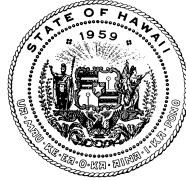


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0607
Relating to Kupuna Care

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TODD, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 15, 2017
9:00 a.m.

Room Number: 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health supports this measure, provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities
- 3 within the Administration's budget request.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates funds in the amount of \$600,000 for fiscal year
- 5 2017-2018 and \$6,000,000 for 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 the preamble to 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 HB0607 authorizes 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 in place that the Executive Office on Aging has with
5 the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The bill provides funding to support
6 caregivers and will allow them to remain in the workforce. It would provide up to \$70 per day to
7 cover costs for transportation, personal care, respite care, adult day care, and chore or
8 homemaker services. Eligibility is modeled after the Kupuna Care program with an additional
9 employment requirement.

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

14 **Recommendations:** EOA respectfully requests your consideration of the following suggested
15 amendments to incorporate into the bill. These edits and comments align with our federal
16 definitions in the Older Americans Act, as amended, and components of the current HRS 349.

- 17 1. Page 3, line 21 delete the word services after personal care.
- 18 2. Page 4, line 3, item #5 should read, "Chore and homemaker;"
- 19 3. Page 5, line 1 insert a new #3 to read (3) Is not covered by any comparable
20 government or private home and community based care services.
- 21 4. Page 5, line 1 re-number (3) to be (4) and line 7, re-number (4) to be (5).
- 22 5. Page 5, line 17 should read "Chore" not "Chores"

- 1 6. Page 5, line 18 should read “Homemaker” not “homemaking”
- 2 7. Page 6, line 6 should read “Respite care” shall be defined pursuant to the Older
3 Americans Act, as amended, as services which offer temporary, substitute supports or
4 living arrangements for care recipients in order to provide a brief period of relief or
5 rest for caregivers. Respite Care includes: (1) In-home respite (personal care,
6 homemaker, and other in-home respite); (2) respite provided by attendance of the care
7 recipient at a senior center or other nonresidential program; (3) institutional respite
8 provided by placing the care recipient in an institutional setting such as a nursing
9 home for a short period of time as a respite service to the caregiver; and (for
10 grandparents caring for children) summer camps.”
- 11 8. Page 6, line 13 should read “long-term services and supports”
- 12 9. Page 7, line 2 and 3 replace “supports and services” with “services and supports”
- 13 10. Page 7, line 3 insert after “through” with “one of two delivery options through”
- 14 11. Page 7, line 5 insert between “Traditional service delivery” and “shall”, “shall be a
15 service provider organization or person who provides services to clients under a
16 formal contractual arrangement with the Executive Office on Aging or Area Agency
17 on Aging who”
- 18 12. Page 7, line 8 to 9 please delete “the executive office on aging’s process for” and
19 insert “the”
- 20 13. Page 7, line 11 delete the word “specific” and insert “assessed”
- 21 14. Page 7 lines 12 - 13 delete “executive office on aging’s process for

- 1 15. Page 7 line 13 after person-centered planning insert “process and documented in the
2 support plan.”
- 3 16. Page 8, line 2 insert “support” between “person-centered” and “plan.”
- 4 17. Page 8, line 17 insert a new #3 to read “(3) Not covered by any comparable
5 government or private home and community based care services.”
- 6 18. Page 8, line 17 re-number (3) to be (4).
- 7 19. Page 8, line 18 between “assisted living facility” and “skilled nursing facility” insert
8 “including all the care programs of assisted living.”
- 9 20. Page 9, line 1 re-number (4) to be (5).
- 10 21. Page 10, line 1 to 3, item (2) should read “if warranted, an assessment of the eligible
11 individual utilizing a statewide uniform comprehensive in-home assessment.
12 Upon completion of the in home assessment, the individual develops a written
13 individualized person-centered support plan, with participation from family, friends,
14 and others, if the individual desires that additional assistance. The support plan
15 identifies all the services and supports needed or currently used to meet the
16 individual’s needs, both formal and informal, including those provided by other
17 programs such as Medicaid, or private paid. The plan shall be reviewed with the
18 individual to confirm it is the plan the individual desires.
- 19 (f) The AAA shall use the assessment data and individual’s support plan to confirm
20 Kupuna Care eligibility, then authorize and coordinate services and supports. The
21 AAA shall directly authorize and allot Kupuna Care services, and shall not delegate
22 the service authorization function to its subcontractors.

- 1 (g) An individual if determined to be ineligible for Kupuna Care services when:
- 2 (1) An individual does not meet the eligibility requirements specified;
- 3 (2) An individual need is not substantiated through an in home assessment;
- 4 (3) An individual leaves the state or the person's whereabouts are unknown;
- 5 (4) An individual refuses services.
- 6 (h) The AAA shall provide an individual with written notice of the disposition of the
- 7 request for Kupuna Care services.
- 8 (i) An individual who have been determined ineligible for Kupuna Care Services has
- 9 the opportunity to grieve the disposition of the service.
- 10 (1) If an individual is not satisfied with the authorizing AAA's decision, the
- 11 person has the right to appeal to the EOA Director within 90 days after the notice
- 12 date of the AAA's written decision.
- 13 (2) EOA Director's decision will be issued in writing and is final."
- 14 22. Page 10, line 8, item (f) should be changed to (j).
- 15 23. Page 11, line 6, item (g) should be changed to (k).
- 16 24. Page 11, line 9, item (h) should be changed to (l).
- 17 25. Page 11, lines 14 and 15 delete "or moving about by other means within the home"
- 18 26. Page 11, line 17 replace "for an individual" with "for dependent elders"
- 19 27. Page 11, line 18 following the end of the sentence, insert "Services offered in
- 20 conjunction with Adult Day Care/Adult Day Health typically include social and
- 21 recreational activities, training, counseling and services such as rehabilitation,
- 22 medication assistance and home health aide services for adult day health."

- 1 28. Page 12, line 7 to 9 should be replaced with: “Assisted transportation means
2 assistance and transportation, including escort, to a person who has difficulties
3 (cognitive or physical) using regular vehicular transportation.”
- 4 29. Page 13, line 10 – 11 should be replaced with: “Chore” means assistance such as
5 heavy housework, yard work, or sidewalk maintenance for a person.”
- 6 30. Page 14, lines 3 to 5 should read: “Homemaker” means assistance with preparing
7 meals, shopping for personal items, managing money, using the telephone, or doing
8 light housework.”
- 9 31. Page 14, line 16, item (4) replace “chores” with “chore”
- 10 32. Page 14, line 17, item (5) replace “homemaking” with “homemaker”
- 11 33. Page 14, line 18, item (6) replace “Nutrition and meal delivery” with “home delivered
12 meals”
- 13 34. Page 15, line 1 – 3 should be replaced with: “Home delivered meals” means a meal
14 provided to a qualified individual in his/her place of residence. The meal is served in
15 a program administered by state unit on aging and/or an area agency on aging and
16 meets all of the requirements of the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended, and all
17 state and local laws.”
- 18 35. Page 15, line 14-15 after “personal assistance” delete “including hands on the body
19 support”
- 20 36. Page 15, line 16 delete “to assist a participant with activities of daily living.”
- 21 37. Page 15, delte lines 17 – 19.
- 22 38. Page 16, line 1, item (i) should be changed to (m)

- 1 Thank you for considering our suggested amendments and for the opportunity to testify.

February 15, 2017 / 9:00a.m.
Conference Room 329

House Committee On Human Services

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair (HUS)
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair (HUS)

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President – Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: HB607 – Testimony in Support

My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President, Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-governmental employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

I am writing in support of HB607 which requires the Executive Office on Aging to establish the Kupuna caregivers program to assist community members providing care for elders to stay in the workforce. This bill clarifies the Kupuna service and support options provided by area agencies, and appropriates funds for establishing and implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Family caregivers play a major role in the State's health care system by providing long-term care to the elderly. According to the AARP, there are 154,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawai'i. Numerous studies show that caregivers report higher levels of psychological distress and that caring for elderly family members over extended periods of time without compensation can lead to chronic stress. Family caregivers play a critical role in health care delivery and it is of equal importance that they take care of themselves and have necessary supports and services to maintain their independence.

Hawai'i Pacific Health supports HB 607. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 15, 2017 at 9:00 AM
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Human Services

To: Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice Chair Chris Todd

From: Paige Heckathorn
Senior Manager, Legislative Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

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

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

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

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

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair, Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

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

Hearing: February 15, 2017, 9:00 am, CR 329

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.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care
House Committee on Human Services
Scheduled for hearing Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **HB 607**, which 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 kūpuna at home.

By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i. Because the demographic makeup of our state is changing, we need to change the way we provide care for our kūpuna.

Ninety percent of people over age 65 would prefer to remain stay in their homes as long as possible. Our extended 'ohana are often loving caregivers, but providing that care can often create financial and emotional stress. According to a MetLife survey, the cost of home health aide and homemaker services are significantly higher in Hawai'i than the national average.

When the caregiver is working full-time, adding care duties adds significant personal strain for the caregiver. As a result, many caregivers make the difficult decision to leave their job or reduce their work hours to care for an aging family member. HB 607 would create a fund to help caregivers provide care for our kūpuna. By ensuring that working caregivers have basic support and assistance to care for their aging loved one, it would enable more of our seniors to age at home.

This program isn't meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home or an assisted living home. Instead, it could help pay for a home care aide for a couple of hours, transportation to adult day care or adult day health, or chore and homemaking services. This program will help make long-term care for our kūpuna more affordable and provide the helping hand caregivers so desperately need.

Supporting home caregiving means Hawai'i can honor the wishes of our seniors, improve their health outcomes, and reduce the cost of long-term care for both family caregivers and the state.

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice Hawai'i Appleseed is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

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

SUBJECT: HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care

HEARING: 9:00 am Wednesday , February 15, 2017
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition **strongly supports HB 607** 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 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 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.

todd2 - Chloe

From: Anthony Lenzer <tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:28 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Testimony on support of HB 607

Note: Bill Numbers Corrected

To: Committee on Human Services
From: Anthony Lenzer, PhD
Re: Support for HB 607
Hearing: Wednesday, 2/15/17 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

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

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

This program is vitally important for three reasons:

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

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

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

In summary, the Kupuna Caregivers bill is needed because: Hawaii's growing older population, and the increasing number of oldest old persons require a variety of services to remain at home, and these are primarily provided by unpaid family caregivers; family caregivers are typically employed and have other responsibilities in addition to elder care; and there are few sources of financial support for the services which will help caregivers continue to assist their loved ones, while meeting other responsibilities.

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

Notes:

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

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

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

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

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



House of Representatives
Committee on Human Services
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
RE: **HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

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

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

AARP Hawaii **strongly supports** HB 607.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for HB 607.

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 4:08 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: lindad@akaku.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LINDA DORSET	AARP	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

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Human Services
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Wednesday, February 15, 2017; 9:00 a.m.

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

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

H.B. 607 is an attempt to provide respite and financial assistance to family caregivers by establishing a Kupuna Caregivers program that will allow family caregivers and kupuna themselves to have access to funds to pay for certain services—e.g., transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, chores and homemaking services. The funds, available through an appropriation, may be expended only through a voucher issued directly to a service provider and not to a family caregiver.

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

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

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

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

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

Nevertheless, we have to start somewhere to tackle the issues brought on by the “silver tsunami,” and H.B. 607 is a reasonable start.

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

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

ALOHA CHAPTER

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

Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 442
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care

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

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

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

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

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

With best regards,



Christine Payne
Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:09 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments: Payments directly to family caregivers could also be provided in additon.
www.WeAreOne.cc

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webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

**Chair Morikawa
Vice Chair Todd
House Committee on Human Services**

15 February 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kevin Simowitz and I offer this testimony on behalf of Caring Across Generations in strong support of House Bill 607.

Caring Across Generations is a national movement of families, caregivers, people with disabilities and aging Americans working to transform the way we care in this country. By harnessing the power of online action, grassroots organizing and innovative culture change work, we are shifting how our nation values caregiving and calling for policy solutions that enable all of us to live and age with dignity and independence. Caring Across Generations has worked with partners here in Hawaii for years in support of legislation that will help make quality long-term care accessible to everyone, and we believe that this bill is an important step toward that goal.

There is little disagreement that the lack of long term care coverage is a critical issue facing our country. For the vast majority of families without private long term care insurance, the only choices available are to either spend down their life savings in order to qualify for Medicaid, or to rely on unpaid family caregivers. Neither choice is sustainable. To adequately meet the care needs of families, and of the direct care workforce, we need new caregiving infrastructure.

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

forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long term care.

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kevin Simowitz
Political Director
Caring Across Generations

540-847-9729 // kevin@caringacross.org

Chair Morikawa
Vice Chair Todd
House Committee on Human Services

February 13, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Committee Members:

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

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

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

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

Kathy Jaycox
559 Pauku St
Kailua, HI 96734



PHI QUALITY CARE
THROUGH
QUALITY JOBS

Comments on Hawaii HB607, Relating to Kupuna Care

Submitted by Karen Kahn, for PHI

Local address: 3873 Nikolo St., Honolulu

Phone: 978-740-9844

Karenkahn33@gmail.com

PHI (Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute) works to transform eldercare and disability services. We foster dignity, respect, and independence—for all who receive care and all who provide it. As the nation’s leading authority on the direct care workforce, PHI promotes quality direct care jobs as the foundation for quality care. Since 1991, PHI has helped long-term care providers, advocates, and policymakers across the U.S. to improve the quality of long-term services and supports (LTSS) through workforce and curriculum development, coaching and consulting services, policy advocacy, and research.

PHI is pleased to submit testimony in support of **HB607**, a bill designed to help families care for their elders.

Hawaii is experiencing a rapid demographic change. Over the next two decades, the number of adults over the age of 65 is expected to grow by more than 60 percent. In 2035, elders will make up nearly 25 percent of the total Hawaii population.ⁱ This shift in demographics is putting increased stress on families who provide the vast majority of care for elders.

As the population ages, more people need assistance to manage their daily needs. Among people over 65, 50 percent have multiple chronic health conditions.ⁱⁱ For those over 80, one in three will develop functional limitations that will require assistance with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, managing medications, and preparing meals.ⁱⁱⁱ

Among older adults, 90 percent express a preference to receive supports at home rather than moving into a care home or a nursing facility. This at-home support is primarily provided by family members. AARP reports that about 40 million Americans care for adults who are aging or living with disabilities, and on average, family caregivers spend over 24 hours a week providing care.^{iv}

Providing that support is often a strain on the emotional, physical, and financial well-being of family caregivers. Primary caregivers suffer from high levels of stress, and often are unable to take the time to take care of their own health issues. The financial burden is also large. When caregivers leave the workforce, according to AARP, on average, they lose over \$300,000 in life-time income.^v

HB607 provides an innovative solution to helping Hawaii’s families cope with the many costs of caregiving. By providing a limited benefit of \$70 per day for 365 days, the legislation provides a “care floor,” ensuring that families can hire paid support to supplement the care they are able to provide.

In addition to directly supporting family caregivers, the bill has benefits that will strengthen Hawaii’s caregiving infrastructure. Currently, only those who qualify for Medicaid can access publicly funded long-term services and supports. This forces families to “spend down,” essentially impoverishing themselves to get the services they need. Spending down puts an added strain on families, which **HB607**, in providing an additional source of funds to invest in long-term care, helps mitigate.

Secondarily, this investment in long-term care will benefit paid caregivers—the home health aides and personal care aides who provide hands-on assistance and ensure that elders can continue to live in their homes with dignity. In Hawaii, the typical wage for a home care worker is \$12 per hour, far below the statewide median wage of \$18 per hour. Many of these workers live on the edge of poverty, barely able to support their families.

These low wages make it difficult to attract people to the home care profession. But with the rise in the elder population, our analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Labor shows that Hawaii’s demand for home care workers will increase by more than 35 percent over the next decade.^{vi} It is essential for Hawaii to attract, train, and retain a compassionate, skilled workforce to help relieve the burden on family caregivers. **HB607** creates an opportunity for the state to make a real investment in building the caregiving workforce needed to ensure all of Hawaii’s *kupuna* can age with dignity in the settings of their choice.

ⁱ Population and Economic Projections for the State of Hawaii to 2040. Available at: http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/data_reports/2040-long-range-forecast/2040-long-range-forecast.pdf

ⁱⁱ Eldercare Workforce Alliance. Care Coordination. Issue Brief.

ⁱⁱⁱ Redford, Donald et al. (August 2013). The Aging of the Baby Boom and the Growing Care Gap: A Look at the Future Declines in the Availability of Family Caregivers. Insight on the Issues #85. AARP Public Policy Institute.

^{iv} AARP (June 2015). Caregiving in the U.S. Available at <http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2015/caregiving-in-the-united-states-2015-report-revised.pdf>

^v Feinberg, L. and Choula, R. (2012). Understanding the Impact of Family Caregiving on Work. AARP.

^{vi} <http://phinational.org/policy/states/hawaii/>

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.

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 3:56 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 11:23 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: ppchawaii@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. I am a kupuna in good health and still running a business in Windward Oahu. I hope never to be a burden on my children in the future, but we don't have control over every aspect of the future. Please pass HB 607 to support our kupuna caregivers. It is the right thing to do in Hawaii where kupuna are valued and their caregivers should be helped in this way. Mahalo, Judy Mick, Kailua

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todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:24 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: lyns.capone@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynsey CaponeSmith	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair Committee on Human Services Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street, Room 442 Honolulu, HI 96813 RE: HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care I am pleased to testify in full support of bill HB 607. This position will coordinate and prepare support systems to address issues related to the disease. -Alzheimer's Disease is a growing epidemic and is now the sixth leading cause of death in the nation... -More than 26,000 individuals in the state of Hawaii have Alzheimer's -There are more than 66,000 unpaid family caregivers in the state -This position will help coordinate and implement recommendations of the Alzheimer's State Plan Thank you, Lynsey Capone Smith

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Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is ^{Pauline} Yee Hoy, 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,

Pauline Yee Hoy
1059 Liliu St
Kailua, Hi 96734

3920 Hunakai St.
Lihue, HI 96766
Feb. 8, 2017

Re: HB 607
Relating to Kupuna Care

Requires the executive office on aging to establish the kupuna caregivers program to assist community members who are providing care for elders to stay in the workforce. Clarifies the kupuna service and support options provided by area agencies on aging within the kupuna care program. Appropriates funds for establishing and implementing the kupuna caregivers program.

Dear Representatives TAKAYAMA, AQUINO, BELATTI, CACHOLA, CREAGAN, DECOITE, EVANS, GATES, HAR, HASHEM, ICHIYAMA, KEOHOKALOLE, LOPRESTI, LOWEN, MCKELVEY, MIZUNO, MORIKAWA, NISHIMOTO, SAY, SOUKI, TAKUMI, THIELEN, TODD, WOODSON, OSHIRO:

My name is Janice S. Bond and I am a Kauai AARP member of the legislative advocacy team. Four years ago I advocated for the CARE ACT because of a personal situation I had with a 49-year-old son who became incapacitated with necrotizing fasciitis and almost died. I strongly support HB 607 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 allows 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.

Please support this program which will assist caregivers who may still be in the workforce to continue to care for their loved ones in their home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for HB 607.

Mahalo,

Janice S. Bond

Janice S. Bond

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:24 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: 808nateyuen@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 607. Quality and affordable end-of-life care is an important service we all need. Everyone deserves the best end-of-life care that can be provided and HB 607 is a step in that direction.

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todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 12:46 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: pat31761@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Koge	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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todd2 - Chloe

From: anita3396@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:08 PM
To: HUSstimony
Subject: HB 607

To all Government Official who are involved with HB60, I am now 84 years old. I tank God I am still semi healthy. Thanks to my Doctors who help me with my medications. Medications are expensive. Its hard to count pennies before the end of the month. I am sure you know how it is for us Senior Citizens who have fixed income.

Yes, I am not only speaking for myself, I speak for my fellow Seniors as well. KUPUNA CARE can help us to feel more secure in our daily existence just knowing we get more help from the Government.

I just want to share the feeling I experienced at the counter paying the small things I picked up I needed. I was short of cash so I have to return some things I need back to shelf I got it from. It is not a good feeling to be embarrassed.

Praying for all who are involved to help the Senior Citizens in our land of 'Aloha'

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Juanita Colon
91-603 Kilipoe Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706-2027

Dear 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

todd2 - Chloe

From: Lorienta Yancura <loriena@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:02 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB607

Chair Dee Morikawa

Vice-Chair Chris Todd

House Committee on

Human Services

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Yancura, 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,

Lori Yancura

Palolo, HI 96816

February 15, 2017 at 9 a.m.

House Committee on Human Services
Conference Room 329

TO: Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd

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

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Beth Hoban, a Caregiver to my 92 year old mother and a fulltime business owner and employee. 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. 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!

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Beth Hoban
45-104 Mahalani Circle
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

February 10, 2017

Re: HB607

Mr. Gregg Takayama,

I am writing this testimony regarding HB607 "Relating to Kupuna Care." While I am generally in favor of this measure, I oppose the limitations it creates when it defines the "care recipient" as an individual who is 60 years of age or older (page 4 line 21).

This measure rightly acknowledges the financial and emotional stress families often suffer when faced with caring for an aging parent. However, these conditions also exist for families that care for children and adults with severe disabilities as well, so I suggest that the description of the care recipient in this measure shift from an "elder" to a "family member" and the age restriction be lifted.

OUR STORY

When my youngest son was 7 months old, he suffered an anoxic brain injury that kept him in the Pediatric ICU for a month. He is now diagnosed with cerebral palsy and cortical visual impairment and has severe developmental delays. Although now 6 years old, he is not independently mobile and does not communicate verbally. He is completely dependent on others for all aspects of his care including dressing, toileting, feeding and bathing.

When he was first discharged from the hospital, I made the decision to drastically change my work schedule in order to care for him at home. Because of his condition, we could not place him back in the daycare he was in before his incident, and to hire a medically trained caregiver to care for him was cost-prohibitive. I was **extremely** fortunate that my employer allowed me to continue working on a part-time basis and work from home 4 out of 5 days a week. Of course, this came at a sizable reduction in pay as well. When my son became eligible to attend the local public school under their Special Education program, I was able to work a bit more, but am still restricted to school hours since after-school care is not an option for us.

But my situation is not unique. There are many other families in the Special Needs community that constantly live under this stress – parents who work opposite shifts so that one is at home with the child at all times because no day care provider would accept a child with seizures; fathers who decide to quit work to home-school because the school could not effectively deal with his autistic child; mothers who do not return to work because of the frequent doctor visits and trips to the mainland to see specialists.

The most striking difference between caring for an elder and caring for a child, though, is the length of time this situation will last. A daughter caring for her aging father will do so for the rest of his life. A mother caring for her disabled son will do so for the rest of hers.

IN CLOSING

I urge you to take a moment to research what the incremental impact would be to include families like mine to this measure. I have tried to research how many families in Hawaii could benefit from expanding this bill, but I haven't been able to find the data – it either doesn't exist or I'm not clever enough to find it (I'm sure your resources are better than mine). I realize that this bill (as it currently

reads) has a strong emotional impact on everyone because *everyone* has parents, and the possibility of having an aging parent to care for exists for most of the population. In contrast, only a small group of people have a disabled child/family member that will require long-term care. But, if this bill truly strives to **help the caregivers**, then this population of caregivers cannot be excluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Mika Keaulii, Kaipō's mom
Pearl City, HI 96782
(808) 721-1773

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 12:29 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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**Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services**

February 10, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marisa Sakuda, 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.

As a service provider to our kupuna, I know first hand how beneficial this bill would be. Of course, this bill is not intended to fund long-term care facility stays, but there are great number of our kupuna who wish to remain living at home, but require just a little extra assistance in their activities of daily living. Whether that be socialization, transport, shower/bathing assistance, toileting, or help with IADL's like cooking or cleaning, \$70 per day could be utilized for these kupuna to have an attendant for at least 3 hours per day, offering a great deal of respite care for caregivers. As the cost of living in Hawaii rises, it becomes more and more difficult for family members to take off from work to care for their loved one. This bill would allow family caregivers to remain at work longer and also offer peace of mind knowing their loved one is being cared for.

Each and every one of us have an aging loved one, parents, grandparents, and even great-grandparents. The elderly population continues to grow on our islands, requiring greater accessibility to services but also new and innovative programs to help our kupuna and families lead healthy and fulfilling lives in their own homes. Hawaii's culture has always honored our kupuna, so I ask you to please vote YES to this bill to support our families and our kupuna.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Marisa Sakuda
92-131 Amaui Place
Kapolei, HI 96707

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:15 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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February 12, 2017

Hearing Date: February 15, 2017

House Committee on Human Services, Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair

RE: HB 607 - Relating to Kupuna Care

Most distinguished Chair Morikawa and members of the committees:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 607

AND request the members of the Committee on Human Services recommend the establishment of a Kupuna Caregiver Program.

As the Hawaii population ages, there is an intrinsic need for caregivers. In-home care with caregivers vs. assisted or nursing care is preferred by seniors...and in fact is a cost saving benefit for the individual and the state.

A majority of caregivers in Hawaii are family members with jobs. Seniors have needs during all hours of the day. Contracted workers are needed to fill this need. A \$70 voucher system, as proposed by HB 607, administered by the State's Office on Aging, is needed.

These facts of Senior Living in Hawaii are constant:

- Hawaii's life expectancy is longer than any other state
- Assisted-Living care costs increase annually
- Current family-caregivers who are working need to remain healthy and on the job.

There is a real need to support the Kupuna Caregiver Program.

Please vote affirmatively on this bill to allow the successful 'Aging in Place' of Hawaii Seniors. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah
Honolulu Resident

TO: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair – House Committee on Human Services
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair - House Committee on Human Services

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2017
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 329

Re: HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care

Position: Support

Dear Representative Morikawa, Representative Todd, and Committee Members,

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Goto, M.D.



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

Editorial | Island Voices

Caregivers need the help of legislators

By Dr. Cynthia Goto

Posted January 08, 2017

January 8, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

to care for themselves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

 **Get the latest news by email** [Sign Up](#)

To: Rep. Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Todd, Vice Chair

HB 607

February 5, 2017

From: Rebecca Kelley, Student at UH Manoa

Dear House representatives,

I write to you in support of House Bill 607 relating to Kupuna Care, with providing a wide range of programs such as Transportation, Personal care services, Respite care, Adult day care, Chores and homemaking services; that support the kupuna and their family caregivers.

Living in Hawaii we are fortunate to be in a melting pot of cultures. A common value that is dominant within our community is having a collectivistic mindset towards our family and friends around us.

When a loved one is in their older age and may need living assistance, it is common that a family member or close friend will take the role as a family caregiver for their kupuna. According to AARP there are on average 154,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii. And with the raise of population of kupuna living longer, this means that there is going to be an increase of family caregivers also.

Family caregivers contribute to society to help allow kupuna to be able to live at home, instead of a nursing home. It's been proven that when kupuna are at home their health improved compared to a nursing home or assistance living home. With this bill passed I believe that it will contribute to the family system and help ease the stresses that occur within the home. I view HB607 as a long-term solution to help the Ohana's of Hawaii who are taking care of Kupuna.

I personally have witnessed a view challenges of being a family caregiver and it often times requires a lot of sacrifice. I had a friend whose ex-husbands parents where in their older-ages of life and required assistance in everyday living. The ex-husband was in jail and the elderly couples younger daughter was incapable of being their caregiver since there was emotional and physical abuse involved when she was. My friend had to drop out of her PhD program and take on the responsibilities of taking care of her ex-husbands parents and also her mother. The couple and her mother are forever grateful for the care she has invested in them and that they can still live comfortably at home.

Overall, I support HB607 relating to Kupuna Care because this will allow our kupuna to continue live at home and help ease the stresses of the family caregivers.

**Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services**

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kiani Oliveros, BSW and a current MSW student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support/outlet.

Ninety percent of people over age 65 would prefer to remain in their homes as long as possible, and studies show that health outcomes are significantly improved when people recuperate at home versus in a hospital or long-term external care facility. Supporting home care giving means Hawai'i can honor the wishes of our kapuna, improve their health outcomes, and reduce the cost of long-term care for both family caregivers and the state. By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill ensures working families access to resources to provide care at home. This fund 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 also considered a lifeline for many family caregivers! Friends and family play a significant part in caring for our kapuna and our system cannot function without their help. As a Social Worker, I have seen in practice, caregiver burn out occur in such high rates. We need to enable our caregivers to take care of themselves physically, mentally, and emotionally first so that they can effectively take care of their loved ones in return. Many friends and family who care for their loved ones can't help but put their own needs last and so, they burn out. The good news is that we can end this vicious burn out cycle by passing this bill.

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 and kapunas need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Kiani Oliveros
91-891 Nohoihoewa Place
Ewa Beach, Hi 96706
808-729-0429

todd2 - Chloe

From: Desiree Wallace <dwallace@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 4:08 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607

**Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services**

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,
My name is U'ilani Kiaha, 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,

D. U'ilani Kiaha
dwallace@hawaii.edu and ukiaha@onipaa.org

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 1:34 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: mark.gordon333@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Gordon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha ! I Support HB607 to establish a Kapuna Care Program. From personal experience, this Program is needed for Hawai'i Islands especially with elimination or reduction of Obama Care coverages, full time jobs of care givers, rising insurance costs, as well as the very costly senior retirement homes and assisted living facilities. Thanks Your Support of HB607 is requested. Mahalo Mark Gordon Waikoloa HI.

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

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

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro
Rep. Sharon E. Har Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi

NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2017
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SUPPORT FOR [HB 608](#) and HB 607 to support Kupuna Care

Dear Human Services Committee Chair Morikawa Vice-Chair Todd and Human Services Committee members,

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

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

Respectfully,
Barbara Yee
Honolulu, HI 96816

Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services

February 10, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Colette Browne, and I have the privilege of serving as the Rose and Richard Takasaki Professor in Social Policy at the University of Hawaii in Manoa. I write to you today as a private citizen who is knowledgeable about age and caregiving issues. I am an elder myself providing long distance caring for a 92-year-old mother. I express my strong support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. I understand that this bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. Although this bill will not provide me with assistance, it will serve many others with this great need.

This legislation will create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, and will provide support for working family caregivers who take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is difficult and sometimes not possible due to workforce demands.

This bill will provide a care benefit of \$70 per day, and will establish a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund will not fund institutional long term care; instead, it will allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. How can we not provide this support when families are doing so much with so little?

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,
Colette Browne
7805 Makaaooa Place Honolulu HI 96825

todd2 - Chloe

From: Dawn Webster <dmoraiswebster@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:21 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: In support of HB607

This past Sunday the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* came out in support of the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill. This followed front page coverage of the Kupuna Caregivers rally held earlier in the week which was also covered on Hawaii News Now, KITV4 and KHON.

The media coverage and the many stories and OpEds that have appeared in the press reflect the growing sense of need and public sentiment that this is a bill that is timely and necessary. If we mean to live our values, if voters are to take seriously the commitment to serve the most vulnerable that was expressed on Opening Day of the legislature, we need to see this bill championed and passed.

Recent polling has given us a stronger sense of what we already suspected: that unpaid family caregiving of our kupuna is taking place unheralded and under great stress to the caregivers across the islands. This is not an isolated, individual problem.

-In the region of 100,000 households have 1-2 members missing work regularly or intermittently because of caregiving challenges

-close to 20% of those surveyed had a family member who had to leave a job because of caregiving needs--that adds up to an estimated 50,000 people who dropped out of the workforce prematurely with attendant loss of income and long term impact on their retirement future

-Little over 90% of those who work at least 30 hours a week and are likely to qualify for caregiving assistance, welcome the idea of caregiving assistance of the kind proposed by the bill.

This bill helps willing family caregivers in ways that allow them to hold on to their jobs and keep giving their loved ones the care they need. Businesses should welcome the relief it gives to their employees that allows them to stay productive on the job. It also allows businesses to retain experienced employees rather than lose them prematurely to the call of caregiving.

Caregiving for our kupuna is a community need that needs a community response and good public policy. HB607 does not provide everything that is needed to give our loving, overworked caregivers respite.

It is however a very significant step forward in addressing an issue that will otherwise become a state problem to manage.

Over 90% of respondents to our recent poll are registered voters. We are confident you will want to respond to what they are telling you.

We ask this committee to please support HB 607.

Thank you.

Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.
1, Keahole Place #3501

Honolulu, HI 96826
808-383-7581

Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair

Committee on Human Services

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street, Room 442

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care.

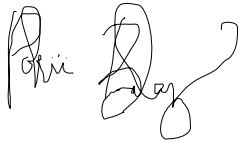
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 607. I am pleased to testify in full support of HB 607, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to establish the Kupuna Caregivers Program. The bill implements a program that provides partial financial assistance for family caregivers of kupuna. A voucher of a maximum of \$70/day will be provided to help partially cover costs such as personal care, respite care, adult day care, chores, transportation, and homemaking services.

Aloha my name is Dr. Poki'i Balaz, I am first and foremost a daughter who is a caregiver along with my mother for my father who is now in the end-stage of Alzheimer's Disease, bedridden, and on hospice. I am also a graduate of the University of Hawai'i with a doctoral degree in nursing practice. Currently I am also a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association and I am a certified trainer of the Savvy Caregiver Program where I currently teach a class in Aiea to caregivers of those with Alzheimer's and other related dementias.

I have been unable to return due to the needs of my parents. My father is bedbound and needs total care and my mother although does not have Alzheimer's or another form of dementia has her own healthcare needs which makes it difficult for her to care for my father at home. My mother had to retire early to care for my father and my father retired early due to the disease. I had a difficult time fulfilling my obligations at work due to caregiving and at the same time I was completing my doctoral program which I completed in December 2016 but I felt I could not return to work since there was no one else to help my mother at home full time. This left us in a major financial bind but it is a choice that many caregivers are faced with making. At this point I am emotionally and physically exhausted all the time and the financial burden that we face looms over my head every day and I pray that we will continue to have a roof over our heads, food to eat, and the basic necessities. Being a caregiver is an emotional and rewarding burden that is complicated by immense financial struggles that I have been faced with. It is exhausting, I am exhausted, my mother is exhausted and help is needed. Just coming here today was a struggle because I needed to find someone to help my mother with my father while I came here but this is important to me and important for all of you to hear. This bill would give me and my mother some support so that I can return to work and stay at work so that I can provide better for all of us.

So why does this matter and how will this bill help caregivers. Well let me start with this, this problem is not going away! This is a global, national, and state problem that is only going to get worse and it needs to be addressed now. The word Kupuna is used in the bill and for Native Hawaiians, Kupuna are held in the highest esteem as they are keepers of our past, culture, and wisdom. With this comes the kuleana or responsibility to take care of our kupuna, whether they are the one affected by the disease or whether they are the caregiver, because taking care of the caregiver allows the caregiver to take care of their care recipient. \$70 a day may not seem like a lot but it is a start and a great need for caregivers. This would provide many of us the opportunity to continue to work, to support ourselves and our care recipients, to help eliminate stress due to the financial burdens and to relieve caregivers from choosing between basic necessities and foregoing other basic needs. The time is now to stand up and take care of those who cared for us and to show that we as a state are devoted to our kupuna, their needs, and their caregivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Poki'i Balaz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P" and a long, sweeping tail.

Poki'i Balaz, DNP

**Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services**

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Trisha Okimoto 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. 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

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:42 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: beckypgardner@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Becky Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I submit this testimony in support as a Hawaii resident, and not in my capacity as a civil servant to the State of Hawaii.

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Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd 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 to fund the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

todd2 - Chloe

From: Patricia Blair <patriciablair@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:24 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: I support HB607 Kapuna Care

Patricia Blair, Kailua, 888-6393

Sent from my iPad

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:17 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

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

todd2 - Chloe

From: Patricia Gozemba <pgozemba@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:03 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Subject: Support of HB 607 for Hearing Feb. 15 at 9am Room 329

Chairs Roz Baker and Josh Green,

As the Star Advertiser editorialized on Feb. 12, 2017, HB 607 and SB 534 deserve our and your support.

I've been there as a caregiver trying to keep my father at home from a nursing home/care home that he dreaded. Anyone who has done this work knows how difficult it is to work at a job outside the home and care-give for a loved one at home. Families are stretched spiritually, emotionally, and financially. HB 607 can do something in supporting caregivers with the financial drain--at the least.

Your support for this bill and the modest stipend that it would afford will make a huge difference in the lives of people like my friend Dorri Goodrich (73) and her mother Sarah Ching (100) of Keeau. Keeping Sarah at home has always been a priority and the resulting financial stress has been tremendous.

I hope that you will think of real people and the enormous help that a \$70-a-day care benefit will bring to them.

Thank you,
Pat

Patricia A. Gozemba
3873 Nikolo St.
Honolulu, HI 96815
978.744.9141

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:24 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: pastordianem@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rev. Diane S. Martinson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support HB607 in its respect for elders who wish to age at home and in its support of families caring for these elders by providing financial support to the working caregiver. We have many families whose lives are stretched in time and financial resources in their effort to care for their loved ones at home. With our aging population, increasing numbers of families will be in this situation. It's time to test this model of family supported caregiving.

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

todd2 - Chloe

From: Robert H Stiver <bobfromoahu@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:06 AM
To: HUSstimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 607 (Hearing Wednesday, February 15)

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

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

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

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

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:02 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: ms_tapiz@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frances	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

Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jolene Carreira, 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,
Jolene Carreira
PO Box 425
Hauula, HI 96717

Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services

February 13, 2017

Testimony in support of HB607 relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kimberly Gamalog, and I am a student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing this testimony in support of HB607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program.

I stand in support of the Kupuna Caregivers program, because I myself have had the experience of caring for a kupuna and know the hardships that may occur. As a home health aide I provide long-term and respite care for families of kupuna who are a part of the busy working class. My mother is also an adult foster care home operator, and provides care to the kupuna around the clock. From observing the quality of care that my mother provides to her clients, and for caring for clients myself, I understand how difficult it is to care for the kupuna and how vital respite is. Caring for the kupuna is not a job, but it is a lifestyle because so much time is dedicated to their safety, wellbeing and comfort.

Because we live in Hawaii and the cost of living is exponentially high, it is nearly impossible for a working caregiver to continue working and care for their kupuna without burning out.

Although there are private insurance companies who do provide long-term services such as home health aides and nurses, the cost of these services may be out of reach and unattainable to some families. With the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program it will alleviate some of the stress that working caregivers may experience. For example, the Kupuna Caregivers program will help to provide additional assistance to the working caregiver. It will alleviate the stress of finding respite care for working caregivers who may need to remain active in the workplace.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Kimberly Gamalog
91-107 Haiea Pl.
Ewa Beach, HI. 96706

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

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair, Committee on Human Services, and
Committee Members

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017; 9:00 a.m.; CR 329

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services**

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

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

I am a caregiver to my 91 year old mother; I also work to meet our family needs. I strongly support this because the \$70 voucher means the difference between my mother being able to attend day care or being at home alone. Rather than stressing every day wondering how my mother is doing at home and what crisis may await me, with assistance I can breathe with relief knowing my mother is well cared for and looked after at day care. Without the passage of the bill, it will be inevitable that I will come home to an emergency situation, injury or worse - loss of my mother. \$70 IS a lifeline.

Overcoming day care costs is a major concern for many caregivers. It is not always affordable, despite the caregiver working. Many caregivers favor having their loved ones attend day care, where their safety is looked after, but day care facilities continue to shutter their doors for lack of attendance due to affordability.

\$70 will help elder care service providers and elders thrive. Having the caregiver remain in the workforce and the growth of care service providers will also increase revenue to the state. In the rural community I live, it is difficult getting home help due to service providers being stretched so thin (addressing clients in the city and country). They don't staff up, because not many here can afford \$25/hr (\$200/day) on a regular basis. The passage of this bill will mean increased demand and over time, hopefully, increased staffing by care service providers to reach those requiring assistance in their home or at day care whether in the city or country.

As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and I am appreciative to those that drafted this bill. Helping the caregiver help our elders at their most fragile and vulnerable stage in life matters. Our elders matter. I ask that you pass HB607 to provide the care families in Hawaii need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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

Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep

211 Hoomalu Street; Pearl City, HI 96782



748 Olokele Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 426-7850
(808) 734-0838 fax
email: c.hara@mckaimuki.com

February 13, 2017

Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 442
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 607, Kupuna Caregivers Program

On behalf of Manoa Cottage and Manoa Cottage Kaimuki kupuna, thank you the opportunity to submit testimony on HB608. Although we currently have many worthy and important issues to address in Hawaii, we cannot continue to neglect the needs of families with aging kupuna as well as those kupuna affected by Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 607. I am pleased to testify in full support of HB 607, Kupuna Caregivers Program, which appropriates \$600K in 2017/2018 and \$6 Million in 2018/2019 to develop and implement a program that provides partial financial assistance for family caregivers. A voucher of a maximum of \$70/day will be provided to help partially cover costs such as personal care, respite care, adult day care, chores, transportation, and homemaking services. Weekly, I hear directly from adult children with kupuna in their and the financial sacrifice made to care for their kupuna. Family caregivers provides some or a portion of financial assistance to maintain a basic sustenance level at home while being a caregiver. This program will bring a moment of relief to the caregivers.

Again, I support HB 607 and seek your support. If I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Calvin M. Hara
Executive Director and Administrator

**Chairs Baker and Green
Vice Chairs Nishihara and Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senate Committee on Human Services**

February 1, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Chang and Members of the Committees,

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

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers 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,

Reuben L. Ignacio

[Insert Name]

REUBEN L. IGNACIO

[Insert Address]

46 PAKAU PL

KAHULUI HI 96732

From: Mark Villanueva, MSW Student
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
60 Lake View Circle Apt. D
Wahiawa, HI 96786

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Location: Room 329

Submitted on Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Testimony in support of HB 607, Relating to Kupuna Care
Submitted to Dee Morikawa, House Committee on Human Services

Aloha Chair Dee Morikawa and Members of the Committee,

I am in support of HB 607 relating to Kupuna Care. This Bill will improve the livelihood of kupuna caregivers within the State of Hawai'i by providing them with the monetary support that is so heavily needed.

I currently intern at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center's main campus in Waianae as a service coordinator doing case management for patients who are lacking adequate medical care and services. The mission is to link patients with qualifying resources to help them live a long and comfortable life in regards to their health and well-being. However, whenever I meet with kupuna patients, I have seen my fair share of caregivers who are extremely exhausted, frustrated, and just simply burnt out. When it comes to kupuna services/treatment, it is a two-fold experience because although I am working with the kupuna to improve their health and well-being, I am also relieving the caregiver of some of the stresses they persistently go through. For instance, by providing transportation, among other things, for the patient to attend a doctor appointment helps to lessen the burden a caregiver may be facing by freeing up some time to improve their own health and well-being.

However, my role as a service coordinator does stay at my internship site because along with my mom, we are both caregivers that tend to the needs of my dad. My dad is 65 years old and suffers from Type 2 Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Arthritis in both of his legs. He is in constant pain which prevents him from doing Activities of Daily Living (ADL) like walking or even going to the bathroom. My mom is also 65 years old and is struggling to cope with the stresses of taking care of my dad. Even with my assistance, I cannot help but feel sorry for my mom because she complains of her body aches and mental strain involving homecare for my dad. To make matters worse, my mom continues to work because of their medical expenses being too high and for other factors like rent and electricity. Although I do not bring in too much money from my part time job because of my busy schedule, I have had times where I had to make sacrifices to pay for some of their medication.

Moreover, since I practice the skill of person centered treatment on a personal and professional level, I respect the wishes my dad has involving his care. He made it clear that he would rather have family to be his caregiver(s). But in reality, even if he wanted to receive home care services, we as a family could never afford it. Statistics show that within the State of Hawai'i the median Home Care Services cost is \$52,052 per year. In closing, receiving monetary assistance by passing HB 607 into law will greatly help ease the financial burden not just on my family but also on the caregivers within this beautiful state of Hawai'i.

I humbly ask the HUS Committee to approve this bill. Mahalo Nui Loa for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 607.

To: House Committee on Human Services, Representative Della Belatti, Chair

Date: Feb 15, 2017

Room 329

Time: 9:00 a.m.

RE: HB 607 Relating to Kupuna Care

Chair Balitta and Committee members:

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Geoffrey Casburn
District of Hilo

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keone Nakoa. I submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the Kupuna Caregivers Program that HB607 would establish within the current Executive Office on Aging. I testify as a former family caregiver for my mother, who passed away last year. My mom was also a caregiver, first for her father and then, even while battling cancer, for her mother, who still lives today. I applaud this Committee's efforts to provide much-needed support to some of the most selfless and hard-working people in our community – our family caregivers.

This bill would provide a very reasonable amount of financial assistance – up to \$70 per day, which is sure to grab most of the highlights and headlines; however, just as importantly, the Kupuna Caregivers Program would provide much-needed coaching and planning resources and assistance to help family caregivers understand the tasks ahead and how to handle them so that they are not so over-burdened and under-prepared.

As other testimony on this and related bills point out, Caregivers suffer a myriad of negative health outcomes from the stresses – physical, mental, and emotional – placed upon them in their service to their loved ones. From financial strain, to deteriorating health habits, to higher incidences of depression, and ultimately increased mortality rates as compared to their non-caregiver counterparts, this program would provide some much needed support to those who volunteer to take on the care of a family member and is surely a step in the right direction.

However, this bill, as written is exactly that, just a first step in remedying a problem facing the estimated 154,000 Hawaii residents who provide care for family members, as of 2013. At its current second-year funding level, it simply will not be able to meet the needs of all eligible caregivers once the program is fully operable. Therefore, I urge this Committee and the whole of the Hawaii State Legislature to consider giving this program increased funding, once the program is up and running in our communities.

I again thank this Committee for hearing this important legislation and I urge you to support its passage out of this Committee.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Keone Nakoa

Committee On Human Services
Dee Morikawa, Chair
Chris Todd, Vice Chair

February 14, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Nishikawa and Vice Chair Chris Todd and members of the Committee On Human Service:

My name is Karen Muronaka and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** relating to 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 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 to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you to lead in helping us provide the care families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

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

**Chair Dee Morikawa
Vice-Chair Chris Todd
House Committee on
Human Services**

February 15, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Morikawa, Vice-Chair Todd and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nelly B. Capino, 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!

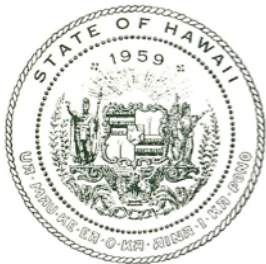
I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Nelly B. Capino
**P. O. Box 917
Kekaha, Hi 96752**

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

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

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, JD

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

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

February 15, 2017

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 607, which would establish the Kupuna Caregivers program. This program is designed to help provide additional assistance to working caregivers. While the Commission has some concerns about the financial solvency and sustainability of a program such as this, the Commission offers testimony in support of this measure.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony with comments.

todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: Sarah Lynn Joy <sarahlynnjoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:53 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Testimony in favor of HB 607

I hereby provide Testimony in support of HB 607, for the hearing on February 15, 2017, at 9AM, Room 329, endorsing our Kūpuna Caregivers plan.

Thanks for your consideration. Sorry I cannot be there in person to deliver this endorsement.

Sarah Lynn Joy
81-902 Nape Street
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750

todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: Amelia Jodar <ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:04 AM
To: HUSstestimony
Subject: Fwd: Testimony in Support of SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care

Aloha Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Chang, and Members of the Committees

My email should have read in support of HB 607.

Thank you for your consideration.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amelia Jodar <ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 15, 2017 at 6:49 AM
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care
To: HUSstestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: Amelia Jodar <ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com>

Aloha Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs.NIshihara and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Amelia Jodar. I am sending this email in support of SB 534. This 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. 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 the 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 ensures 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.

I take this issue very personally because of the experience in the family. My brother had to give a full time care for our aging parents. I have also known of many cases of caregivers and some of them had to give up their jobs.You may also have known of similar cases. Please help the kupuna caregivers and the working families by providing the care the families need.. Please help make SB 534 become a law.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ame;ia Jodar
87-238 Hakimo Rd.
Waianae, HI 96792

todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:04 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB607

Submitted on: 2/15/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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

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todd2 - Chloe

LATE

From: kristen mowrey <kmowrey47@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:08 PM
To: HUSstimony
Subject: HB 607

Wow!! Such an important support for the future of our Kapuna. The gap really needs to be addressed before it continues to widen and we are in a crisis situation. Care givers need care so they can continue to attend to the needs of their loved ones. I've seen so many caregivers at there wits end and having to face the reality of the amount of hours it takes to care for our kapuna. Let's band together and pass this much need bill.

Thank you,
Kristen Mowrey LMHC

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:04 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: drodrigues2001@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. As a caregiver of my 86 year old mother, I sacrifice my financial stability in order to care for her. She deserves good care and to have her wishes respected to be able to age in her home and not be placed in a nursing home. We need to show that we honor and care for our kupuna by supporting their caregivers. This bill would provide much needed relief for myself and others in the same situation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Mahalo.

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

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

Re: Support Testimony in favor of: HB607
2/15/17 9am.

Aloha!

During my lifetime in Hawaii, I have been an employee, a business manager, and a business owner. I am here today to ask legislators to please pass the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill because I know how much it would mean, both to businesspeople, and to people looking after beloved family members.

I've been there, and then some.

I remember vividly the day I was having dinner with my late wife, Lynda, and she announced: "This is very nice but I have to go home now. My husband is waiting for me."

My heart stopped, this was new. Inside I was screaming but I knew I had to hold it together for both her sake and mine. It took all my skills and inner calm to get her into the car and drive her home.

There were many signs, But nothing really prepares you for the impact of the freight train called Alzheimer's.

When I think of the years I spent looking after my wife and mom before they both passed away, it feels like I was a passenger in a car that was hurtling backwards.

Panic sets in. You stretch your foot forward to press down on the brake. But you can't. You aren't in the driver's seat. You have no control. Events just take over and you try to cope as best you can.

Under duress, with no respite, I made poor decisions that negatively affected many lives.

As a result, I closed our 3 store cell phone business on Maui. We laid off 15 people, and stopped a business cash flow that provided tens of thousands of dollars in excise taxes, employment taxes, and income taxes to the State.

We sold our home in early 2009 at the bottom of the market, just to stay afloat enough to be ready for the worst, which was yet to come..

I failed to take care of myself, ballooning to almost 300 pounds, endangering my health and my life. Then who would take care of her? Who would take of me? The expense to the State would be high, and unnecessarily premature.

I am so glad that the legislature is considering a bill to give family caregivers some respite. It's past time to do something.

\$70 a day for family caregivers to hire trained home aides will definitely help families with seniors who cannot perform functions of daily living, and no are able to manage on their own safely.

There were days when I would have welcomed that kind of modest assistance. Every day.

It would have made all the difference, to have had respite.

At some point my mom who was then in her nineties and my wife then in her seventies, spent their last days in the same care home, but at great personal expense.

My parents bought their house in Kaneohe in 1953. If they hadn't, there would have been nothing to help pay for my moms care. Eventually, the rental income was not enough, and the only smart, but sad thing to do, was to sell the family home. This ended the rental cash flow that paid the state thousands in taxes each Year.

Here is what I want our legislators to understand.

Our desire to care for our loved ones may cause us to do irrational things, and irreparable harm to our selves, our families, and our communities.

As Caregivers, we push ourselves through love, and devotion. We neglect our own needs as we sell our assets and our parents assets, we put our health on the back burner, and we sometimes take on unconscionable levels of debt. We don't care.

We need to tell ourselves that we have done our best. We all need To breathe, to think, and plan for tomorrow, (and I do mean tomorrow as in the very next day there will be challenges).

Ignoring this need, will do emotional, physical and financial damage to ourselves and the state economy. To ignore this need puts The state of Hawaii at risk.

I welcome a policy that will allow family caregivers to pay for trained aides for a little respite.

I hope legislators understand my story is not unique. The state needs to adopt the bill that is before them right now, even if it isn't the perfect solution. We have to begin somewhere, and now more than ever, with all the turbulence in Washington, it's time we find local solutions for local problems.

I sincerely hope our legislators are listening.
We need to be able to tell ourselves that we have done our
best.