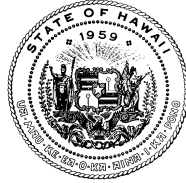


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831
eoa@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0607, HD1
Relating to Kupuna Care

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TY J.K. CULLEN, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Terri Byers
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 23, 2017
12:00 p.m.

Room Number: 308

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health supports this measure, provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities
3 within the Administration's executive binennium budget.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** HB0607, HD1 does not include appropriation amounts for 2017-2018 and
5 2018-2019 but the House Standing Committee Report, HSCR 599, for HB0607 recommended
6 \$600,000 for each State fiscal year. However, HB607 originally appropriated \$600,000 in State
7 FY 2017-2018 and \$6,000,000 for State FY 2018-2019.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** As Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, the need for long
9 term services and supports will continue to increase. As stated in Section 1 of the bill, unpaid

1 caregiving is on the rise. Caregiving places burdens on families financially, emotionally and
2 physically which over time leads to chronic stress.

3 HB0607, HD1 directs EOA to establish the kupuna caregiver program, clarifies kupuna care
4 services and supports provided by the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), and
5 appropriates funding for establishment and implementation of the program.

6 This proposal builds on the infrastructure currently in place that the Executive Office on Aging
7 has with the ADRC. The bill provides funding to support caregivers and will help enable them
8 to remain in the workforce. It would provide up to \$70 per day to cover costs for transportation,
9 personal care, respite care, adult day care, and chore or homemaker services. Eligibility is
10 modeled after the Kupuna Care program with an additional employment requirement.

11 The Executive Office on Aging supports the intent of the bill as we feel it would be a huge step
12 in addressing caregiver support. The funding for the kupuna caregiver program is not a part of
13 the Administration's budget request. However, we would be supportive of this funding as it is
14 consistent with EOA's goals and objectives.

15 **Recommendations:** EOA respectfully requests your consideration of the following suggested
16 amendment which was inadvertently missed in HB0607, HD1:

17 1. Page 18, delete line 7-9.

18 Thank you for considering our suggested amendment and for the opportunity to testify.

From: [Anthony Lenzer](#)
To: [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:53:39 PM

To: [Committee on Finance](#)

From: Anthony Lenzer, PhD

Re: [Support for HB 607](#)

Hearing: 2/23/17, 12:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Chair Luke and Committee Members:

My name is Anthony Lenzer, and I am a member of the legislative committee of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). This Board advises the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) on aging issues, and advocates on behalf Hawaii's kupuna and their families. My testimony reflects the views of PABEA and not necessarily those of the Executive Office on Aging.

PABEA strongly supports House Bill 607, which creates a Kupuna Caregivers Program within the Executive Office on Aging. This program is designed to help employed caregivers of elderly family members obtain necessary services, which will help them remain effective members of Hawaii's workforce. These services include transportation, personal care, respite care, adult day care, and chore/homemaking services. Qualified caregivers will receive vouchers for up to \$70 per day for agencies to provide such services. The program will be administered by the Area Agencies on Aging, through their Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

This program is vitally important for three reasons:

(1) over one-fifth of Hawaii's population is now aged 60+, including over 34,000 persons age 85+. The percent of residents aged 85+ is expected to double in the next 30 years. (a) These "oldest old" are most likely to have multiple chronic illnesses and/or disability, and be most in need of help in order to remain at home;

(2) family members, friends, and other unpaid caregivers provide most of the assistance to frail elders. An AARP study found 154,000 unpaid elder caregivers in Hawaii, and AARP's 2014 study of 1,000 registered voters aged 45+ found that 53% were providing or had provided care for an elderly loved one (b). National data indicates that the typical long-term family caregiver is a 49 year old woman who is caring for her mother, for twenty hours/week, while trying to keep up with work and other household responsibilities (c). Many studies have documented the physical, emotional, and financial stresses associated with caregiving, especially when few workers (nationally, only 13%) have paid family leave (d);

- and (3) while some state, federal, and county funds are available to assist frail elders, there is little money for the caregivers themselves. The situation has been described by one County Executive on Aging as follows: "Unless a County receives funding from their County Council, our options to provide caregiver-specific services are limited. For Maui County, we can use approximately 10% of our overall Federal funding (Title III E) for services such as Family Caregiver Support, Training, and Counseling, Adult Day Care Respite, In-Home Respite, and support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (not to exceed 10% of Title III E). Without additional County funding, our ability to actively serve family caregivers would be, therefore, quite limited."(e)

In summary, the Kupuna Caregivers bill is needed because: Hawaii's growing older population, and the

increasing number of oldest old persons require a variety of services to remain at home, and these are primarily provided by unpaid family caregivers; family caregivers are typically employed and have other responsibilities in addition to elder care; and there are few sources of financial support for the services which will help caregivers continue to assist their loved ones, while meeting other responsibilities.

Please support House Bill 607 Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Notes:

(a) Yahirun, J. & Zan, H. (2016). Hawaii's Older Adults: A Demographic Profile. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i, Center on the Family

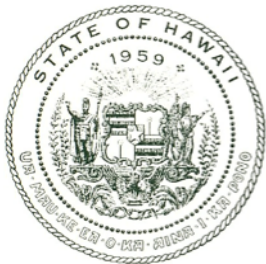
(b) Binette, Joanne. (September 2014, updated October 28, 2014). 2014 Hawaii Caregiving Survey: Opinions and Experiences of Hawaii Registered Voters Age 45 and Older. Washington, DC: AARP Research

(c) PBS Newshour. (January 6, 2014). One of the hardest part-time jobs you will ever have—and the pay? Nada.

(d) US Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). Employee benefits survey. Table 32, Leave benefits, Access, Civilian Workers, National compensation survey, March, 2014. Washington, DC: US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(e) 1/19/17 email from Deborah Stone-Walls, Maui County Executive on Aging. Subject: Update on 1/17/17 Mtg. with Sen. Baker regarding the Kupuna Caregivers Program

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, JD

Email:
Catherine.a.betts@hawaii.gov
Visit us at:
humanservices.hawaii.gov
/hscsw/

235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
FAX: 808-586-5756

February 23, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Cathy Betts
Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, HB 607, HD1, Relating to Kupuna Care

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 607, HD1 which would establish the Kupuna Caregivers program. This program is designed to help provide additional assistance to working caregivers. The Commission recommends an ongoing appropriation for the Kupuna Caregivers program so that the program can remain financially solvent.

Hawaii currently has the highest percentage of multigenerational households in the nation. This means that many family members are called upon to provide care to their family in addition to maintaining much needed employment. Historically, caregiving work, whether for newborns or elderly family members, has fallen on the shoulders of women. As such, women often have to make a difficult choice between providing care for family members or maintaining stable employment. HB 607, HD1 provides for a voucher program. The vouchers could be used for some respite care, transportation costs, or caregiving assistant services. This honors the important work of caregiving while also allowing working caregivers to remain in the workforce.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



ALAN ARAKAWA
Mayor

CAROL K. REIMANN
Director
Housing & Human Concerns

JAN SHISHIDO
Deputy Director
Housing & Human Concerns

DEBORAH STONE-WALLS
Executive on Aging

PHONE (808) 270-7755

FAX (808) 270-7935

E-MAIL: mcoa.adrc@mauicounty.gov

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING
AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING

J. WALTER CAMERON CENTER
95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

House Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Testimony of Deborah Stone-Walls
Executive on Aging, Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA)

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
Room Number: Conf. Room 308

MCOA's Position: Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) is in **strong support** of HB 607 that expands Kupuna Care services to include a Kupuna Caregivers Program. Please note that the Committee Report, (HSCR 599) has one detail that differs from the content of HB607, HD1.

Purpose and Justification: Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in all counties have implemented the Kupuna Care Program throughout the State for almost two decades. Services provided through Kupuna Care have benefited recipients and allowed individuals to remain living independently in the community rather than needing to live in institutional settings. While Kupuna Care has changed the lives of many seniors, AAA staff members have expressed the desire for a vehicle by which to better assist family caregivers. As the needs of frail seniors increase over time, family caregivers (most often women) are forced to either place their loved one in an institution or resort to leaving the workforce. The loss of employment not only brings short-term financial

hardship, but also results in long-term reduction of retirement and Social Security benefits. The Kupuna Caregivers Program would serve to assist these family caregivers by allowing them to maintain employment with the assurance that their loved one is safe.

HSCR599 indicates that the first year of funding would include \$600,000 and the second year of funding would also only include \$600,000. However, HB607, HD1 indicates that the first year of funding would include \$600,000 while the second year would include \$6,000,000 in funding. MCOA supports the level of funding indicated in HB607, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this matter.



February 23, 2017 at 12:00 PM
Conference Room 308

House Committee on Finance

To: Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 607 HD 1, Relating to Kupuna Care

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 180 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** HB 607 HD 1. This legislation seeks to provide financial support to individuals who need long-term care services and their families. We appreciate the intent of this measure, which is to help Hawaii residents and their caregivers access needed services that might otherwise be unaffordable. Health care costs continue to rise while wages have not generally kept up, putting many families in difficult situations. This legislation recognizes this dynamic and strives to provide some relief by helping to pay for needed caregiver services. The measure's focus on strengthening the state's healthcare workforce is also much appreciated.

This measure will not only benefit seniors, but also young adults and the families of every individual who might need long-term care services. As a result, we humbly ask for your support of this measure. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

1130 N. Nimitz Highway Suite A-265, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 306
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, I am pleased to extend our full support for House Bill 607, which provides funding for a Kupuna Caregivers Program. Through this funding, caregivers, including those who provide care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, will be awarded a voucher to cover costs for services such as transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, etc.

Although the Alzheimer's Association provides numerous services to family caregivers, there are still many services that are needed beyond what we provide. And despite the growing number of individuals affected by the disease (26,000 individuals with the disease and the 64,000 caregivers of someone with the disease) in the state of Hawaii, there is still a substantial lack of support and resources for these families. According to the most recent results of the Hawaii 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey, more than 40% of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers provide at least 20 hours of care per week. 74.5% of those individuals manage household care such as cleaning or cooking and 72% manage personal care such as feeding or bathing.

Furthermore, the level of intense care that is provided has also lead to numerous negative effects on the caregiver. Results of the Hawaii 2015 BRFSS indicated that the impact of Alzheimer's and dementia caregiving lead to 8.5% of those caregivers having frequent poor physical health and 12.7% of those caregivers reported a history of depression.

The proposed Kupuna Caregivers Program will help alleviate such issues by providing much needed services and support to families affected by the disease. Respite and assistance with daily living activities is critical to the long term success of caregiving for someone with Alzheimer's or a related dementia, which may last as long as 18 years.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this legislation and applaud your leadership in bringing it forward.

With best regards,



Christine Payne
Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter

TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Lake, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC)

SUBJECT: HB 607 HD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

HEARING: 12:00 PM Thursday, February 23, 2017
Conference Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition **strongly supports HB 607 HD 1** which proposes offering community supports and services to employed family caregivers through benefits available under the Kupuna Care Program and providing an appropriation for this purpose to the Executive Office on Aging.

RATIONALE:

I am offering testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC), which is a coalition of agencies and individuals committed to addressing the needs of family caregivers and improving the ability of family caregivers to provide quality care for their frail and disabled loved ones.

- Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care.
- The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce and their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families as well as to assure that they will have sufficient social security and savings to support themselves in retirement.
- Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due to the demands of caring.
- Employers are also adversely affected by the strains their employees experience due to the difficulty of balancing work and caregiving. Besides lowered productivity, other costs are high absenteeism and the eventual loss of valued employees and the associated costs of having to hire replacements.
- The Kupuna Care Program administered by the Executive Office on Aging through the County AAA's, is a highly successful program in offering home and community services and supports to the frail elderly and disabled. Procedures for securing contracts with service providers, for administering the funds, and for collecting systematic data for monitoring, evaluating and planning, have been developed.

- HB 607 HD1 proposes to provide home and community-based services to employed family caregivers through the Kupuna Care program in order to alleviate some of the burden of care and to enable them to continue their employment. This proposal is a cost-effective way to assist employed caregivers without having to create a new program. At present, few supports for family caregivers are offered through the Kupuna Care program. This bill would extend the Kupuna care benefits to assist employed caregivers.
- By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. It would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition urges passage of HB 607 HD1 to address the serious costs of balancing work and caregiving experienced by a significant number of family caregivers as well as by employers of family caregivers.

Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony.

**American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
District VIII, Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section**



TO: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 12:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 308

FROM: Hawaii Section, ACOG
Dr. Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG, Chair
Dr. Jennifer Salcedo, MD, MPH, MPP, FACOG, Vice-Chair
Dr. Cynthia Goto, MD, FACOG, Legislative Committee Member
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care

Position: Support

Dear Members,

The Hawaii Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) supports HB 607.

As a Section of the Nation's leading group of physicians dedicated to improving health care for women, HI ACOG represents over 160 obstetrician/gynecologist physicians in our state. Our organization calls for quality health care appropriate to every woman's needs throughout her life and for assuring that a full array of clinical services be available to women without costly delays or the imposition of cultural, geographic, financial or legal barriers.¹

By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawaii.² Our 'ohana honor our elders who wish to age at home but the burden on caregivers is significant including financial and emotional stress. According to AARP, the average caregiver is a 62-year-old married woman who cares for an elderly parent or husband while still working. Working women may neglect their own health while caring for their children and their parents. They may quit their job to become caregivers for their families, which jeopardizes their own access to health care.

HB 607 would provide some respite and support for caregivers who are in the workforce and trying to do the best they can to manage care for their families. HI ACOG is committed to facilitating both access to and quality of women's health care, including caregivers and their elderly parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *Access to Women's Health Care*, Statement of Policy, Reaffirmed July 2016

² Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Population and Economic Projections for the State of Hawaii to 2040

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Hearing: February 23, 2017, 12:00 pm

Thank you for hearing **HB 607**, which creates the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

Kupuna and caregivers are both at-risk for mental health issues due to aging and high levels of stress. The Kupuna Caregivers program supports the mental health of our working and caregiving families.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB 607**. Please contact me at trisha@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

February 22, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

My name is Kathy Jaycox, and I currently serve as the Oahu President for FACE, Faith Action for Community Equity. As most of you know, FACE is a coalition of churches and other groups on both Oahu and Maui with a common focus on issues of social justice. I am writing to express my support -- and FACE's support -- for HB 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

The program created by this legislation would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of aging family members or other loved ones. In this way, it provides needed in-home care for kupuna who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, but who do not have sufficient resources to pay for daily services of professional caregivers. At the same time, through its daily benefit, it allows the family member to remain in his or her regular employment. This benefits the individual as well as the family concerned about financial pressures. Plus, by providing employment opportunities for professional caregivers, this adds further stimulation to our local economy.

I was a caregiver for a family member during the final two years of his life -- and I worked only half-time during that period. I am familiar with all of the concerns faced by families in this situation.

FACE is grateful to all of you for your efforts to create legislation which addresses this pressing need in our state. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify.

Kathy Jaycox
559 Pauku St
Kailua, HI 96734



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376

www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

FROM:
HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Dr. Chris Flanders, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

TO:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 308

Position: Support of HB 607HD1

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the Hawaii Medical Association, we are testifying in support of our commitment to kupuna care.

As the population of the state continues to age, care of the elderly continues to grow as an issue to society. Too few facilities are available to care for all those in need, and numerous studies and workgroups have delineated the wait lists and out-of-touch expenses. Many, by choice or necessity, are caring for their kapuna at home. This care is neither free or paid for by insurance, and many struggle to maintain adequate care while working.

House Bill 607 would offer assistance to those who would serve to care for our kapuna in a home setting. This is a necessary expenditure by the state, and a program that the HMA would support.

Thank you for allowing our testimony on this issue.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Bernard Robinson, MD President-Elect – William Wong, Jr., MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD
Immediate Past President – Scott McCaffrey, MD Treasurer – Michael Champion, MD
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



February 23, 2017

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

SUPPORT FOR HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

HPHA is an association of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

The Hawaii Public Health Association emphatically **supports House Bill 607**, which creates the Kupuna Caregivers program to aid working caregivers in Hawaii. We believe this bill is a positive first step to improve the health of our kūpuna as well as their caregivers.

It has been well documented on various peer-reviewed journal articles that the health of caregivers is negatively impacted as they care for the health of a loved one. The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention's *A Public Health Approach to Translating Research into Practice* states that "family caregiving has been associated with increased levels of depression and anxiety as well as higher use of psychoactive medications, poorer self-reported physical health, compromised immune function, and increased mortality."

Yet family caregivers are a critical national health care resource. Families often are a primary source of home care and support for older relatives, contributing services that would cost hundreds of billions of dollars annually if they had to be purchased. We simply could not survive as a community without the support that family caregivers provide.

Working caregivers have a difficult task of balancing work and life balance, typically finishing a full day of work only to continue to their duties at home. These working caregivers need the respite services provided by Kupuna Caregivers program established **by House Bill 607**. This bill would fund up to \$70 a day for the respite that working family caregivers need in order to stay active in the workforce while caring for their kupuna at home.

The Hawaii Public Health Association fully **supports House Bill 607** and urges you vote to pass the measure today.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kessler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawai'i Public Health Association

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Date: Feb 23, 2017

RE: HB607, HD! RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HD607, HDI, Relating to Aging. My name is Linda Dorset and I am a concerned aging resident and live in the Wailuku area. The passage of this bill is important to me because I am anticipating a time when I may have to quit working in order to take care of my husband who has lung cancer. This appropriation would allow me to get services to help with the activities of daily living so I could continue to work to support us. I know there are many others with the same concerns.

Please allow this bill to move forward out of committee with the appropriation intact.

Mahalo



House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017
12 noon
Conference Room 308

RE: **HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates and provides information on issues that matter to our kupuna and their families, including affordable, accessible, quality healthcare, financial resiliency, and livable communities.

HB 607 establishes the kupuna caregivers program to assist community members who are providing care for elders to stay in the workforce.

AARP Hawaii **strongly supports** HB 607.

This program supports our working caregivers who struggle to care for their loved ones while holding down their jobs and other personal responsibilities. The program provides a care benefit of \$70 per day which allows families obtain services such as home care or adult day care that will safely supervise a family member at home or in a community setting. This is much less expensive than a nursing home which costs \$141,000 annually (private room rate).

AARP fully supports this program which will assist Hawaii's 154,000 caregivers whom many are still in the workforce, continue to care for our kupuna in their homes and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify .



CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

**Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance**

February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 HD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Pedro Haro, and I wish to testify on behalf of Caring Across Generations in strong support of House Bill 607.

Caring Across Generations is a national movement of families, caregivers, people with disabilities and aging Americans working to transform the way we care in this country, calling for policy solutions that enable all of us to live and age with dignity and independence. Caring Across Generations has worked with partners in Hawai'i for years in support of legislation that will help make quality long-term care accessible to everyone, and we believe that this bill is an important step toward that goal.

There is little disagreement that the lack of long-term care coverage is a critical issue facing our country. For the vast majority of families without private long term care insurance, the only choices available are to either spend down their life savings in order to qualify for Medicaid, or to rely on unpaid family caregivers. Neither choice is sustainable. In Hawai'i, the issue is even more devastating as our cost of home health care is on average \$10,000 more than on the continental U.S. To adequately meet the care needs of families, and of the direct care workforce, we need new caregiving infrastructure.

House Bill 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program will provide the needed respite care that our kūpuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. Study after study shows that the value of unpaid, and often under-recognized, family care is astronomical, and when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security. No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide

long term care. Our own research showed that 1 in 5 people indicated that they or someone in the household has had to leave a job or the workforce to help care for an aging loved one.

The benefit offered in this legislation will help ensure that aging adults in Hawaii will have access to the care they need, in a setting where they are already comfortable. And, importantly, family members in the workforce will be able to continue working, which improves their economic security and also stabilizes the workforce for business owners.

Care is a universal issue, and anyone in this room who is not currently providing some form of care to a family member has almost certainly done so in the past...or will do so in the future. Caring Across Generations urges this committee to support House Bill 607 and help ensure that all families have the support they need to provide the care our kūpuna deserve.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Pedro Haro
204 Koalele St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: JIMCISLER@YMAIL.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Cisler	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our caregivers have earned the support this legislation requests. For generations we have stood in the front lines of protecting and nurturing and enhancing the life experience of Hawaii's elders, and all those who find themselves unable to go it alone. Please establish the foundation needed to extend our cultural instincts and support all caregivers now, as it is truly deserved.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:41 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support restoring a culture that cares for our kupuna. Let's not pretend this community value has not diminished over time and through the choices we have made as community. Let's start taking a stand and being who we say we were. Mahalo for this opportunity. Kevin

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: chalintornburian@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chalintorn N. Burian	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To House Finance Committee: I strongly support HB607. Look forward to your support of this important Bill as well. Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. Paauilo, HI 96776
Phone: (808) 775-1064

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Valerie Yontz, PhD** and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Valerie Yontz, PhD
677 Auwina Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734
vyontz@hawaii.edu

FIN-Jo

From: balihai7 <balihai7@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony+for+HB+607+hearing+on+February+23+at+12:00pm+in+Room+211

Aloha,
Kupunas cared for us; now, it's our turn to care for them. Please support HB 607!
Mahalo,
Lilinoe Smith
Kalaheo, Kauai

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

FIN-Jo

From: Paola Rodelas <paolarodelas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 12:48 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: I support HB 607

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. My husband and I are young professionals who moved to Hawai'i to care for my husband's grandma after his grandpa passed away. We are the only family she has left in Hawai'i. By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this would greatly help families who provide care for our kupuna at home.

Please stand with our kupuna and the loved ones who care them by supporting HB 607. Thank you for your consideration!

Warm regards,
Paola Rodelas
Kapahulu resident

From: Jonathan Jody Boyne <boyne@saltspring.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 607, for the hearing on February 23, 2017, at 12:00 PM, Room 211.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jonathan Boyne, and I have both been (and still am) an (under)paid caregiver and have had help caring for elderly parents and neighbors from equally (under)paid fellow caregivers.

I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.
Sincerely,

Jonathan Boyne
96822

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Muronaka, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. Unfortunately, Medicare does not cover a home care aide or respite care. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Karen Muronaka
46-271 Hoana St.

Kaneohe, HI 96744

FIN-Jo

From: Patricia Blair <patriciablair@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony+for+HB+607+hearing+on+February+23+at+12:00pm+in+Room+211

I support SB534 Patricia Blair, Kailua 888-6393

Sent from my iPad

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Muronaka, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. Unfortunately, Medicare does not cover a home care aide or respite care. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Karen Muronaka
46-271 Hoana St.

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

My name is Clint Schroeder, President and COO of Hagadone Printing, the largest commercial printer in Hawai'i. I am writing to express my support for House Bill 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill makes business sense and it makes sense for Hawai'i's working families.

One prevalent threat to business productivity is worker absenteeism and presenteeism, that's when workers are present but can't work at their full capacity because of other stressors in their life. The MetLife Study of Working Caregivers and Employer Health Care Cost (2010) found that absenteeism is much higher amongst caregivers, regardless of age group. The research also found that insurance and health care costs are higher for working caregivers, reporting higher hypertension, depression and diabetes, potentially costing U.S. employers an extra estimated \$13.4 billion per year. The study concluded that "caregiving for an older relative is an important factor in the health, medical care expense, and productivity of employees across all age groups, and therefore in the health costs for employers."

There are other ways that caregiving affects productivity. Caregivers are more likely to work fewer hours and are less likely to take promotions when available due to caregiving duties. When a caregiver leaves the workforce early to take care of an aging loved one, we lose trained, skilled, seasoned workers.

I have personally seen the effects of caregiving with our own employees. Many times their own health falters as they try to keep up their full responsibilities at work and take new caregiving responsibilities at home.

House Bill 607 will provide the respite care that our working caregivers need. With the \$70-a-day benefit, working families can afford a home health care worker, a little extra help preparing meals, or perhaps transportation when a family caregiver is not available. This program will help make long-term care for our kūpuna more affordable and provide the helping hand caregivers so desperately need.

I ask you to please pass House Bill 607 today.

Clint Schroeder
President & COO
Hagadone Printing
274 Puuhale Rd, Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 847-5310

Testimony: Lawrence H. Nitz. HB 607—Relating to Kupuna Care

I am a professor of political science at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Over the past 27 years I have worked extensively on the problems of funding long-term care (or long-term services and supports). This bill is a first attempt to provide some of the most important support for Hawaii's working people who are providing care for their elders.

Kupuna Caregivers, the title of the program expansion sponsored by the bill, helps the most fragile of our caregivers—those who must give care and still maintain a full-time job. The goal is by providing a subsidy to secure a few extra hours of care, the full-time family worker can continue in his or her career, without the risk of performing poorly, having to leave work early, arrive for work late, or feel forced to take an early retirement. Of course, in fact, most of these folks who must reduce work hours or retire early. The proposed benefit, up to \$70 per day for additional services, directly addresses the full-time worker/caregiver's need to continue a career and still provide responsible care for a family member of other elder.

Who is eligible? This is a two-part question. First, the ultimate beneficiary is a Hawaii resident who meets the standards of care for Hawaii's Kupuna Care program: two ADL's, one ADL and IADLs, and so on. The second part is that the caregiver must be fully employed (Using a standard of 30 hours per week).

The program is a testbed—the average median number of days of home care used by American elders is about 89 days. (This is not a feature of the bill, just an estimate of how far the funding would reach if everyone used the median number of days of services.) At this level of usage, the program could initially accommodate about 900 users. A larger scale may be reasonable as the usage is established. The program is framed as an expansion of the services of Kupuna Care, using the same local counseling and administrative skills as those involved in delivering our existing Kupuna Care services.

Finally, this proposal follows the key discoveries by Johannes Geyer and Thorben Korfhage of the German Institute for Economics, a national research center. That supplying a block of “helper time” as a service, rather than a monetary payment creates a dramatic increase in the labor force participation of the caregiver. And, for German policy, as for ours in Hawaii, keeping people in the labor force is an economic benefit for the state, as well as the person using the assistance benefit. More work hours and lower risk of retiring early; protection of the caregiver's own retirement benefits.

The implications of informal caregiving not only involve burdensome financial costs but also include negative health effects on over-stressed caregivers. Studies show that caregiving for an older, disabled parent or parent-in-law negatively affects the mental and physical health of caregivers, especially among those caring for patients with cognitive or behavioral illnesses such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Many informal, unpaid caregivers struggle to manage multiple social roles such as work, family, and caregiving for elderly parents. The time constraints and physical strain of dealing with multiple roles results in “chronic stress” which increases levels of psychological distress and deteriorates caregivers' health over time (Kohl 2015).

For the society, reducing work hours or leaving the labor force has negative effects on tax revenues (no income tax on money not earned), lost retirement benefits and lower Social Security contributions. Leaving the labor force or retiring early creates higher risks of having to make transfer payments to these caregivers when they are older (increased welfare expenditures of various kinds for those who left careers for caregiving.) Providing a few hours of extra care, however, reduces these losses by keeping caregivers in the labor force, earning and building their own retirement support.

At this point, the Germans have already laid the foundation so that Hawaii can move forward.

Citations:

Johannes Geyer; Thorben Korfhage (2015): Long-term care reform and the labor supply of household members: Evidence from a quasi-experiment. DIW Discussion Papers, No. 1500.

Johannes Geyer; Peter Haan; Thorben Korfhage (2015): Indirect fiscal effects of long-term care insurance. DIW Discussion Papers, No. 1520.

Kohl, Noreen. 2015. Policy Note. "The Need for Formal Long-Term Care Supports and Services: Implications of Informal Caregiving." Long-Term Services and Supports Feasibility Study, Department of Political Science, University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair – House Committee on Finance
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair - House Committee on Finance

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 12:00 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 308

Re: HB 607 HD 1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Position: Support

Dear Representative Luke, Representative Cullen, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support HB 607 HD 1 to create a Kupuna Caregivers program.

As a physician, there are times when patients delay their own health care and needs because they are too busy taking care of their elders or family to come in for their own care. Working mothers put aside their own needs to care for their children and their parents.

As a caregiver for my parents, I experience the emotional and physical stresses placed on families who are doing their best to provide the love and support our parents deserve. Please help us, the caregivers, by providing a little more support, so we can create and enjoy our final moments of joy with our loved ones.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Goto, M.D.



January 8, 2017 | 🌤️ 64° | 🚗 Check Traffic

Editorial | Island Voices

Caregivers need the help of legislators

By Dr. Cynthia Goto

Posted January 08, 2017

January 8, 2017

I watch my parents with a deep sadness as the sun sets on their long and useful lives. My mother, 85, once a nurse, has just joined my father, 95, once a doctor, on the terrible journey with Alzheimer's. I used to be a partner in my father's OB/GYN practice. Now I am a partner in helping my parents manage the pain of their decline. I feel lucky that as a doctor, I can make a significant contribution to overseeing their care.

My father's hospice services are covered by Medicare. Their ongoing daily care is not — and it is expensive. Fortunately they can still afford to pay for 24 hour caregiving assistance.

I often wonder how other families manage. I hope our legislators are wondering too. Every one of our elected representatives must have someone in their immediate or extended family who is struggling with caring for their aging loved ones. Self-interest, if not a sense of moral urgency, should prompt legislators to begin to address the growing challenge of seniors unable to fend for themselves.

Some will say that we should not look to the government to solve all our problems; that we should each plan for our later years. And they are right. But life is neither simple nor predictable. The people left coping with life's surprises are more often than not, the women of the family.

Among my patients and my friends and family, I see many other women in my situation: struggling with the emotional toll of caring for their elders.

For many, the toll is also financial, as they cut short their careers and deplete their savings, trying to do what is best for their family members.

As they become consumed by the demands of caregiving, I see how they juggle the multiple roles that fall to women, taking on more and more while doing less and less

to care for themselves.

Patients will tell me they cannot come to an appointment, for instance, because the grandchildren have just been left in their care. Women are the connectors that bring and hold families together. They provide a largely invisible, and not fully acknowledged infrastructure for family cohesion for which they are not compensated financially. The more stress we put on that family infrastructure, the more fragmented and insecure families become.

This is a societal problem, not just an individual challenge. Sooner or later, each of us will face that challenge.

As a community, we have not done a good enough job of anticipating the needs of seniors. But it is never too late to start. Let's not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Legislators can start by creating some form of public assistance so that family caregivers — most of them women — get some respite from their labor of love. Neighbors can offer a ride to the hospital. Friends can bring a hot meal. Family members can take turns carrying out the multitude of little tasks that help keep things humming. It takes a village.

Involve the seniors wherever possible. This Christmas, I had my mother help me fold napkins for the table. I asked if there was anything missing in the preparations. "Yes," she said. "Candles. We always have candles." So my nephew went in search of candles. On another occasion my mother asked me who I was. When I said my name, she responded: "I have a daughter by that name."

We take each day as it comes, the tears along with the joy of catching a glimpse of our loved ones in the shell of the persons we now care for. We can do more to help alleviate the pain. I pray legislators appreciate the urgency and take that first step forward.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 7:25 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: fitzformaui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee, My name is John Fitzpatrick, and I am writing to express my support for HB 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families. By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers! I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need. Thank you for considering my testimony. Sincerely, Fitz 808-268-1073 PO BOX 532481 Kihei HI 96753

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 7:20 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dmoraiswebster@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the FIN Committee: We are grateful that the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill , HB607, has reached this point in its passage through the legislature. Our response as a state has lagged the growth in the need among seniors and their families for some relief from the crushing weight of reduced income and the escalating cost of care. The demographics tell us that the need for a solution to the numbers of elderly people needing help at home with some of the activities of daily living is only growing. This bill does not attempt to address the entire challenge of taking care of our kupuna in a manner consistent with our values. But it is a good faith step towards acknowledging the enormous contribution of unpaid family caregivers and gives them some relief. Please make kupuna care a priority in your appropriation of funds. Doing so will demonstrate that we mean what we say when we profess care and concern for the most vulnerable, including our kupuna. We respectfully ask that your actions as our representatives speak clearly for the values we share as a community. Gratefully, Dawn Morais Webster

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FIN-Jo

From: CML Wildberger <tina@kiheiice.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 4:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** HB607

Aloha,
Please accept this email as testimony for support of HB607.
Mahalo,
Tina Wildberger
808-870-1739
Tina@kiheiice.com

FIN-Jo

From: Dave Kisor <panther_dave@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:50 PM
To: WAM Testimony; FINTestimony
Subject: In support of SB543 / HB607

Aloha

When someone falls apart to the point they need a care giver, like it or not, they become a full time job, usually up to the time they die. A while ago, a friend was a live in caregiver for a widow who had lost her Marine to Agent Orange exposure. The woman was only in her late 50s when she began to deteriorate and needed someone to drive her around and to help getting into the tub and all manner of things. By the time I met her, she was in a wheel chair, on oxygen and near the end, she was in the hospital, where she was on all manner of life support. They scavenged a nasty brown fluid from her lungs, but my friend was more than ready to take on the challenge. I gave her charge 3 weeks, she lasted 2. I'd made a point not to get close to her, because I knew she wasn't going to last much longer after we'd met. Taking care of someone in this condition can be tough; however, losing them can be traumatic. It isn't an easy job and often times not for the faint of heart.

Mahalo
Dave Kisor
One damaged Vietnam era Naval Veteran

||||| >^.^< |||||

Cats & computers. Bring them into your home and your life is no longer your own.
Don't get upset when things don't work, but rather be amazed when they do!

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Scott Nishimoto
House Finance Committee

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee,

My name is Meizhu Lui, and I am writing to support **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families need.

For the last two years, I served as the Chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee to the Hawaii County Office of Aging, which is a volunteer committee of Hawaii residents from the different Districts; over half are themselves kupuna. We have heard countless stories from family caregivers who have sacrificed their careers and their free time to care for aging relatives. Not only is it a financial sacrifice, but many caregivers are in that "sandwich" generation, caught between caring for their elders and caring for their children. This legislation would finally provide support for these devoted individuals who typically have no other financial or emotional support.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. It can eliminate the need to make the anguishing decision to place a parent in a care home (which is another important issue!) due to the financial and emotional burden of keeping the elder at home. Family caregivers could use the funds to hire home care aides for a few hours or to provide transportation services.

As we are just experiencing the tip of the wave of the aging tsunami that is coming, we must prepare in advance to ensure the best quality of life for Hawaii kupuna and their families. Please help achieve that by supporting this bill, and thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Meizhu Lui
P.O. Box 175
Papaaloa HI 96780

From: myra myatt <myattm@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 4:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 607

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice - Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF House Bill 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice - Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Myra Myatt, and I am writing to express my support for HB 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the respite that our kupuna caregivers need and the support our working families and businesses need.

I believe that I planned well for my retirement --- with modest savings and a Long-Term Care policy – what I didn't count on was being a full-time caregiver for my aging mother-in-law, Rica.

Rica will turn 100 this June and shows no signs of declining. She does have medical needs, and my husband and I must dip into our own retirement funds to cover some of the costs. If I were to put her in a care facility, the funds would be gone in no time. Hence, I take care of her at home and I have been doing so for the past five years.

Because Rica needs someone all the time, I am not afforded the opportunity to see my own 95-year-old mother on the mainland. (Respite care for Rica would run about \$300 a day.) Additionally, my sister has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. We are only two in the family and she will not be able to care for our mother. Soon, I will need to figure out how to care for both my mother on the mainland, and my mother-in-law in Hawaii – and somehow take care of myself.

Taking care of our elders at home truly enhances their lives, but it has the potential to be devastating financially, draining emotionally and can pose a real threat to the caregiver's health. It is not a situation that anyone would wish for, but it is a reality for many people in their 50s, 60s and 70s. Our parents are living a long time; they need care, yet many caregivers also need to remain in the workforce to help cover living costs.

The proposed Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill would provide a much-needed opportunity for stay-at-home caregivers to literally "take a break" or help defray the cost of putting a loved one in day care so that a younger caregiver can continue to work.

As our duly elected legislators, we look to you to pass new legislation that meets our --- your constituents -- needs. HB 607 more than qualifies for that consideration.

Sincerely,
Myra Myatt
361 Kikoo Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

FIN-Jo

From: Ronni <changeamerica@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:24 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony+for+HB+607+hearing+on+February+23+at+12:00pm+in+Room+211

My name is Darryl Taylor, a resident of the Big Island and I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

I am 68 years old and not long ago nearly dead from medical mistakes made at Hilo Medical Center. It is certain that someday I will need the kind of help that the Kapuna Caregivers program provides, if I live long enough.

Please support and pass this bill.

signed,

Darryl Taylor
po box 6162
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

**Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee On Finance**

Thursday, February 23rd, 2017

****TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE****

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen & Members Of The Committee,

*My name is Michael Stephen Douglas, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This Bill will provide the needed Respite care that our Kupuna Caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.*

This legislation would create a long-term Kupuna Caregivers program, which would provide support for working Caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this Bill focuses on providing respite care for working Caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging Parents and Grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our Families.

By providing a Care Benefit of \$70 per day, this Bill establishes a much needed "Care Floor," ensuring that working Families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This Fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring Home Care Aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of Respite Care is a lifeline for Family Caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As Legislators, we have elected you to be Leaders to the People of Hawaii, and we are asking you now, to lead on helping us provide the Care our Families need.

Thank you very much for considering my Testimony.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Douglas

**Mr. Michael Stephen Douglas
~United States Naval Veteran~**

<>

**michaelst.douglas@yahoo.com
86-084 Farrington Hwy. Apt. 408
Waianae, HI. 96792
Cell: 808.276.5536**

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Clementina Ceria-Ulep and I am the Co-Chair of the Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) Long-Term Care Taskforce and also the Interim Associate for Academic Affairs at the UH School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. I want to express my **support for HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

My mother who gave birth to 11 children will turn 85 and my father a farmer and construction worker will turn 87 this year. My brother Joe, who retired from the Army is their caregiver. When he goes on vacation to de-stress, my brother and sisters and I who live on Oahu relieve him. This means that for 2-3 days in a week or two, I go over and sleep at my parents home—go over at 9 p.m. after settling my own family the night before and then go home at 4 a.m. to prepare my family and I for work. If my parents need to go to the doctor, and they want to go to the doctor together, what I think would take 3 hours would often turn to 6 hours because mom needs a walker or wheelchair to get around. So, simple things like getting in and out of the house, in and out of the car, in and out of the doctor's office take twice as long because they are not as mobile anymore. By the end of the week, I'm exhausted!

But, how about others who do it day in and day out? There is a custodian at the UH. Daily, in the morning and evening she drives all the way to Wahiawa to prep her mother for the day and evening respectively. We have a church member who used to be a leader of FACE but no longer since she became a caregiver for her husband and mother, she is not working any more either. Another member can no longer participate in church activities because she cares for her mother. At our Kupuna Caregivers Rally last week, Darlene related how she stopped working to care for her mother putting herself at risk for the future while Mr. Mitchell neglected his health and sold his business to care for his wife with Alzheimer's and mother. All of these individuals would benefit from the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Since FACE came into being in 1996, 21 years ago, this has been an issue that our members have raised. Every 3-5 years when FACE conducts its Listening Process among its members, long-term care, caring for our elders has been a priority and last year was no different. A Listening Process involves one-to-one conversations about issues of concern to a church, synagogue, housing unit, etc.

I have been a champion for this issue in FACE for 21 years—educating family, friends, organizations, & the public of it. I have chaired many committees, taskforces, holding countless meetings and providing numerous presentations about it. Why do I do it? Because of the sufferings that I have seen patients, family and friends go through; and I want to see them relieved. Because I want to make sure that if I need care when I grow old,

it would be there. More importantly however, I want to do it because it is the right thing to do, it is part of my being and my culture. As a child, our (my brothers and sisters and I's) caretakers were our grandparents when our parents worked. My grandmothers taught me how to clean the house, & cook. In my Filipino culture, we are taught to respect and take care of our elders. This value of caring for our kupuna is common to all of us who live in Hawaii—Asians, Pacific-Islander, Polynesian, Hispanics, and so on. So, I ask you all Committee members to support this bill because it represents Hawaii—our value of caring for one another and our kupunas! Let's make it happen this year.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep

211 Hoomalu Street; Pearl City, HI 96782

**Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Tyler Cullen
House Committee on Finance**

Date: February 23, 2017

Time: 12:00

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee

My name is Roseanne Sakamoto. I strongly support **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care for our kupuna caregivers and provide help to our kupuna.

I strongly support this because the \$70 voucher means the difference between elders being able to attend day care or being at home alone and isolated. Day care and other care services this bill would provide for are not always affordable, despite the caregiver working, and places our elders in risky situations. If the \$70 voucher is used for day care, it will assure our elders health and safety for an entire day of care, and improve their quality of life through the social interaction afforded there.

As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and I am appreciative to those that drafted this Ohana bill. I ask that you pass HB607 to provide the care families in Hawaii need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Roseanne Sakamoto
P.O. Box 142
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

William Beadle
1720 Ala Moana, 1406A
Honolulu, HI 96815

To: House Finance Committee, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Chair

Date: February 22, 2017

RE:House Bill 607

The purpose of this correspondence is to express my **strong support for HB607**, which provides funding for programs assisting the elderly to age at home rather than in a care facility. I am retired, getting older by the minute and have witnessed friends and families transition from being young and vital to older and frail. When the time comes for me to need assistance in daily living, I hope that I will be cared for in a familiar environment by loved ones, rather than in a profit driven facility by hired employees. While there are many fine elderly care facilities, the cost savings and comfort level of being able to age at home is a far better option both for the individual and society.

For over seventeen years the kupuna care program has provided assistance to those over 60 years of age to age in place. Our elderly population in Hawaii is expanding rapidly and life expectancy is lengthening. There is a greater demand for kupuna care programs than ever before, that is why I am in support of HB607...we need more resources to serve more people.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB607.

Aloha, Bill Beadle

Waikiki

Re: Support Testimony in favor of HB607

Testimony Date: 2/23/2017

Testimony From: Steven Mitchell, Individual-Retired
(808) 352-0306. Mauinetsteve@gmail.com

Aloha.

During my lifetime in Hawaii, I have been an employee, a business manager, and a business owner. I am here today to ask legislators to please support the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill HB607. I know first hand, how much it would mean, to businesspeople, their employees, and to the State of Hawaii.

I address you as one who has gone through this.

Most people who have gone through this, are so damaged, depleted, and unhealthy, that they can no longer advocate for themselves, much less for others.

As a caregiver, under duress, without respite, I made decisions that cost the state of Hawaii hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I closed a business, shut down 3 stores, laid off 15 people, and stopped a cash flow that paid the State excise taxes, employment taxes, and income taxes.

I was a business owner under duress, with no respite.

I failed to take care of myself, ballooning to almost 300 pounds, endangering my health and my very life.

Then who would take care of my sick wife, or me?

The expense to the State would definitely be high, and unnecessarily premature.

As little as \$70 a day for family caregivers to hire trained home aides for respite, will pay for itself.

As responsible family caregivers, our desire to care for our loved ones causes us to make irresponsible decisions, and do irreparable harm to our selves, our families, and the state revenue stream.

As Caregivers, we push ourselves through love, and devotion. We neglect our own needs as we sell our assets and our parents assets, we put our health on the back burner, and we sometimes take on irresponsible levels of debt.

We need to tell ourselves that we have done our best.

The state needs to adopt the bill that is before them right now, even if it isn't the perfect solution.

We need to be able to tell ourselves that we have done our best. Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bautista.aprilk@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April Bautista	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 21, 2017

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 24, 2017 at 12:00 pm

RE: Legislative Testimony in Support of HB607

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen and the House Committee Members on Finance:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to submit my personal testimony in strong support of HB607, relating to Kupuna Care.

Planning the care for our elders plays an important role in Hawaii's community. As a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, focusing on Social Gerontology, the issue of aging and poverty is an extremely alarming issue not only for our state, but for the rest of our country as well. Hawai'i is in a very unique situation given that we are leading the United States with the highest life expectancy rates. However, we also have to face the reality on how to better address the needs of our kupuna.

By requiring the Executive Office on Aging to establish the kupuna caregivers program and appropriating funds to assist community members who are providing care for elders to stay in the workforce, this would alleviate a great deal of time, stress, and resources from family members and other support networks. This would allow caregivers to manage and live a better quality of life, not only for our elders but also for the entire family. Taking important time off work is a difficult situation for the person working and also creates hindrances at their respective jobs, which eventually affects the employer. More importantly, this program would allow our elders and their family to live a life with dignity and the respect they deserve! As a local woman, this is the way to live PONO.

By passing this bill into law, Hawai'i would lead the way for other states to follow suit in terms of implementing best practices for establishing a Kupuna Caregivers program. Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,



Joy Lacanienta

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 HD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Committee on Finance, and
Committee Members

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2017; 12:00 p.m.; CR 308

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of **HB 607 HD1**, Relating to Kupuna Care. My name is Anna Filler and I retired two years ago at the age of 75. I was a caretaker for my father who passed away at the age 97. I first retired at the age of age 62 and worked several temporary jobs to help take care of my father which I shared with my younger sister.

This bill will provide funds to help caregivers pay for a home health care worker when a family caregiver is not available. It is a difficult decision for a caregiver to leave a full time job or reduce work hours to care for an aging family member.

Kupuna Care program requests funds for a pilot program to help working caregivers provide care for their elder family members.

I urge you to support Hawaii's growing senior population by supporting HB 607 HD1.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB 607 HD1.

Anna Filler
Email: afiller@twc.com
Kakaako/Senate District 12

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:15 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: drodrigues2001@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I write in strong support of SB534/HB607. I am the primary caregiver for my 86 year old mother who is living with Dementia and Alzheimer's. For the past nine years since my mother's diagnosis, I have done so willingly because I was taught to take care of family. Starting on this journey with my mother, I anticipated that the physical and emotional burden of caring for someone living with Dementia and Alzheimer's would be hard to bear at times. What I did not anticipate or fully expect was the financial burden that caring for her would entail. I have gone from working at a full-time job to piecing together part-time jobs as my mother's health declines, requiring more of my time to maintain her daily life. This bill would allow someone like myself a better chance for gainful employment while still caring for my mother at our family home. This bill would mean that our family would be able to hire someone to be with her after daycare so that I could make my way through traffic from town to Mililani without worrying that she would be alone or if she would be fed dinner. Passing this bill would mean that we could hire someone on a Saturday to be with her so that I could enjoy having a weekend or go to the doctors. The passage of this bill would increase my chances of being able to save money for retirement, pay into social security, medicare and pay taxes to contribute to my future welfare and the welfare of others. I do not want to be a burden to society when I reach my mother's age. What is proposed is much needed financial relief for the 150,000 caregivers who do our duty willingly. Please show some aloha to those caring for our kupuna. Caring for our kupuna should feel like the honor and privilege that it is and not a horrible burden that it can become. Passing this bill would show that we honor and value what caregivers do, that Hawai'i honors cherishing our kupuna. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. Sincerely, Darlene Rodrigues

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance**

February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 HD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and members of the House Finance Committee,

Dear Chairperson Luke and committee members, My name is Rex Freitas and I strongly support House Bill 607.

Most of my family has lived in Pauoa Valley since there was a Kingdom of Hawaii. That's where I was a caregiver for both of my parents while working full time as a driver for TheBus.

I was very lucky. I could take care of my parents as they fell ill, until they passed away. I would do it all over again—even though it exhausted me emotionally and financially. They never demanded anything –but they raised me, I owed them. But I have to tell you, it was hard. Imagine, I would take my mom in for dialysis, sometimes I would be at the hospital all day, bring my mom back, prepare meals, give her a bath, and then go work on the bus from 4pm to midnight. I would get home and do it all over again.

Me and my dad took care of my mom until the day she died. Then my dad, only four months later, developed lung cancer. I saw him push his own health aside to take care of mom. My dad passed away in my living room, in the same Pauoa valley he lived all his life.

I took good care of my parents, they deserved it. But I could have used some help from professional caregivers. I used to give my mother her shower when she was ill—but I know she would have welcomed a female caregiver. I still remember taking care of my mom's wounds. I didn't know what I was doing, no one taught me what to do. No one teaches family caregivers what to do. I also took care my brother for 7 exhausting months, which the hospital said they'd be sending a nurse to help, no one ever showed up. I did colostomy bag changing and cleaning, open wound care with the a quick lesson before he was sent home

We are the forgotten army of Hawaii, and we need help. I hope our legislators will find a way to give caregivers like me some relief. Please pass House Bill 607.

**Rex Freitas
204 Koalele St.
Honolulu, HI 96817**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: dovebarbara@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Dove	Individual	Support	No

Comments: --

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and committee members.

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. I am a member of AARP, Kokua Council, the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans and the Legislative Committee of PABEA.

I'm testifying in strong support of HB607, HD1, requiring the Executive Office on Aging to establish the Kupuna Caregivers program to assist working caregivers to be able to remain in the workforce.

In Hawaii, many caregivers are faced with leaving the workforce early in order to stay home to care for their loved ones. This program would provide a modest amount of money for caregivers to obtain some help so that they can continue their own careers and not have to sacrifice their own retirement and Social Security. Likewise, those they care for would be able to remain at home and avoid costly nursing home care.

Please fund HB607, HD1, to help caregivers to provide for their kupuna but not put their own retirement in jeopardy by leaving the workforce early.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

Committee on Finance, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Date: Feb 23, 2017

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Room 308

RE: **HB 607, HD1 Relating to Kupuna Care**

Chair Luke and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 607, HD1 Relating to Kupuna Care.

My name is Geoffrey Casburn and I am a retired Civil Engineer. My wife and I live in Hilo and we are former in-home caregivers.

Ideally, caregivers would be home full-time to provide in-home kupuna care. However, the financial reality is that many caregivers must continue to work outside the home to make ends meet. Assistance from this program begins to address this financial reality!

HB 607, HD1 would fund the development of a program to assist the working caregiver and their families with needed assistance.

Thank you,

Geoffrey Casburn
District of Hilo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:36 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tjdavies@juno.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
T.J. Davies	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lynn Iwamoto, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. It is scary and frightening! As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families. What would you do in that predicament? How do you make that choice?

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.
Sincerely,

Lynn Iwamoto
493-W Mananai Place

From: Mary Weir <mary.e.weir@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:02 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony for HB607 hearing on February 23, 2017 at 12:00 pm, Room 211

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

Testimony in Support of HB607 Relating to Kupuna Care.

My name is Mary Weir, and I am writing to express my strong support of HB607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

As Hawaii's aging population grows the need for long term services and supports continues to increase. I know of families struggling to balance work and caring for their aging parents. They are in a very difficult situation and they need the support that this Kupuna Caregivers program would provide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mary Weir
103 Hauoli St
Kailua, HI 96734

FINTestimony

From: Sheela Jane Menon <sheelajane.menon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:23 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Supporting HB 607: Hearing - 2/23, 12pm, Room 211

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for HB 607.

As a young adult watching members of my family care for my grandmother in the final years of her life, I understand the challenges - emotional, financial, and logistical - that come with caring for our kupuna. These challenges are exponentially greater for families who are struggling to make ends meet, while also providing the necessary care for their seniors.

If we truly value our kupuna - and if we believe that they should be cared for with dignity and compassion - then HB 607 is a small but important step towards supporting both our family caregivers and our elders. It is also a visible sign that we, as a state, recognize that this kind of labor falls primarily on women and that they, too, deserve our support in this important work.

Please make HB 607 a priority, and send a clear message that we value our kupuna and the families caring for them.

Sincerely,

Sheela Jane Menon, Ph.D.
1 Keahole Place #3501
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Priscila Rayray <pdrayray@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 7:16 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony+for+HB+607+hearing+on+February+23+at+12:00pm+in+Room+211

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 23, 2017

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO
KUPUNA CARE**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the
Committee,

My name is Priscila Rayray and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families need. This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,
Priscila Rayray
808-295-4219
pdrayray@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

**Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance**

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristine Osada, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program.

I have a grandparent who is 96 years old and physically incapable of moving about on her own but she is still mentally strong. My sister has been taking care of her for the most part but has to take off from work to take her to her doctor's appointments. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and to support our working families and businesses need.

The \$70 per day care benefit would help to support an at home caregiver and give the families another means to provide the same care as if they were in a facility.

As a caregiver, we are asking for your support to approve **HB 607**.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Kristine Osada
7190 Hawaii Kai Drive #268
Honolulu, HI 96825**

FINTestimony

From: Amelia Jodar <ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 6:27 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Amelia Jodar
Subject: Testimony for HB 607 hearing on February 23 at 12:00pm in Room 211

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice0Chair Ty Cullen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amelia G. Jodar, and I am writing to express my support for HB 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I take this issue personally because my brother used to take care of our aging parents. He had to take care of them 24/7.

I also know of many cases when the caregivers gave up their full-time jobs to be able to take care for their elderly parents and grandparents. I believe you also know of people who need long-term care and know of people who provide long-term care. Some of the latter may have given up their profitable income.

Please help our kupuna and their caregivers by approving HB 607 and allowing the bill to become a law.

Thank you for you kind consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Amelia G. Jodar
87-238 Hakimo Road
Waianae , HI 96792

FINTestimony

From: Betty White <bwhite@sacredhearts.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:53 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 607

Testimony in support of HB 607 for the hearing on February 23, 2017, 12:00 p.m. Room 211:

I hope each legislator will see it beneficial to act with courage and put or empathy toward a positive outcome for our Kupuna. It is time to make this a priority item and show our Kupuna and their families that we care about our elders. Each of the families of a dependent Kupuna can use the voucher of 70 dollars to get some needed respite.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my appeal.

Betty White
Head of School
Sacred Hearts Academy

FINTestimony

From: Robert H Stiver <bobfromoahu@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 607 (Hearing Thursday, February 23)

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice-Chair Ty Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute to what I hope is a huge citizens' movement toward passage into law of the Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers program.

I am passionate about caregiving. I have "been there and done that." My beloved wife Masako was in need of caregiving, of an always increasing and more desperate urgency, for nearly all of the last 35 years of her life that ended on August 19, 2016, in St. Francis Hospice (she was 79; I was 72 at the time of her passing). Through those decades of multiple episodes of clinical depression, asthma/COPD and related allergy problems, pancreatic issues, Alzheimer's Disease diagnosed in 2013, and finally endometrial/uterine cancer in 2015-16, I tried to balance work (until my retirement in 1999), my own need to be fit and attentive to Masako, and the caregiving responsibility for which I was woefully unprepared and probably inadequate. I hasten to credit the services of our Kaiser Permanente membership and the final-days compassionate caring of the St Francis Hospice institutional team, but at the end of the day -- and eventually the beginning, middle and end of every day -- I was Masako's sole support. I gave it my all in accordance with our marriage vows: a labor of love that was terrifying, all-consuming, and exhausting. The labor took a toll on my own spirit and body, mostly in the form of a severely crippled spine [I admit to an heredity disposition] that was ill equipped for the deadweight -- and amateurish/untrained -- maneuvering of my Masako in her final months from bed to bathroom to living room and then the reverse.

It is important to consider financial impacts that pertain to caregiving. In my case, I retired from my federal civil-service position as soon as I was eligible at age 55, with the concomitant income loss of about 50 percent. I almost surely would have persevered to age 65 or 70 but for my wife's condition and need for care. The simple arithmetic I can arrive at is that, say, 10 additional years of employment would have meant some \$35,000 extra per annum as an income stream = \$350,000; plus the federal and state taxes that would have bolstered government tax revenues (I of course have paid no state taxes since 1999); plus additional buying power to increase local businesses' retail sales; plus the considerable uptick in my monthly retirement income for the remainder of my life. It is an absolute fact that my caregiving for Masako hurt our "bottom line" severely and irrevocably. (Also, Masako was a full-time homemaker who never became eligible for a Social Security pension; I have only my civil-service-retirement-system annuity, so mine is a "one check" retirement household.)

I can only imagine the relief, and gratitude, I would have felt had a resource like the Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers program been available back in my caregiving days. You, legislators, now have the chance to make the resource a reality to those who have succeeded me...and who knows when I will assume the role of caregivee instead of caregiver? The respite-relief aspects of the program, within the parameters to be applied to it, are growing in tandem with our aging population and constitute, I am convinced, a pro per allocation of public funds to assist such a wide spectrum of our community. And so I ask, I plead: Please give HB 607 a resounding "Yes" vote!

With sincere thanks and hope, Robert H. Stiver, 98-434 Hoomailani Street, Pearl City 96782 (tel. 455-9823)

To: Senate WAM- House Finance
Testimony of Mililani B. Trask
Bills: Support of SB 534 and HB607
Hearing Date: February 23d, 2017 Room
Time 12:00 noon
Place: Room 211

Aloha Legislators,

February 22d, 2017

I am submitting thus testimony in Strong Support for SB 534 and HB 607
Because our State is facing a crisis in elderly care that the Legislature needs to address. Recent articles in our local press and community have focused on the increasing demand elderly care is placing on local families who are caring for their Kupuna. As the Baby Boomers retire their contributions to our State Pension fund decrease. The statistics are alarming, at the same time there is a huge demand for more funding from the State.

Costs for professional out-of-home care (institutionalized care) are so high that the vast number of families facing this crisis simply cannot meet these costs.

Why do we need this in Hawai'i?

When the caregiver is working full-time, adding care duties to the obligations of a job outside the house brings additional personal strain for the caregiver. Care duties can have an effect on job performance, too: arriving late after helping an elder get settled or off to daycare, reducing hours at work to help take care of a kupuna, or turning down a promotion because of caregiving duties at home.

Ninety percent of people over age 65 would prefer to remain in their homes as long as possible, and studies show that health outcomes are significantly improved when people recuperate at home versus in a hospital or long-term external care facility. Supporting home caregiving means Hawai'i can honor the wishes of our seniors, improve their health outcomes, and reduce the cost of long-term care for both family caregivers and the state.

Please Support These Bills,

Sincerely,

Mililani B. Trask, Resident Hilo, Hawaii

FINTestimony

From: Janet Pappas <jpappas60@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:03 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Support for HB607

Dear Senators,

I am in strong support of HB607, the Kupuna Care bill. As a 5-year caregiver for my now 98-year-old mother-in-law (Florence), I realize how difficult it can be to care for an elderly loved one at home. Although Florence is healthy now, she (and we) have been through three separate injuries (shoulder, back and hip), each requiring a different caregiving protocol. While my husband and I were working, our sons took their turns caregiving with us during the week. We have also used a combination of in-home caregivers, adult day care and, for a time, a nursing home. Home care takes planning and money as well as the right attitude and healthy, competent, caring caregivers.

Most elderly people would choose to live at home if possible. And many would-be caregivers would like to oblige their relatives; yet the many barriers (financial, logistical, medical, etc.--every situation is unique) prevent them from even trying.

The kupuna care bill could be just what the doctor ordered: cash to spend on respite care, adult day care, transportation or other services that would otherwise make home care out of reach for many of Hawaii's working families. With a daily stipend, caregivers can consider home care rather than quitting their job or stressing over daily finances. [I would also like to put in a plug for state-supported education and training programs that focus on keeping caregivers healthy and able to manage stress.]

With our aging population growing rapidly over the next few decades, we cannot afford to wait any longer to address this critical issue.

Please support HB607 and show some love to Hawaii's kupuna and those who care for them.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

98-1287 Akaaka St.

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 12:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania St.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Troy J. Siruno and I am writing to support HB 607 HD1, creating the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Last year, my mother was diagnosed with lung cancer. I remember the confusion, sadness, and many questions our family felt during those first few moments. Then came the multiple doctor appointments in preparation for a lobe removal surgery, tests, the surgery itself, recovery in and out of the hospital, and multiple follow-up appointments. I live in Honolulu and my sister lives in Kapolei, and for many of these appointments, one of us would take time off from work to pick up my mom, a proud Army veteran, from her home in Waipahu and drive her to Tripler Medical Center. Fortunately, my mom was able to access and receive the treatment needed to save her life. And both my sister and I are lucky that our employers allowed us the time off, which often added up to 4 hours or longer, to be able to provide care for my mom. But I know many others are not so lucky, and I can only imagine how families cope with caregiving that spans years.

I support HB 607 because it would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers, like myself, who take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers.

I urge you to please pass HB 607 HD1 today. Our working caregivers are counting on your leadership. Mahalo for your time in considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Troy J. Siruno
1634 Nuuanu Ave. Apt. 112
Honolulu, HI 96817

FINTestimony

From: John Webster <jwebster@chaminade.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:01 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB607

Dear Chair
Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Memers of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for bringing Kupuna Caregivers Assistance (HB607), to this point in its passage through the legislature.

Seniors and their families must have some relief from the escalating cost of care. The need for a speedy solution for those needing help with the activities of daily living is essential.

This bill is a good step in acknowledging the plight of unpaid family caregivers.

We respectfully ask you to make this a priority in your allocation of funds.

Sincerely,

John Webster, PhD

*John Webster, PhD
University Professor
Director, Hogan Program
Chaminade University*

FINTestimony

From: Doreen Lum <bdlumz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:19 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony+for+HB+607+hearing+on+February+23+at+12:00pm+in+Room+211

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Doreen Hosaka-Lum, and I am writing to express my support for HB 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This is a challenge that I am personally facing at this very moment. As a full-time social worker for the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, together with my husband who also works full-time for United Airlines, we are struggling to juggle our work schedules and hire caregivers for my 91 year old, blind mother. She is unable to safely care for her own needs and requires 24 hour care. I have had to take a lot of time off from work to help care for my mother's daily needs on top of taking her to medical appointments. At this time I am still waiting on the approval of my application for family leave under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) from my employer and have had to take vacation leave to provide her care. This has not only put a strain on my family, marriage and finances, but on our individual physical, social and emotional well-being as well. We truly want to provide the best care for my mother in her own home on her own terms for as long as we possibly can; but if we are unable to do this ourselves, we don't even believe we could afford placing her in a care home setting as an option.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers, like ourselves, who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for

support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that we are by far not the only family struggling to care for our loved ones in the comfort of their own home environment, but we all know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Doreen K. Hosaka-Lum, MSW

From: April Ching <hollyc@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Kupuna Bill

**Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance**

Thursday, February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is April Ching, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Sincerely,

April Ching

[2916 Kahawai St., Honolulu, HI 96822](#)

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Boehm and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers like me who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families. I need to work to care for them all financially and maybe retire myself one day,

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Laura Boehm
1801 Keeaumoku St #403 Honolulu, HI

February 21, 2017

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 24, 2017 at 12:00 pm

RE: Legislative Testimony in Support of HB607

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen and the House Committee Members on Finance:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to submit my personal testimony in strong support of HB607, relating to Kupuna Care.

Planning the care for our elders plays an important role in Hawaii's community. As a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, focusing on Social Gerontology, the issue of aging and poverty is an extremely alarming issue not only for our state, but for the rest of our country as well. Hawai'i is in a very unique situation given that we are leading the United States with the highest life expectancy rates. However, we also have to face the reality on how to better address the needs of our kupuna.

By requiring the Executive Office on Aging to establish the kupuna caregivers program and appropriating funds to assist community members who are providing care for elders to stay in the workforce, this would alleviate a great deal of time, stress, and resources from family members and other support networks. This would allow caregivers to manage and live a better quality of life, not only for our elders but also for the entire family. Taking important time off work is a difficult situation for the person working and also creates hindrances at their respective jobs, which eventually affects the employer. More importantly, this program would allow our elders and their family to live a life with dignity and the respect they deserve! As a local woman, this is the way to live PONO.

By passing this bill into law, Hawai'i would lead the way for other states to follow suit in terms of implementing best practices for establishing a Kupuna Caregivers program. Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,



Joy Lacanienta

LATE

TO: House Committee on Finance, Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017, State Capitol Conference Room 308, 12:00 p.m.
RE: HB 607 HD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA

To Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support HB 607 SD1, Relating to Kupuna Care because Hawaii's caregivers need our assistance in order to care for their loved ones at home while being able to keep a job to support themselves. My name is Paul Nishimura and I am a 59 year old resident of Waipahu. This program allows caregivers to hire a trained health professional to assist with day to day care while they are working.

Often times, people who are stretched both physically and financially end up needing care. We need to make sure that caregivers have the resources, if they need them, to make choices that will improve the quality of life for everyone involved. I urge you to appropriate funds to establish this program.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Paul Nishimura
Waipahu

Written Statement of
Zubin Adrian Menon



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 23 2017, 12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to express my strong support for HB 607.

As a young adult watching members of my family care for my grandmother in the final years of her life, I understand the challenges - emotional, financial, and logistical - that come with caring for our kupuna. These challenges are exponentially greater for families who are struggling to make ends meet, while also providing the necessary care for their seniors.

If we truly value our kupuna, and if we believe that they should be cared for with dignity and compassion, we need to budget funds to help over-burdened family caregivers so they can afford a little respite with the help of the \$70 voucher.

Please make HB 607 a priority, and send a clear message that we value our kupuna and the families caring for them.

Aloha,

Zubin Menon
zmenon@gmail.com

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Thursday, February 23, 2017; 12:00 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 607
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** H.B. 607, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to establish the Kupuna Caregivers program to assist community members who are providing care for elders to stay in the workforce and clarifies the kupuna service and support options provided by Area Agencies on Aging within the Kupuna Care program. Also appropriates funds to establish and implement the Kupuna Caregivers program.

H.B. 607 is an attempt to provide respite and financial assistance to family caregivers by establishing a Kupuna Caregivers program that will allow family caregivers and kupuna themselves to access funds to pay for certain services—e.g., transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, chore and homemaking services. The funds, available through an appropriation, may be expended only through a voucher issued directly to a service provider, but not to a family caregiver. Nevertheless, the funding will support family caregivers by providing services to their kupuna and allowing them to continue working at their jobs.

This bill is far different than the bill introduced last year to establish a fund with a half percent surcharge on the general excise tax (GET) that would be used to pay benefits directly to family caregivers. That proposal would have assured greater sustainability of funds, particularly since at least one-third of the GET is paid by visitors who will never claim a benefit from the fund.

We supported last year's bill—and still do. However, we also support H.B. 607 with the hope that it is but a first step toward a program that eventually will provide meaningful help to those struggling with the costs of providing in-home care to loved ones needing long-term services and supports.

Something needs to be done to address the issue of long-term care and its costs. Hawaii's elder population continues to grow faster than younger populations. Many of the elderly are or will be in need of long-term care in one form or another. Most people cannot afford the cost of institutional care but, more importantly, they prefer to remain in their own homes.

Family caregivers caring for elderly relatives to avoid institutionalization do so at great sacrifice to their own financial well-being, now and into the future. They need help so they can continue to earn a living or, if they must stay at home with their loved ones, be provided with financial support.

H.B. 607 offers help to pay for services provided by others. However, as with the bill last year, \$70 a day does not go very far. It may pay for adult day care or a couple of hours for a professional caregiver to come to the home, but most people need a lot more services that will cost a lot more money.

Nevertheless, we are well aware that we must start somewhere to tackle the issues brought on by the “silver tsunami.” H.B. 607 is a reasonable start.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 607 to recognize the huge costs borne by family caregivers—costs that could easily be transferred to taxpayers if family caregivers were not available. Those caregivers who spoke at a recent rally in support of the Kupuna Caregiver bills in the House and Senate (the Star-Advertiser featured them in a front page article) were extremely eloquent as they shared their heart-wrenching stories. Please consider them as you make your decision on H.B. 607.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this important issue.

LATE

FINTestimony

From: David Gierlach <david.gierlach@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 6:28 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: Testimony+for+HB+607+hearing+on+February+23+at+12:00pm+in+Room+308

I enthusiastically support HB 607. It is past time to support our working folk who also care for our elderly. Please pass this legislation.

david+

The Rev David J Gierlach, SCP
Rector
St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
720 North King Street
Honolulu Hi 96817
808-845-2112

LATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 12:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SUPPORT FOR [HB 607](#) Kupuna Care

Dear Committee on Finance, Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Finance members,

My name is Barbara Yee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak as a private citizen who moved back to live with and provide care for my frail 91 year old father. I am also a gerontologist, Professor and Chair of Family and Consumer Sciences. Hawaii is experiencing a caregiving and gerontological crisis. The Gray tsunami is already here. Every citizen of this state has, had, or will have an elderly relative, friend, or neighbor who will need a great deal of help to cope with the physical, emotional or cognitive frailties of aging. Hawaii families highly desire to take care of their frail relatives themselves, but put their families and the State of Hawaii in economic peril. For the large majority of Hawaii's citizens, quitting their job or jobs, will put their families in financial jeopardy. Financial and other caregiver support services will help families. Creative elder care strategies, with the development of a gerontological professional and workforce infrastructure is badly needed in Hawaii. The Center on Aging will provide the infrastructure needed to address this Gray tsunami in education and training of aging workforce, provide research and evaluation strategies for high performing aging services, and provide consultation for the aging networks in Hawaii.

Hawaii needs to IMMEDIATELY prepare 2-4 future generations of gerontological professionals. There is already massive retirements in the aging workforce and Hawaii is NOT prepared. As important, our elderly caregivers are not prepared for the enormous responsibility for our parents, grandparents, and elderly relatives, or neighbors who need our support each and everyday. I strongly urge you to provide family caregiver financial support and caregiver services to address the needs of kupuna and their families.

Respectfully,
Barbara Yee
Honolulu, HI 96816



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 9:05 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: brendonf@hawaii.edu
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 23, 2017 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendon Friedman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm in strong support of this bill --we need to support caregivers!! When we support caregivers our Kupuna are supported as well!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov