

SB528

Measure Title: RELATING TO AGING.

Report Title: Kupuna Caucus; Kupuna Care; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Makes an appropriation to the department of health for the kupuna care program.

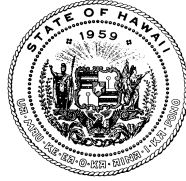
Companion: HB608

Package: Kupuna Caucus

Current Referral: CPH/HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): IHARA, BAKER, S. CHANG, ESPERO, GALUTERIA, GREEN, HARIMOTO, INOUYE, K. KAHELE, KEITH-AGARAN, KIM, NISHIHARA, K. RHOADS, RIVIERE, RUDERMAN, English, Taniguchi

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 SB 528
Relating to Aging

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 1, 2017, Room Number: **CONF. ROOM 016**
2:45 p.m.

- 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 \$4,145,695 for FY18 for
- 5 the Kupuna Care Program.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that the appropriation in this bill is a priority of the Ige
- 7 Administration. Governor Ige's budget request proposes an increase of \$4,145,695 for EOA's
- 8 base budget for Kupuna Care, bringing the total to \$9 million .

1 As Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, the need for long term services and supports
2 will increase. The growing number of older adults is likely to put a severe strain on the State's
3 resources for long term services and supports (LTSS). The health care cost for persons age 65
4 and older was estimated to be five times larger than the cost for persons younger than age 65.
5 Kupuna Care assists frail adults, age 60+ to lead independent, meaningful, and dignified lives, by
6 providing a continuum of home and community based services and supports. Its aim is to allow
7 for aging in place, thus preventing or delaying the need for restrictive levels of care. Funding is
8 critical as the population over age 60 is increasing rapidly. Kupuna Care is comprised of nine
9 core services namely personal care, homemaker, chore, home delivered meals, adult day care,
10 case management, assisted transportation, regular transportation, and attendant care; that support
11 individuals in performing activities of Daily Living (personal hygiene, dressing, eating, toileting,
12 transferring). In addition, Kupuna Care clients may have the option of a participant directed
13 approach to home and community based services.

14 In FFY 2015, KC served 4,872 individuals at an average cost of \$8,619,000 or \$1,769.00 per
15 person per year. If the budget request was denied, we would have to reduce served statewide
16 from 4,872 to 2,744, a reduction of 44%.

17 **Recommendation:** EOA favors an increase in the base budget for Kupuna Care, but humbly
18 requests that SB0528 be advanced in the event that supplemental funding is necessary.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ALAN ARAKAWA
Mayor



DEBORAH STONE-WALLS
Executive on Aging

PHONE (808) 270-7755

FAX (808) 270-7935

E-MAIL: mcoa.adrc@mauicounty.gov

CAROL K. REIMANN
Director
Housing & Human Concerns

JAN SHISHIDO
Deputy Director
Housing & Human Concerns

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

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

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

SB 528 RELATING TO AGING

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2017; Conference Room 016; 2:45 pm

MCOA's Position: Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) is in **strong support** of SB 528 that appropriates funds for the Kupuna Care Program (KC). MCOA supports appropriation for Kupuna Care through the vehicle of the State Budget, HB 100.

Purpose and Justification: Census projections indicate that the senior population in Hawaii will almost double between the period between 2010 and 2020 with the highest percentage increase occurring in those over the age of 85. In order to minimize the potential **financial strain** of the burgeoning aging population on the State, **proactive** efforts are required now. ***Keeping seniors healthy and at home is the most cost-effective manner*** to address the needs of one of our most valuable societal resources, and SB 528 will ensure that state funds are utilized to provide assistance in the community at a much lesser financial drain than institutional services.

Kupuna Care: MCOA supports a total appropriation of at least \$9,000,000,000 each fiscal year, ideally with the entire amount in the State base budget. Each County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) oversees a variety of home and community-based service areas designed specifically to ensure that elders have the care they need in the least restrictive, and often most economical, setting as possible in order to assist Hawaii's kupuna to lead independent, meaningful, and dignified lives. These state funds are targeted to those who are frail and vulnerable and who do not have access to other services. AAAs have consistently succeeded in reaching the objective to prevent and/or delay the need for more restrictive levels of care.

Moving the full amount of Kupuna Care appropriation to the base budget for FY17 allowed for a more consistent contracting and service delivery system. MCOA was able to better plan for consistent service delivery throughout the year for the first time in many years. Conversely, when funds are released at varying times throughout the year, the process of planning for steady service delivery to frail elders is more difficult. AAAs must wait for the release of funds not appropriated through the base budget; therefore, service delivery cannot be planned in a reliable, steady manner. Knowing on July 1 of each year the exact amount of appropriation for these vital services will allow AAAs to more effectively plan for and meet the needs of eligible seniors.

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

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

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

January 30, 2017

Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senate Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 528 Relating to Aging

The Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, is in full support of Senate Bill 528, which provides funding for the Kupuna Care Program. Through this funding, individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, will have access to services such as transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, etc.

In Hawaii, there's an estimated 26,000 individuals affected by the disease. According to the most recent results of the Hawaii 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey, about 50% of survey respondents that reported having memory issues stated that their memory problems have created "functional difficulties". About 41% of those surveyed who reported having memory problems stated that due to their memory problems, they gave up day-to-day activities and 28% said that they need assistance with day-to-day activities. More alarming, about 21.5% of those surveyed who had memory problems indicated that they live alone.

Access to the services provided through the Kupuna Care Program will greatly assist individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia by providing them with the support needed to carry out daily life activities such as eating, bathing, toileting, etc. To not provide these basic human needs for individuals with the disease is cruel and inhumane. Therefore, we request your support for this bill.

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



February 1, 2017 at 2:45 PM
Conference Room 016

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senate Committee on Human Services

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Clarence K. Nishihara

Chair Josh Green
Vice Chair Stanley Chang

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

Re: Testimony in Support
SB 528, Relating to Aging

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 160 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.

We would like to thank the committees for the opportunity to **support** SB 528, which provides appropriations for the Kupuna Care program. Strong funding for home- and community-based services will be very important as the population of Hawaii ages. Since 1999, this important program has helped seniors and their families access integral services, such as personal care, home delivered meals and attendant care. The availability of these resources for the past years has been essential to ensuring that kupuna in Hawaii are able to access the care they need to live more fully and independently, and support working families. This funding is also critical to our entire continuum of care, making sure that patients receive appropriate in the home- and community-based setting.

We humbly request your continued support of this program. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.



The Senate
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Committee on Human Services
Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 016

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Chair
RE: **SB 528 RELATING TO AGING**

I am Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; providing the tools needed to save for retirement; and serving as a reliable information sources on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawaii **strongly supports** SB 528 which appropriates funds to the Kupuna Care Program. In the 2016 legislative session, funding for this vital safety net program was reduced to \$7.8 million/year, a loss of \$1.2 million from the previous years prior to FY 2016. This major loss occurred when Hawaii's older population and the need for services continues to grow.

The Kupuna Care program helps older adults continue living at home by providing services such as transportation, personal care, home-delivered meals, case-management and attendant and home-maker which support their daily needs to remain healthy and independent as possible.

We support the restoration of the full funding for Kupuna Care and that it be part of the base budget to ensure future stability and quicker release of funds to reduce delays in services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support for SB 528.

Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Advocacy Director, AARP Hawaii



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COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND
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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:45pm
Room 016

SB 528, RELATING TO AGING

Good Afternoon, Chairs Baker and Green, and members of the
Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, and Human Services
Committees.

Lanakila Pacific is in support of **SB 528** which will provide additional
funding to the Kupuna Care program. The \$4.1 million will restore
funding to previous levels. This is especially critical as we are
anticipating FY 18 cuts due to last year's decrease in funding.

While the Kupuna Care program was enacted in 1999, administrative
rules have yet to be promulgated. We would be willing to assist
Executive Office on Aging in drafting the rules.

Lanakila Pacific Meals on Wheels is a Kupuna Care program provider
servicing more than 2,000 kupuna each year. Our average recipient is
an 83-year old female of Asian or Pacific Island descent who is limited
in at least two activities of daily living. Along with serving more than
360,000 nutritious meals each year, Lanakila Meals on Wheels also
provides wellness checks, education, and referrals to needed
resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji
President & CEO

Lori Lau
Director, Meals on Wheels



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

FROM: Terry Walsh, President and Chief Executive Officer

DATE: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 (2:45 p.m., Room 016)

RE: **IN SUPPORT of SB 528, Relating to Aging**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves over 4,000 older persons each year.

CCH supports SB 528, to provide additional funding for Kupuna Care services.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i is a current provider of Kupuna Care transportation and homemaker services for frail elders. Through Kupuna Care, CCH Transportation and Homemaker Services also provide relief for caregivers, especially working caregivers who would otherwise have to take time off from work to provide transportation or homemaker assistance for their elderly relatives.

Kupuna Care services addresses the overall community goal of helping seniors remain independent in the community and prevent more costly institutional care – as well as supporting caregivers. Kupuna Care services provide a safety net for all kupuna and their caregivers who cannot afford to pay for in-home and community based services and are unable to receive these services through other means.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the supplemental funding for Kupuna Care services was reduced by over \$1M. The impact of this reduction will not be seen until FY2018 (effective July 1, 2017). We are concerned and waiting to learn how this reduction will impact on services for elders in the coming year. The requested amount of \$4,145,695 in SB 528 will return funding to previous levels. This is critical since the demand for services continues to increase as the aging population increases.

We also hope that Administrative Rules will soon be available for public review. This will add greater clarity and direction for the Kupuna Care program.



Helping kupuna remain in their own homes, and helping caregivers to care for elderly relatives at home, is **priceless** in term of quality of life. It is also **cost effective** when you compare:

- The current cost of nursing home care for ONE individual in Hawaii at **\$129,575** per year for a semi private room.ⁱ
- The funding requested in SB 528 will provide additional **services for THOUSANDS of kupuna and their caregivers.**
- **The same amount of funding would only pay for nursing home care for 32 individuals.**

Catholic Charities Hawai`i asks for your support of SB 528. For more information or questions, please contact Diane Terada, Division Administrator, at 527-4702.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

ⁱ Genworth 2016 Cost of Care Survey: <https://www.genworth.com/about-us/industry-expertise/cost-of-care.html>

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February 1, 2017

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence J. Nishihara, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Howard S. Garval, President & Chief Executive Officer

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 (2:45 p.m., Room 016)

RE: In Support of SB 528, Relating to Aging

Child & Family Service (CFS) has a long history of providing services to kupuna including senior case management, caregiver support, services to at-risk seniors, and health maintenance services all designed to help seniors age in place and support their caregivers. We operate several evidence-based models within our services to seniors.

I am writing in **support of SB 528** that provides funding for Kupuna Care.

CFS asks for your support for Kupuna Care Services that are all designed to keep seniors in the community which is what seniors want and is the most cost-effective option whenever the senior can be safe and supported without higher levels of institutional care. By ensuring that adequate types and amounts of services are available for seniors to enable them to "age in place", this also supports caregivers. CFS, through its senior case management program which is funded in part with Kupuna Care funds, often helps kupuna and their loved ones navigate the system of elderly services which can be overwhelming for both seniors and caregivers. Because of our experience in case management we understand the need for all of the services that are funded under Kupuna Care.

CFS supports the proposed additional funding of \$4,145,695 to be added to the base funding for Kupuna Care Services.

We can serve a higher number of seniors and their caregivers in their own homes and communities to sustain the senior's quality of life for as long as possible at lower cost compared to the annual cost for one senior in a nursing home which is \$124,830.

CFS is asking for your support of SB 528 that will provide badly needed funding to support services to our kupuna and their caregivers, especially since last year the funding was reduced by over \$1 million and this could result in reduced services in FY '18.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

"We're all about FAMILY"

Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Date: February 1, 2017

Re: SB 528 - Relating to Aging

Chair Baker and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 528 Relating to Aging. My name is Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. and I am a retiree. I live in Paauli-Mauka on the Big Island. The passage of this bill is vital as:

- Relating to Aging: The Kupuna Care program provides a safety net for the "gap group" that has thousands of aging Hawaii residents who can't afford to pay for services but do not qualify for Medicaid and other resources. There are 277,000 people over age 60, and this program is a cost-effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from falling into poverty, from being placed in a nursing home and allows them to age in place at home with their loved ones. More funding is needed for Kupuna Care program, so that more people can benefit from it.

- Relating to Aging and Disability Resource Center: ADRCs help caregivers and individuals as it's like a "one stop shop" for information about long-term care and caregiving options. On the Big Island, we are fortunate to have an ADRC in Hilo. We need more ADRCs in other locations, and to make sure that potential users know about this service, which will help reduce the frustration in navigating Hawaii's complicated long-term care system.

I urge you to support caregivers by voting **YES** on SB 528.

Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D.

Positive and Productive Aging Consultant.
Paauilo-Mauka, Hawaii District

P.O. Box 366

Honokaa

HI 96727

Phone: (808) 775-1064

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 1:37 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jjog4life@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB528 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM

SB528

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

Testimony for CPH/HMS on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Ishikawa	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I fully support the Kapuna Care SB528 as it is imperative that older adults of Hawai'i nei have services for them to live as independently as possible. The preservation to remain in their home with dignity is paramount to this bill. Respectfully submitted, Jean Ishikawa, A Very Concerned Citizen of Hawai'i nei
Reminder: Kuleana and Pono are not merely words but must be a visceral part of all of us.

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

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Date: February 1, 2017

RE: Senate Bill 528

The purpose of this correspondence is to express my **strong support for SB 528**, which provides funding for programs assisting the elderly to age at home rather than in a care facility. I am retired, getting older by the minute and have witnessed friends and families transition from being young and vital to older and frail. When the time comes for me to need assistance in daily living, I hope that I will be cared for in a familiar environment by loved ones, rather than in a profit driven facility by hired employees. While there are many fine elderly care facilities, the cost savings and comfort level of being able to age at home is a far better option both for the individual and society.

For over seventeen years the kupuna care program has provided assistance to those over 60 years of age to age in place. Our elderly population in Hawaii is expanding rapidly and life expectancy is lengthening. There is a greater demand for kupuna care programs than ever before, that is why I am in support of SB 528...we need more resources to serve more people.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for SB 528.

Aloha, Bill Beadle

Waikiki

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Date: Feb 1, 2017
RE: SB 528 Relating to Aging

Chair Baker and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 528 Relating to Aging. My name is Linda Dorset and I am a concerned aging resident and live in the Wailuku area. The passage of this bill is vital because so many of our adults over the age of sixty are living on Social Security and cannot afford long-term care and therefore rely on Kupuna Care. This appropriation would allow the elderly whose incomes cannot cover the hiring of services providers to help with the activities of daily living and help to provide alternatives to nursing homes. Wouldn't you prefer to live out your life in your own home – so would they; so would I.

Please allow this bill to move forward out of committee.

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

February 1, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 528 RELATING TO AGING

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Allyson Enos, a student of the University of Hawai'i, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, pursuing a Masters degree to become a Geriatric Social Worker. I am writing to express my support for SB 528; the additional funding for the Kupuna Care program. This bill will provide the much-needed commitment and access to support services, to ensure that Hawai'i's Kupuna are adequately cared for.

With the significant increase in our elder population and the demand for services, this legislation would provide additional funding for seniors to maintain a consistent continuum of care. By allowing an individual access to resources, support systems, and to age in place, their overall health and emotional wellbeing may not be adversely affected as if they did not have this access.

It may not sound like much to some people, but this alternative to traditional long-term care options and uses of state funds will form a safety net for all Kupuna and their caregivers.

Personal experience: A dear friend of mine, age 86, had called the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), unfortunately, just to be put on a waiting list of 300 people. Therefore, additional funding may eliminate this long wait list.

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care or will need long-term care. Please do not wait until you may need this service, the time to show your support is now. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawai'i, and we are asking you, now, to lead in helping us provide the quality care our Kupuna so desperately need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Allyson Enos
52 Gartley Place
Honolulu, HI 96817

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Rosalyn Baker – Chair

Date: February 1, 2017

Re: SB 528 Relating To Aging

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB528 Relating To Aging. My name is Yuriko Vaughn and I am a family caregiver for my mother. We live in Honolulu.

This bill Relating to Aging (Kupuna Care Program) is very important. It provides a safety net for thousands of aging people in Hawaii who can not afford to pay for services, but do not qualify for Medicaid and other resources. My mother is definitely one of those people. That is why I moved to Hawaii from Connecticut to assist her. My mother can't afford nor does she want to be in a nursing home. This program is cost effective and allows her to age in place at home with me. Plus, it would bless her with dignity and peace of mind.

That is why the passage of this bill is so vital. Please support SB528 Relating To Aging (Kupuna Care Program). Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:35 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: gertiehara@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB528 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM

SB528

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for CPH/HMS on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gertrude Hara	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chair Baker and Committee members: Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in Strong Support of SB528 Relating to Aging. My name is Gertrude Hara-Williams and I am concerned resident for my spouse, and live in the beginning of Kalakaua Avenue area. The passage of this bill is vital because The Kupuna Care Program provides safety net for thousands of aging Hawaii people who cannot afford to pay for services and do not qualify for Medicaid as well as other resources. This program its cost effectives way to prevent the majority of seniors from being placed in a nursing home and allows them to age in a comfortable facility or senior living while caring for my husband. While being living in One Kalakaua makes us feel very much perspective a quality time for being involved actively. I urge you to support Hawaii's growing senior population by supporting SB528. Gertrude Hara-Williams Washington Middle School/Precinct 26

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To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

To: Senate Committee on Human Services, Senator Josh Green, Chair

Date: Feb 1, 2017

Time: 2:45 p.m.

RE: SB 528 Relating to Aging

Chair Baker, Chair Green and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 528 Relating to Aging.

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.

The passage of this bill is vital in order to support the needed in-home care for kupuna. Care givers are challenged both physically and emotionally in providing the needed in-home care for their loved ones. Assistance from this program addresses both these challenges! A smiling face and help with the physical tasks is priceless.

Thank you,

Geoffrey Casburn
District of Hilo

January 30, 2017

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Josh Green, Chair

RE: SB 528 Relating to Aging

Most distinguished Chairs Baker and Green and members of the committees:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 528

AND request the Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and the Committee on Human Services recommends the appropriation of supplemental funding for the support of Kupuna Care.

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 are retiring, and their replacements are not available in equal number

There is a real need to support the Kupuna Care 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

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, Chair Green, Vice Chair Chang and committee members

I am a senior citizen and a resident of House District 19 and Senate District 9. Though I'm a member of several senior organizations, I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I'm testifying in strong support of SB528, an appropriation to The Department of Health for the Kupuna Care program.

In FFY 2015 (the last figures available), the program served over 4800 individuals with homemaker services, chore services, congregate meals, (or home delivered meals), transportation, legal services, etc., so that they can age in place and avoid the high cost of nursing care.

The Base Budget includes approximately \$4.8M for this program annually and it used to be supplemented about \$4.2, for a total of \$9M. For the past two years, however, the supplement was only \$3M.

Hawaii has more per capita seniors than any other state and the number is increasing rapidly. It is incumbent upon all of us to care for our frail elderly and enable them to remain in their own homes as long as possible.

Please support raising the supplement for Kupuna Care to its previous level of approximately \$9M and include the supplement in the Base Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service