



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 15, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 616 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. DHS provides the following comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to DHS to create one (1) full-time permanent civil service program specialist position to oversee the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and the Senior Companion Program (SCP) in Maui County. This position will be placed in the Adult Protective and Community Services Branch (APCSB) of the DHS Social Services Division (SSD).

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) and the Senior Companion Program (SCP) have been federally funded by the Federal Corporation for National Community Services (CNCS) with State matching funds for the past 52 years and 50 years respectively. The goal is to afford income eligible seniors age 55 and older with an opportunity to actively age by offering mentorship to exceptional and special needs children and companionship and assistance to frail and isolated older adults.

CNCS provides oversight of the programs and DHS APCSB provides administrative support. Currently, the programs are staffed and positions are funded as follows: of the nine (9)

combined staffing of the FGP and SCP, two (2) of the positions are funded 50/50; two (2) are funded 100% federal; one (1) half-time position in East Hawaii is funded 100% federal; and four (4) are 100% State funded.

Proposed funding for this position for state fiscal year (SFY) 18 is 50/50% Federal/State split with a 6 month delay in hiring in the amount of \$30, 505. Funding for SFY19 is in the amount of \$53,972. FGP and SCP will provide 50% federal funding for this position.

FGP mentors and tutors special and exceptional needs children through Head Start Centers, private preschools, elementary through high schools and other youth facilities. FGP provides an opportunity for intergenerational relationships between the children and the FGP volunteers. SCP volunteers provide companionship and support to home-bound seniors, allowing those individuals to continue living independently in their homes for as long as possible. SCP also provides much needed respite and relief to caregivers.

The Maui District Special Education Office reported having 2,148 special education students. All 31 Department of Education Schools in Maui County have students that are in need of additional support based on their special education status. At present, Maui County represents less than 1% of the total program volunteer base for both FGP and SCP. FGP has one (1) active volunteer on Maui despite having 100 volunteers for all other counties combined. SCP maintains a pool of six (6) volunteers on Maui and none on Molokai and Lanai while maintaining 69 volunteers for all other counties combined.

There are approximately 11,000 seniors with chronic conditions living in Maui County who could benefit from receiving services from a Senior Companion. Seniors with chronic conditions, particularly multiple chronic conditions, are the heaviest users of health care services. As the aging population grows, it is expected there will be an increasing need for supportive resources inclusive of services that the Senior Companion Program provides. These supportive resources include companionship, transportation and caregiver respite.

The recruitment and training of volunteers and community partners in Maui County requires a physical presence in the county. Having a program specialist position based on Maui Island will also assist with the retention of these volunteers and serve to promote senior volunteerism throughout the county. Civic engagement has been shown to prolong a senior's life span by approximately ten (10) years, increases their independence, and increases their

sense of purpose and well-being, thus allowing the senior to remain active and healthy. The Hawaii Health Survey 2012 of the Department of Health indicates that of the 60+ population on Maui, 9.4% or 2,745 people, are at the below poverty or near poverty income level based on U.S. Department Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. These seniors are an untapped resource from which FGP and SCP can recruit and train volunteers to serve as role models in their communities.

Maui County's special and exceptional needs children and frail seniors will benefit from the services provided by both FGP and SCP. While the programs are federally mandated to provide services statewide, Maui, Molokai, and Lanai have been underserved. The establishment of a permanent civil service program specialist position based on the island of Maui is essential to fulfilling the federal grant requirements of serving all communities statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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 616 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

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 616 appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for one full time program specialist position within the adult protective and community services to oversee the foster grandparent program and senior companion programs in Maui County.

AARP **strongly supports** HB 616.

The foster grandparent and senior companion programs provide a vital resource to the Maui community by offering extra assistance to at-risk youth and home-bound frail seniors. These children benefit from having these dedicated older adults provide the extra nurturing and mentoring that may not be provided by their own immediate family. Foster grandparents serve as role models, and provide extra attention and time by helping them to read, offering one-to-one tutoring and friendship. They fill a void especially for vulnerable children whose family situation are unstable and could use the additional support to help them develop their full potential. In addition, the senior companion program not only provides companionship to seniors, it offers respite to their caregivers so that they can get a few hours of relief from their caregiving responsibilities. Having a full time position to coordinate these two programs will help meet the growing needs of Maui's youth and seniors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 12:22 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB616 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB616

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.

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

To: House Committee on Human Services,
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
RE: HB 616 - Relating to Human Services
Hearing Date: February 15, 2017, 9:00 am

Most Honorable Chair Morikawa and Committee Members:

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) has been nationwide and in Hawaii for 50 plus years and the Senior Companion Program (SCP) for 40 plus years in Hawaii. These programs were intended to help a wide range of people. The volunteers consist of individuals over 55 years of age who are physically fit, no longer in the work force, and have a desire to contribute to society and have a financial need. Sergeant Shriver, who was the champion for FGP and SCP, wisely felt that senior volunteers should receive a non-taxable stipend. This stipend gives each volunteer a lift-something to show we are of worth. FGP volunteers help children who need assistance with cognitive skills and who have physical and emotional problem. SCP volunteers serve adults who for some reason need transportation to medical appointments, shopping assistance and companionship.

I have been a FGP volunteer for eight years. After working 50 years as a teacher, I retired in my early 70's due to medical reasons. I started riding the Maui Economic Opportunity bus once a week to get out of the house, took up water color painting and gardening and signed up for every church committee but I was not really happy. I felt I was not contributing and I really missed being with people and especially children. I learned of FGP through an article in the Maui News.

At the time that I joined FGP, we had an excellent coordinator on Maui. However, FGP was not her main job. She worked full time for Maui College and was on contract with FGP to oversee the monthly training and provide a small amount of program support. I consider myself lucky as I was already serving at Iao Preschool. But my fellow FGP volunteers were waiting for placement. The coordination and leg work to make this happen is next to impossible without a FGP staff person on the island. This along with many other reasons justifies the need for a position on Maui.

FGP staff on Oahu have been doing their best to oversee Maui and send qualified staff once a month for our monthly meetings. There is not time to really be there when problems arise. A staff person needs to know each volunteer in order to match them with the right school or client. Our own staff person would be aware of what would be appropriate for each volunteer, be a face for the program and publicize our program to recruit more volunteers. A larger volunteer base would mean that more children would receive one on one attention in the schools and seniors who are home bound would remain independent with help from a SCP volunteer.

I am asking you as a 45 year taxpayer and homeowner on Maui to see the importance of FGP and SCP and know that in order to keep operating in a well-organized and informed manner, we require a dedicated, on-island staff person. Securing funding for this position would be putting our tax dollars to worthwhile use!

Aloha-

Rosalie Yoshida

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:17 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB616 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB616

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.

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

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 HB616, appropriating funds to the Department of Human Services to create a full-time program specialist position within the Adult Protective and Community Service Branch to oversee the Foster Grandparent Program and Senior Companion Programs in Maui County.

These programs are very effective in providing rich experiences to both Keiki and Kupuna, respectfully.

Please support the modest request to fund HB616.

Please pass HB616 to fund the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

todd2 - Chloe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:18 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rkailianu57@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB616 on Feb 15, 2017 09:00AM*

HB616

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