you to support seniors by voting Yes on SB1508.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

**Roy T. Matsuo**  
Senate District No. 14

*Ms. Laurel Leslie  
223 Aikapa Street  
Kailua, HI 96734*

To: Committee on Human Services,  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
State Capitol Conference Room 016, 2:00 PM

Date: Monday, February 7, 2011

Re: **SB 1508**, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of SB 1508 relating to Human Services and Health. Hawaii needs the support of this bill to allow our kapuna who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, and not wealthy enough to pay for services, to have access to respite services.

Most people want to remain at home as long as they are able to do so. Furthermore, it is far less expensive to keep them at home than to place them in a twenty-four hour care facility. Hawaii needs to provide the safety net for families that provide kapuna care.

Many seniors cannot speak for themselves and I urge you to support seniors and their caregivers by voting yes on SB 1508.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Laurel Leslie**



Tracy Davidson, RB  
4177 Lahi Pl.  
Lihue, HI 96766  
February 7, 2011

Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Tuesday, February 8, 2011  
State Capitol Conference Room 016, 2:00pm

Re: **SB 1508**, Relating to Human Services and Health

Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of SB 1508, Relating to Human Services and Health. My name is Tracy Davidson and I am the Kauai AARP Area Volunteer Team Leader and live in Lihue, Kauai, Senatorial District 7.

The passage of this bill is vital as:

- \* The 50 plus age is the largest group in the nation and we want to stay in our homes as long as possible.
- \* Monies to provide home care compared to nursing home facilities could be used to take care of 2 more people making a 3 to 1 ration.
- \* Those that are not poor enough to be on Medicaid, except for the very, very wealthy need the safety net that Kapuna Care Provides.
- \* 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 SB1508. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Tracy Davidson, RB**  
Senatorial District 7