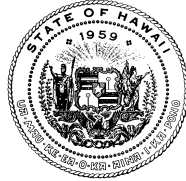


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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 COMMENTING on HB0607 HD1, SD1
Relating to Kupuna Care

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: April 3, 2017,
1:35 p.m.

Room Number: 211

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health is providing comments supporting the intent of this measure, provided that its
- 3 enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's budget request.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates unspecified funds for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
- 5 fiscal year 2018-2019.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** As Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, the need for long
- 7 term services and supports will continue to increase. As stated in Section 1 of the bill, unpaid
- 8 caregiving is on the rise. Caregiving places burdens on families financially, emotionally and
- 9 physically which over time leads to chronic stress.

1 HB 607 HD1, SD1 directs EOA to establish the kupuna caregiver program, clarifies kupuna care
2 services and supports provided by the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), and
3 appropriates funding for establishment and implementation of the program.

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

10 The Executive Office on Aging feels this program will be a huge step in addressing caregiver
11 support. The funding for the kupuna caregiver program is not a part of the Administration's
12 budget request.

13 **Recommendations:** EOA respectfully requests your consideration of the following suggested
14 amendments. This amendment aligns with our federal definition in the Older Americans Act, as
15 amended, and our current HRS 349.

16 1) Page 4, line 1 after "adult day care" delete "adult day health"

17 2) Page 4, line 4 delete "or adult day health typically"

18 3) Page 4, lines 6-7 delete "and services such as rehabilitation, medication assistance, and
19 home health aide services for adult day health."

20 4) Page 5, line 20 add "except or excluding kupuna care services"

21 5) Page 10, line 1 add "qualified" before "caregivers" in the respite care definition

22 6) Page 10, line 6 delete "senior center or other"

- 1 7) Page 10, after line 12 add “service provider” means an entity that has all required licenses
- 2 or certificates, and is registered as a business in the state of Hawaii”
- 3 8) Page 11, lines 6-10 separate “transportation and assisted transportation” and “chore and
- 4 homemaker services”
- 5 9) Page 11, lines 6-10 please put these in alpha order
- 6 10) Page 11, lines 6-10 add “home delivered meals”
- 7 11) Page 13, line 2 change to “person-centered plan”
- 8 12) Page 13, line 16 delete “support” between “person-centered” and “plan”
- 9 13) Page 17, after line 11 add (11) Is placed or resides in a long-term care facility, such as an
- 10 intermediate care facility, assisted living facility, skilled nursing facility, hospital,
- 11 community care foster care home, foster family home, adult residential care home or
- 12 expanded adult residential care home.”
- 13 Thank you for considering our suggested amendments and for the opportunity to provide written
- 14 comments.



The Senate
Committees on Ways and Means
Monday, April 3, 2017
1:35 p.m.
Conference Room 211

RE: **HB 607, HD 1, SD 1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, 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, HD1,SD1 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, HD1, SD1.

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 .

TO : SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Della Cruz, Vice Chair

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

SUBJECT: HB 607 HD1 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

HEARING: 1:35 pm Monday, April 3, 2017
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition **strongly supports HB 607 HD 1 SD 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 SD 1 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 SD1 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.



April 1, 2017

Written Testimony

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

SUPPORT FOR HB 607, HB 1, SD 1, 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, House Bill 1, Senate Bill 1**, 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, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1**, and urges you vote to pass the measure today.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kessler".

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawai'i Public Health Association

From: [Anthony Lenzer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 HD 1 SD 1
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 1:33:14 PM

TO: [Committee on Ways and Means](#)

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

FROM: Anthony Lenzer, PhD

RE: [Support for HB 607 HD 1 SD 1](#)

HEARING: Monday, April 3, 2017, 1:35 p.m.

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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 HD 1 SD 1, 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 include such services as 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 HD 1 SD 1. 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



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Jill N Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Terrence L. Walsh, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017 (1:35 p.m., Room 211)

RE: **Support for HB 607, HD1, SD1, Relating to Kupuna Care**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves over 4,000 elderly individuals each year. We are an experienced provider of Kupuna Care funded Transportation and Homemaker Services on Oahu. We also have over 300 employees, with a number who are providing, or have provided, caregiving for elderly relatives.

As a service provider, we are aware that family caregivers play an absolutely critical role in making it possible for frail elders to remain at home and out of institutional settings. And as an employer, we recognize that caregiving, on top of working full-time and sometimes also providing care for younger family members, places tremendous stress and strain on employees, which impacts their ability to remain physically well and mentally focused at work.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports the Kupuna Caregiver Program, as proposed in HB 607, HD1, SD1.

The following are comments for future consideration:

- 1) The Role of the Spousal or NonWorking Caregiver:** While the impact of caregiving on the workplace is an important consideration, we also wish to acknowledge that many of the elders we provide services for have caregivers who are elderly spouses or adult children who are retired, some of whom have retired for the specific purpose of providing care. Once the new Kupuna Caregiver program has been established, we hope that consideration will be given to allow these caregivers to also find relief through the program in the future.
- 2) Kupuna Care Administrative Rules Needed:** The extensive detail in this bill regarding the Kupuna Care program puts into statute largely what is currently being done with Kupuna Care funds. We hope that administrative rules will follow to provide further clarity and guidance on the implementation of the existing Kupuna Care program.
- 3) Long Term Care Workforce Shortage:** Help is needed to encourage people to enter the long term care workforce and funders must understand that the profile (and wage) of the

direct care worker must be raised. A trained, reliable workforce is critical to ensure that the vulnerable, and growing, population of homebound elders can receive the in-home services they need.

Catholic Charities Hawai`i thanks the Legislature and the community for acknowledging and supporting the invaluable role of caregivers in helping frail elders remain in the community and out of institutional care.

For more information or questions, please contact Diane Terada, Division Administrator, at 527-4702. Thank you.

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



TO: Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017
TIME: 1:35 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 211

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: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair, and the members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

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

Hearing: April 3, 2017, 1:35 pm, CR 211

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.



April 3, 2017 at 1:35 PM
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Chair Jill N. Tokuda
Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 607 HD 1 SD 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 committees for the opportunity to **support** HB 607 HD 1 SD 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. We humbly ask for your support of this measure. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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.

From: [Vicki Franco](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB 607 HD1 SD1 Testimony for April 3, 2017 at 1:35 pm for Senate WAM
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:32:25 PM

The Senate

[COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS](#)

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol

HB 607, HD1, SD1

Testimony for **RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE.**

Aloha,

I am a member of AARP in Hawaii. AARP advocates and provides information on issues that matter to our kupuna and their families, including affordable, accessible, quality health care, financial resiliency, and livable communities. I **strongly support** HB 607, HD1 SD1 which establishes a program that supports working caregivers who struggle to care for their loved ones while holding down their jobs and other personal responsibilities.

This proposed program provides a care benefit of \$70 per day which will allow families to 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.

Victoria Franco

Manoa Resident

From: [Dawn Webster](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: In support of HB607 April 3 WAM hearing Room 211
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:13:51 PM

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz,

I write as an individual who has seen what caregiving means up close. My 92 year old mother passed away less than two years ago after a few years of being cared for at home by my sister, with some assistance from siblings and paid aides.

Demographics tell us Hawaii's elder caregiving needs are growing. Our friends and neighbors tell us they are struggling to cope. Those who have jobs want to do what is best for their loved ones, but need to hang on to their jobs to ensure they have an income stream. many are cutting back on paid work prematurely.

We are grateful the bill has progressed this far. Please keep supporting it and take it to the finish line.

Caregiving is a need that touches us all, if not sooner, then later.

We need to start laying the foundation for a system that helps family caregivers look after their loved ones, and help them age with dignity in their own homes. We cannot warehouse the elderly. We could not afford to even if we tried, and it runs against the grain of our values.

Please pass the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill--HB607.

Gratefully,

DAWN MORAIS WEBSTER Ph.D.
1, Keahole Place, #3501, Honolulu, HI 96825

www.dawnmorais.com

808-383-7581

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

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

Date: April 2, 2017

RE: HB607, HD1, SD1

The purpose of this correspondence is to express my **strong support for HB607, HD1, SD1**, 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, HD1, SD1...we need more resources to serve more people.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB607, HD1, SD1.

Aloha, Bill Beadle

Waikiki

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KŪPUNA CARE

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

My name is Allyson Enos, and I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** and the creation of the Kūpuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kūpuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kūpuna 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 benefit ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund would allow for support at home with activities of daily living (ADLs), 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.

Personal Story: For some people, it is a choice to take care of their aging parents, but for most, especially living in Hawai'i, it is culturally a 'call of duty;' some have patience, compassion, and empathy to be a caregiver and some do not. I am a full-time graduate student (in social work, specializing in gerontology), a full-time state government employee, and a part-time caregiver to my boyfriend's mother (a 97-year old with dementia). Having a full schedule is by choice; but if it were possible to switch places with my partner I would have no hesitation because for the past few years, I have observed what caregiving responsibilities have done to my partner's physical and emotional state. Plus, having to retire to care for his mother, living on a fixed income has also put a financial strain on him. In addition, we both have different views on being a caregiver (trained vs. not trained), which also puts a strain on our relationship. Therefore, I am pleading to you Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee, this care benefit will help immensely on so many levels, not only for our family, but also for so many others in Hawai'i.

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,

Allyson Enos

52 Gartley Place

Honolulu, HI 96817

Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Chair Senator Jill Tokuda

Date: April 3, 2017

Time: 1:35 p.m.

Room 211

RE: HB 607, HD1, SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Tokuda and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 607, HD1, SD1 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 care givers must continue to work outside the home to make ends meet. Assistance from this program begins to address this financial reality!

HB 607, HD1, SD1 would fund the development of a program to provide the working caregiver and their families with needed assistance.

Thank you,

Geoffrey Casburn
District of Hilo

re: HB607, HD1, SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz 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, 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 at avoid costly nursing home care.

Please pass HB607, HD1, SD1 to fund the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

Catherine Tagalicud Taylan
5454 Olopuia St.
Kapa'a, HI, 96746
ctaylan@hawaii.edu

April 2, 2017

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Legislature
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI, 96813
WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha,

My name is Catherine Tagalicud Taylan, and I support Kūpuna Caregivers Program HB 607 and SB 534. I am a constituent of District 8, Island of Kaua'i, currently attending the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I can confidently say, Hawai'i families need this bill. In my humble opinion, everyone has or will have a caregiving story. Either it is for our parents or grandparents, but the fact is by 2020 an estimated 300,000 people will be 65 or older in the State of Hawai'i¹. In 2016, the cost of home health care in Hawai'i was almost \$10,000 higher than the national average².

As a 22-year-old full time student traveling between O'ahu and Kaua'i, my parents are not getting younger and I see that in each visit. My mother who just turned 50 recently became my grandmother at 71 and grandfather at 82's caregiver. It has been about a year now of her balancing two jobs, while affording my college costs, and caregiving for my grandparents. In each visit, I saw my mother frequently neglecting her own health to try to accomplish all of these initiatives. This is a direct way for Hawai'i legislators to help my family and families all throughout the State of Hawai'i to have an effective plan for care.

This is a chance for Hawai'i to help our kūpuna age in dignity and uphold our states values and culture. It is a blessing, not a burden. People are living longer and our policies need to reflect what our Hawai'i families need. This is your chance to help Hawai'i families and caregivers by trailblazing a path in effective policy making that our nation will soon need. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Mahalo,



Catherine Tagalicud Taylan
Bachelors of Arts, Philippine Language and Literature (Ilokano)
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, '18

Sources:

1. Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Population and Economic Projections for the State of Hawaii to 2040
2. Genworth, 2016 Cost of Care Survey, conducted by CareScout, April 2016

Dear WAM and Legislators,

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
Aiea, Hawaii

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Meizhu Lui, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. I have been on the volunteer Advisory Committee to the Executive on Aging in Hawaii County for the last several years, and have heard a lot about the hardships for families who take care of their aging family members.

This legislation would create a much needed long-term kupuna caregivers program. This bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. For so many people in Hawaii with its strong family values, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to go to work every day to be able to provide for our families, and also often with our responsibility to care of our children.

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!

Please help us provide the care our families need.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Meizhu Lui
P.O. Box 175, 35-354 Pahale Road
Papaaloa, HI 96780

meizhului@gmail.com

808 345-9024

HB 607 - Relating to Kūpuna Care
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, April 3, 2017
Time: 1:35 PM
State Capitol - Conference Room 211

Testimony in Support of HB 607 - Relating to Kūpuna Care

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

My name is Jacqueline Lee. I am a second year graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I support HB 607 and the development of the Kūpuna Caregivers program. This Bill would offer a care benefit up to \$70 per day, which would provide additional assistance to the working caregiver.

The desire to care for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce. I have witnessed my maternal and paternal grandfathers' battles with cancer. Due to their prognoses, both of my grandfathers needed full-time caregivers. My parents and their siblings experienced emotional and physical hardships caring for their fathers. Their caregiver responsibilities included, assisting with personal hygiene and feeding, medication management and transportation to medical appointments. Although my parents and their siblings had the luxury of sharing many of these duties, many families do not have this privilege. Nevertheless, many caregivers are unable to continue working full-time jobs in order to care for their loved ones. Thus, they are unable to financially support their own families.

Caregivers play an important but often stressful and high-burden role in supporting the health of their loved ones. Providing social support and services for family caregivers is essential to prevent caregiver stress and burnout; by failing to meet the needs of kūpuna caregivers, the recipient of care is also at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Lee
P.O. Box 4956
Kaneohe, HI 96744

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair – Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair - Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017
TIME: 1:35 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 211

Re: HB 607 HD1 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Position: Support

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Dela Cruz, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support HB 607 HD1 SD1 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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 5:01 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: kaulanad@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Apr 3, 2017 13:35PM*

HB607

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 3, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 4:30 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Apr 3, 2017 13:35PM*

HB607

Submitted on: 3/31/2017

Testimony for WAM on Apr 3, 2017 13:35PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	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.

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

From: [Lori Noborikawa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: HB 607
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 12:19:18 PM

I support Testimony HB 607 for the hearing on April 3, 2017 at 1:35 pm, Rm 211.

Lori Noborikawa

Sent from my iPhone

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KŪPUNA CARE

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

My name is Allyson Enos, and I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** and the creation of the Kūpuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kūpuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kūpuna 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 benefit ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund would allow for support at home with activities of daily living (ADLs), 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.

Personal Story: For some people, it is a choice to take care of their aging parents, but for most, especially living in Hawai'i, it is culturally a 'call of duty;' some have patience, compassion, and empathy to be a caregiver and some do not. I am a full-time graduate student (in social work, specializing in gerontology), a full-time state government employee, and a part-time caregiver to my boyfriend's mother (a 97-year old with dementia). Having a full schedule is by choice; but if it were possible to switch places with my partner I would have no hesitation because for the past few years, I have observed what caregiving responsibilities have done to my partner's physical and emotional state. Plus, having to retire to care for his mother, living on a fixed income has also put a financial strain on him. In addition, we both have different views on being a caregiver (trained vs. not trained), which also puts a strain on our relationship. Therefore, I am pleading to you Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee, this care benefit will help immensely on so many levels, not only for our family, but also for so many others in Hawai'i.

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,

Allyson Enos

52 Gartley Place

Honolulu, HI 96817

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT: HB 607

April 3, 2017

Room 211, 1:35 PM

Dear Honorable Members of The Committee,

My name is Orlando Campbell. I am a student majoring in American Studies at the University of Hawai'i Manoa and the loving grandson of a beautiful 90-year-old woman. I am writing to voice my support for HB 607, and urge the distinguished committee members to help this critical measure move forward.

I am originally from San Francisco but some of my most profound and important memories are from the months out of the year my single mother would send me to stay with my grandparents here in Honolulu. It was difficult raising a son on her own, and my grandparents always welcomed me with open arms giving her the opportunity to focus on making a better life for the both of us. My grandparents cared for me as if I was their own child, their love and this land taught me from a young age the importance of Aloha. I have grown into a man determined to express love, peace, and compassion at any given opportunity, and that is why I strongly believe in the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

My grandfather passed away over 20 years ago, and my grandmother has been on her own ever since. She has suffered three scary heart attacks, as well as a tough fall in her driveway that broke her hip and confined a once active woman who enjoyed nothing more than gardening to a walker. Dementia has sadly crept up in recent years as well, and she is unable to care for herself. It is no easy task hiring dedicated caregivers that can assist my family in caring for her throughout the day. She can't bathe on her own, needs meals prepared, and loving company to sit with her on her lanai while she spends her final years at home, the one place she won't hesitate to inform you she loves most in all the world.

Caregiving is more than just a job. The women and men in this profession are ensuring that our elderly family members are spending their final moments on this earth stress free, happy, and loved. I can't think of anything more valuable for the people who have spent their entire lives providing this same service for us. Our caregivers deserve our support in anyway possible. Ninety percent of people over the age of 65 would like to stay in their home as long as they can and studies have shown the ability to do so benefits their health. With our busy schedules and the chaos of everyday life, any chance of giving them the life they deserve falls upon our ability to provide them with outside care. This is no easy task emotionally, or financially. Establishing a program that provides increased support to caregivers and families in need is a win-win.

I highly encourage you to support HB 607 and help give grandmothers similar to my own the same love and care my Tutu gave me.

Respectfully,
Orlando Campbell

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Hannah Anae, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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,

Hannah Anae
53549 Kamehameha Hwy, Apt 305
Hauula, Hawaii 96717

From: mkuulei@aol.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Kapuina Health Care Program
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 8:51:26 AM

I am writing to give my support of HB607 for April 3, at 1:35pm in Rm 211.

I think there is a great need to support our Kapunas so they can have the kind of care they deserve.
Mahalo!

A. John Monge

From: [Amelia Jodar](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 607: Kupuna Care for the Hearing on April 3, 2017
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 8:48:37 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Ways and Means Committees,

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 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,

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

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Beverly E. Kaneshiro, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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.

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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,

Beverly E. Kaneshiro

*47-460 Aia'i Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744*

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Allan H. Kaneshiro, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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,
Allan H. Kaneshiro
47-460 Aiai Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Deanna Espinas, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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.

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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,

Deanna Espinas
2103 Palolo Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Roseanne Sakamoto, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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,

Roseanne Sakamoto

From: [Melia Abreu](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: In Favor for Care for Kupuna Bill
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 7:25:56 PM

Aloha,

Please support the Care for Kupuna bill. Having cared for my dad when I can on the weekends and during my vacations, this bill is near to my heart. Please pass and approve it.

Mahalo,
Melia

Sent from Melia's iPhone

From: [RUSSELL NITTA](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR KUPUNA CARE BILLS SB534 and HB607
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 3:21:42 PM

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Russell Nitta. I would like to ask you to support the Kupuna care bills. I am the only child and full time care-giver to my elderly mother, who has dementia, diabetes, Parkinson's disease, pulmonary fibrosis, for the past 5 years. She needs daily supervision and care.

I also served as a care-giver to my father, who passed away on February 5th of this year (at 96 years old). His passing has decreased our monthly income. The proposed subsidiary would help tremendously; if things would continue as they are now, I would have to eventually re-enter the workforce and pay for someone to care for my mother.

Thus I ask you for your support of these bills.

Thank you very much for hearing me out.

Sincerely,

Russell Nitta
1136 Inia Place
Pearl City, HI 96782-2623

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Allison Mikuni, and I am writing to express my support for HB 607, HD1, SD1 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 is needed because the percentage of Hawaii's population aged 65 and over has increased dramatically and will continue to do so for years to come. Passing this measure is an important step in preventing poverty and homelessness among seniors. Their adult children are often their caregivers and also the main breadwinners for the extended family. Adult children caregivers are at high risk for having to skip work, thus putting them at further risk for demotion and early termination, which would make it impossible for them to keep up with making monthly payments for home mortgages, construction loans, utilities, and maintenance. Passing this legislation would provide support specifically for these working caregivers. As so many of us know, the need 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.

This legislation is a critical keystone in the support structure for Hawaii's senior population. As legislators, you have the power to ensure our state has a strong foundation of support in place to address our aging population crisis.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Allison Mikuni
P.O. Box 11496
Honolulu, Hawaii 96828

From: [Dave Kisor](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 12:52:15 PM

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

My name is Dave Kisor, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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 was not a rural prerson before moving to the Puna Makai District, but I have older friends (I'm a 65 year old disabled Veteran) who need help, such as getting their trash to the dump, water, as the majority of us are not on County water and need to get it at a spigot, propane and invariably a ride into town to the clinic or (shudder) to Hilo. Sometimes just being there for someone in distress can drain you to the point of exhaustion. Although I am still self supporting, there are many who cannot shoulder this load who could really use the help.

During Iselle when PGV vented, I was one pf those adversely affected, but at least I found out what happened to me. I discovered from a friend who is now on O'ahu that he was knocked down and rendered unconscious by the H2S in the steam cloud and he found out found out 2 years ipso facto. Before Iselle I had lots of energy, but ever since then I have had to battle lethargy and I imagine quite a few have the same experience without knowing why.

Mahalo nui loa,
Dave Kisor
Puna Makai Resident, Veteran USN / USNR; Geographer; retired USFS Physical Science Technician

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

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!

From: [Sally Nhomi](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR KUPUNA CARE BILLS SB534 and HB607
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 12:37:23 PM

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Please support the Kupuna Care Bills.

Every family I know has had kupuna to take care of, which can be demanding emotionally, physically, financially and professionally.

My mom had to retire early from her job to care of my dad when he needed 24/7 care due to COPD. Our family was very fortunate to have respite care costs covered through his military medical benefits but there is no way we could have afforded that on our own. Regular, specialized in-home care by trained professionals greatly enhanced my dad's emotional and physical quality of life in his final months. Without such respite help, I'm certain that my mother would have become unwell, and I would have been the next in line to quit my job to take care of family.

As mentioned, our family has been very fortunate and grateful. We know, because one of my cousins is the only child who gave up his career in his 30s to take care of his parents who have had long-term ailments. I have many other friends who have sacrificed their careers to take care of their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles - including hanai ones.

They and others quietly, invisibly save the state millions in the costs of public services that would be required to care for less fortunate kupuna with no family care-givers. \$75 as a small daily subsidy to such families would help not just kupuna & their families with a bit more fairness, it would also save the state money from caring for kupuna via much costlier public services, allow more people to stay in the workforce to contribute more to state tax revenues, too.

Mahalo for your support of the Kupuna Care Bills.

Aloha,

Sally Nhomi
2640 Kamaikai St
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

From: [El-Rae C](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Pls support HB 607
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 11:16:15 AM

Dear committee,

Please support HB 607, the kupuna caregiver program. As our parents and grandparents are living longer, the descendants and relatives that help them should be given support so they can continue to pay bills and/or work. We all know its already so expensive to live in Hawaii. Please support this bill and help out the local families who have multiple generations to care for.

Mahalo
Ellen-Rae Cachola, Ph.D.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bernard Berger](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Kapuna Bill
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 10:28:15 AM

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA
CARE**

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,
My name is Bernard Berger , and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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,

Bernard Berger

73 4574 Mamalahoa Hyw. Kailua Kona, HI 96740

--

Bernard C. Berger
73-4574 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: [Darlene R](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB607, HD1, SD1
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 10:14:17 AM

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Date: April 3, 2017, Monday
Time: 1:35 pm
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB607, HD1, SD1

My name is Darlene Rodrigues, and I write in strong support of HB607, HD1, SD1 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program. 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. 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 become a financial and

emotional burden that can feel insurmountable. Passing this bill and creating the Kupuna Caregiver Program would show that we honor and value what caregivers do and that Hawai'i honors cherishing our kupuna.
Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Darlene Rodrigues

From: [balihai7](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 534/HB 607
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 9:47:04 AM

Dear Law Makers and Representatives of the People of Hawaii,
Please support the subject Bills. Our Kupunas cared for us. Now it
time for us to care for them.

Mahalo,
Lilinoe Smith
Kalaheo, Kauai 96741
(808) 635-0130

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

From: [Patricia Blair](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support HB607. Please pass for our Kapuna.
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 7:33:33 AM

Patricia Blair, Kailua, 888-6393

Sent from my iPad

From: [Francesca Azuremare](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 534/House Bill 607. Care for our Kupuna
Date: Saturday, April 1, 2017 7:29:54 AM

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing in support of the above bill to provide a fund to help care for our Kupuna.

It is the tradition of Hawaii that Kupuna area respected and cared for and given the honor they deserve. That means the best possible care provided at home. In today's world, many people need help in order to do that.

Please vote to bring this bill into law.

Mahalo

Francesca Azuremare Woolger
Anahola
HI 96703

808 212 8388

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"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer"
Maya Angelou

From: [Joseph Kohn](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support HB 607, for the hearing on April 3, 2017, at 1:35 PM, Room 211
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 2:17:16 PM

Support HB 607 the Kupuna Caregivers bill, for the hearing on April 3, 2017, at 1:35 PM, Room 211.

Thank you for your very kind attention.

Joseph Kohn MD
Founder, We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO
1268 W Hiahia Pl
Wailuku, HI 96793-9762

808-359-6605 (credo mobile)
Joseph@WeAreOne.cc
www.WeAreOne.cc

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD. I am the director of the Center on Aging at University of Hawai'i, however, I am writing as an individual to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Family caregivers provide between 70-90% of long-term care for older adults (IOM, 2008) and thus represent the foundation of the U.S. system of eldercare. In 2016, the cost of home health care in Hawai'i was almost \$10,000 higher than the national average, placing a significant burden on working family caregivers of older adults in our state. This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide much needed respite and support for working family caregivers. By providing a care benefit of up to \$70 per day, this bill enables working families to access home- and community-based care that would allow their elderly relatives to "age in place" and avoid relocation to more costly long-term care facilities.

Kupuna Caregivers is a form of service intended to help caregivers stay in the labor force while also ensuring that families receive the care they need. In the long run, the bill represents an important cost-saving measure and would contribute in a significant way to the quality of life of our older adults and the family members who provide their care.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD
Honolulu, HI 96814

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
House Committee on
Human Services

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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 Trisha Okimoto and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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. Working with our kupuna, one of the things I hear time and time again is the wish to age at home. To honor their wishes, I have seen many family members quit their jobs to care for their loved ones. This often poses additional financial problems as families lose an income and provides additional barriers when they are once again able to rejoin the workforce. This bill is unlike many other programs as it would be instrumental in helping to provide respite for working caregivers who have exhausted all other sources of support.

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 may not seem a lot to some, but to caregivers, any additional support to alleviate some of their stressors is much appreciated. Caregiving is a 24/7 job and it is really easy to get burnt out. A few hours a day of outside support can make a world of a difference.

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. We are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Trisha Okimoto

Monday, April 3rd, 2017
1:35 PM
Room 211

Strong Support for HB 607- Kupuna Caregivers Assistance

Aloha Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Patrick Drake and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a volunteer with the Care For Our Kupuna project. I am providing my testimony in support of HB 607, the Kupuna Caregivers bill.

I am not local to Hawaii, but I know the burden of elder care as it relates to my family and I know that elder care is an issue that affects many across the country. In Florida, where I come from, there exists little support for families that face the burden of providing care for an aging loved one. I saw firsthand the struggle that caring for my grandmother put upon my father; she required near 24/7 care and it was difficult and often impossible to find family members willing to spend a day or a night with her, let alone an affordable at-home assistant. Caring for our elderly--our grandparents, our parents, our friends and loved ones--is a difficult undertaking that many do not truly understand until they are faced with such an issue. We all want what is best, but without outside support it is difficult to provide an adequate level of care that many of us want for our elderly. I believe that the provisions provided by the Kupuna Caregivers bill will allow those facing the burden of sourcing that care some much needed support. I feel that if Florida had had such a program that provided \$70 a day towards families struggling with support and caring for their elders, my family might have been able to give my grandmother a better of care, a better quality of life.

I reiterate my support for HB 607, the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill, and urge you to support its passage that we might finally, as a community, support our aging population and provide some measure of reprieve to those unsure of their ability to adequately care for their loved ones.

Sincerely,
- Patrick Drake

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

We are writing to express our support for **HB 607, HD1, SD1** 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!

We 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 our testimony.

Sincerely,

Robert and Karen Muronaka
46-271 Hoana St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: JKLarson1@aol.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 3:03:50 PM

Please consider my testimony in support of HB607,HD1,SD1 relating to kupuna care. The passing of this bill is very important as we face an expanding elderly population and shortage of personal financial resources. Jane Larson, 1322 Onioni St,, Kailua, HI 96734

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

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2017

TIME: 1:35 PM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Ceria-Ulep and I am the Co-Chair of the FACE Long-Term Care Taskforce. I am writing to express my support for HB 607, HD1, SD1 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 the long-term Kupuna Caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who are also taking 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. This is important as many caregivers are in the sandwich generation, caring for our aging parents and grandparents while also struggle to continue to work 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 know relatives and friends who have struggled caring for their parents, their own family while at the same time working. 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. FACE has been working on this issue for 21 years! 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