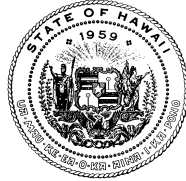


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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 SB0534, SD1
Relating to Kupuna Care

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

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

Hearing Date: February 23, 2017,
9:35 a.m.

Room Number: 211

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 Section 1 of the bill, unpaid
8 caregiving is on the rise. Caregiving places burdens on families financially, emotionally and
9 physically which over time leads to chronic stress.

1 SB0534, SD1 requires EOA to establish the kupuna caregiver program, clarifies kupuna care
2 services and supports provided by the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), and
3 appropriates funding for establishment and implementation of the program.

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

10 The Executive Office on Aging 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 amendment. This amendment aligns with our federal definition in the Older Americans Act, as
16 amended, and our current HRS 349.

17 Page 6, line 9 should read "Respite care" shall be defined pursuant to the Older
18 Americans Act, as amended, as services which offer temporary, substitute supports or
19 living arrangements for care recipients in order to provide a brief period of relief or
20 rest for caregivers. Respite Care includes: (1) In-home respite (personal care,
21 homemaker, and other in-home respite); (2) respite provided by attendance of the care
22 recipient at a senior center or other nonresidential program; (3) institutional respite

- 1 provided by placing the care recipient in an institutional setting such as a nursing
- 2 home for a short period of time as a respite service to the caregiver; and (for
- 3 grandparents caring for children) summer camps.”
- 4 Thank you for considering our suggested amendment and for the opportunity to testify.



February 23, 2017 at 9:35 AM
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 534 SD 1, Relating to Kupuna Care

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

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** SB 534 SD 1. This legislation seeks to provide financial support to individuals who need long-term care services and their families. We appreciate the intent of this measure, which is to help Hawaii residents and their caregivers access needed services that might otherwise be unaffordable. Health care costs continue to rise while wages have not generally kept up, putting many families in difficult situations. This legislation recognizes this dynamic and strives to provide some relief by helping to pay for needed caregiver services. The measure's focus on strengthening the state's healthcare workforce is also much appreciated.

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

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

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

SUBJECT: SB 534 SD 1 Relating to Kupuna Care

HEARING: 9:35 AM Thursday, February 23, 2017
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition **strongly supports SB 534 SD 1** which proposes offering community supports and services to employed family caregivers through benefits available under the Kupuna Care Program and providing an appropriation for this purpose to the Executive Office on Aging.

RATIONALE:

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

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

- SB 534 SD1 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 SB 534 SD1 to address the serious costs of balancing work and caregiving experienced by a significant number of family caregivers as well as by employers of family caregivers.

Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony.

THE SENATE

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Thursday, February 23, 2017; 9:35 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 534, SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 534, SD1, 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. Appropriates funds for establishing and implementing the Kupuna Caregivers program.

S.B. 534, SD1 is an attempt to provide respite and financial assistance to family caregivers by establishing a Kupuna Caregivers program that will allow family caregivers and kupuna themselves to access funds to pay for certain services—e.g., transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, chore and homemaking services. The funds, available through an appropriation, may be expended only through a voucher issued directly to a service provider, but not to a family caregiver. Nevertheless, the funding will support family caregivers by providing services to their kupuna and allowing them to continue working at their jobs.

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

We supported last year's bill—and still do. However, we also support S.B. 534, SD1 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 population is growing older, and many of the elderly are or will need long-term care in one form or another. Most people cannot afford the cost of institutional care but, more importantly, they prefer to remain in their own homes.

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

S.B. 534, SD1 offers help 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 must start somewhere to tackle the issues brought on by the “silver tsunami,” and S.B. 534, SD1 is a reasonable start. The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 534, SD1.

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

THE SENATE

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Thursday, February 23, 2017; 9:35 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 534, SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 534, SD1, 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. Appropriates funds for establishing and implementing the Kupuna Caregivers program.

S.B. 534, SD1 is an attempt to provide respite and financial assistance to family caregivers by establishing a Kupuna Caregivers program that will allow family caregivers and kupuna themselves to access funds to pay for certain services—e.g., transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, chore and homemaking services. The funds, available through an appropriation, may be expended only through a voucher issued directly to a service provider, but not to a family caregiver. Nevertheless, the funding will support family caregivers by providing services to their kupuna and allowing them to continue working at their jobs.

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

We supported last year's bill—and still do. However, we also support S.B. 534, SD1 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 population is growing older, and many of the elderly are or will need long-term care in one form or another. Most people cannot afford the cost of institutional care but, more importantly, they prefer to remain in their own homes.

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

S.B. 534, SD1 offers help 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 must start somewhere to tackle the issues brought on by the “silver tsunami,” and S.B. 534, SD1 is a reasonable start. The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 534, SD1.

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



February 23, 2017 at 9:35 AM
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 534 SD 1, Relating to Kupuna Care

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

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** SB 534 SD 1. This legislation seeks to provide financial support to individuals who need long-term care services and their families. We appreciate the intent of this measure, which is to help Hawaii residents and their caregivers access needed services that might otherwise be unaffordable. Health care costs continue to rise while wages have not generally kept up, putting many families in difficult situations. This legislation recognizes this dynamic and strives to provide some relief by helping to pay for needed caregiver services. The measure's focus on strengthening the state's healthcare workforce is also much appreciated.

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

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 Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 207
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, I am pleased to extend our full support for Senate Bill 534, 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

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



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

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 9:35 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211

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

Re: SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care

Position: Support

Dear Members,

The Hawaii Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) supports SB534 with the amendments proposed by CPH/HMS.

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

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

SB 534 would provide some respite and support for caregivers who are in the workforce and trying to do the best they can to manage care for their families. HI ACOG is committed to facilitating both access to and quality of women's health care, including caregivers and their elderly parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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



CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

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

February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

My name is Pedro Haro, and I wish to testify on behalf of Caring Across Generations in strong support of Senate Bill 534.

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

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

Senate Bill 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program will provide the needed respite care that our kūpuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. Study after study shows that the value of unpaid, and often under-recognized, family care is astronomical, and when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security. No one should be

forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long term care. Our own research showed that 1 in 5 people indicated that they or someone in the household has had to leave a job or the workforce to help care for an aging loved one.

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

Care is a universal issue, and anyone in this room who is not currently providing some form of care to a family member has almost certainly done so in the past...or will do so in the future. Caring Across Generations urges this committee to support SB 534 and help ensure that all families have the support they need to provide the care our kūpuna deserve.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Pedro Haro
204 Koalele St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

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

Date: Feb 23, 2017

RE: SB534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB534 Relating to Aging. My name is Linda Dorset and I am a concerned aging resident and live in the Wailuku area. The passage of this bill is important to me because I am anticipating a time when I may have to quit working in order to take care of my husband who has lung cancer. This appropriation would allow me to get services to help with the activities of daily living so I could continue to work to support us. I know there are many others with the same concerns.

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

Mahalo



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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

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

www.hawaiimedicalassociation.org

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

TO:
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211

Position: Support of SB 534SD1

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

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

Senate Bill 534 would offer assistance to those who would serve to care for our kapuna in a home setting. This is a necessary expenditure by the state, and a program that the HMA would support.

Thank you for allowing our testimony on this issue.

HMA OFFICERS

President – Bernard Robinson, MD President-Elect – William Wong, Jr., MD Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD

Immediate Past President – Scott McCaffrey, MD Treasurer – Michael Champion, MD

Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO

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

February 22, 2017

Testimony in Support of SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz 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 SB 534 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

February 23, 2017/9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

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

Re: SB 534 SD1 – 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 SB 534 SD1 which authorizes the executive office on aging to develop and establish the Kupuna Caregivers Program to assist community members who are providing care for elders.

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. While family caregivers play a critical role in health care delivery, it is of equal importance that they take care of themselves and have necessary supports and services to sustain their own health as well as the health of the family member for which they are providing.

Hawai'i Pacific Health supports SB 534 SD1 which begins the process of establishing a program to provide resources to a workforce of caregivers who provide critical health care to so many elders in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Hearing: February 23, 2017, 9:35 am

Thank you for hearing **SB 534** 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. Please contact me at trisha@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.



February 23, 2017

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

SUPPORT FOR SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

The Hawaii Public Health Association emphatically **supports Senate Bill 534**, which creates the Kupuna Caregivers program to aid working caregivers in Hawaii. We believe this bill is a positive first step to improve the health of our kūpuna as well as their caregivers.

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

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

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

Working caregivers have a difficult task of balancing work and life balance, typically finishing a full day of work only to continue to their duties at home. These working caregivers need the respite services provided by Kupuna Caregivers program established **by Senate Bill 534**. This bill would fund up to \$70 a day for the respite that working family caregivers need in order to stay active in the workforce while caring for their kupuna at home.

The Hawaii Public Health Association fully **supports Senate Bill 534** and urges you vote to pass the measure today.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawai'i Public Health Association

I enthusiastically support SB 534. It's way past time to assist our working citizens who also provide grueling care for our elders. Please pass this long needed legislation.

david+

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:24 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: JIMCISLER@YMAIL.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM

SB534

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

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

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

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

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:20 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: chalintornburian@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM

SB534

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: To The Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly support SB%#\$ (Kupuna Care program with \$70/day benefit to working caregivers). I look forward to your support of the important Bill as well. Mahalo, Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. Paauilo, HI 96776 Phone: (808) 775-1064

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

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:27 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Terez.amato@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM

SB534

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terez Amato Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is a no brainer, please pass this measure. It will help countless families in our community. Thank you.

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

Testimony: Lawrence H. Nitz. SB534 —Relating to Kupuna Care

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Citations:

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

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

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

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

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 9:35 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211

Re: SB 534, SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Position: Support

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

I am writing to support SB 534, SD 1 to create a Kupuna Caregivers program.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Goto, M.D.



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

Editorial | Island Voices

Caregivers need the help of legislators

By Dr. Cynthia Goto

Posted January 08, 2017

January 8, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

to care for themselves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

Dear Chairperson Luke and committee members, My name is Rex Freitas and I strongly support Senate Bill 534.

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

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

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

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

We are the forgotten army of Hawaii, and we need help. I hope our legislators will find a way to give caregivers like me some relief. Please pass Senate Bill 534.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:13 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: drodrigues2001@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM

SB534

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

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

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

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

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

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

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

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017; 9:35 a.m.; CR 211

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of **SB 534 SD1**, 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 SB 534 SD1.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of SB 534 SD1

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

February 21, 2017

Testimony Presented Before the
Ways and Means Committee
Thursday, February 24, 2017 at 9:35 am

RE: Legislative Testimony in Support of SB534

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

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to submit my personal testimony in
strong support of SB534, relating to Kupuna Care.

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Joy Lacanienta

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:31 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: bautista.aprilk@icloud.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM*

SB534

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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

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

Chair Jill Tokuda

Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

Senate Committee on Ways and Means SB534

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017. TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conf. Room 211, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania

Aloha. My name is Steven Mitchell.

During my lifetime in Hawaii, I have been an employee, a business manager, and a business owner. I am here today to ask legislators to please support the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill SB534. I know first hand, how much it would mean, to businesspeople, their employees, and to the State of Hawaii.

I address you as one who has gone through this.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The state needs to adopt the bill that is before them right now, even if it isn't the perfect solution. We need to be able to tell ourselves that we have done our best. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Steven Mitchell

Individual-Retired (808) 352-0306.

Mauinetsteve@gmail.com

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

Date: Feb 23, 2017

Room 211

Time: 9:35 a.m.

RE: **SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care**

Chair Tokuda and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in
STRONG SUPPORT of SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care.

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

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

SB 534 would fund a program to assist the working caregiver and
family with needed assistance during caregiver employment
hours.

Thank you,

Geoffrey Casburn
District of Hilo

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara 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 SB534, SD1 to establish the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This program would enable working caregivers to receive a modest sum and hopefully avoid having to make the decision to leave the workforce in order to stay home to care for a loved one. The typical unpaid caregiver in Hawaii is a woman in her 50's, who is employed outside the home and must balance her family, her job and the care of a loved one. Some give up their jobs in order to provide that care. This leaves them vulnerable with respect to their own retirement planning and savings.

Please approve funding for SB534,SD1 to help these caregivers provide for their loved ones without sacrificing their own futures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

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

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

Date: February 22, 2017

RE: Senate Bill 534

The purpose of this correspondence is to express my **strong support for SB 534**, 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 534...we need more resources to serve more people.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for SB 534.

Aloha, Bill Beadle

Waikiki

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 10:52 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: sching35@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM

SB534

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like SB534 SD1 to be fully funded. We need an entity to administer program to help Kupuna Caregivers to stay in the workforce while caring for Kupuna in their homes. Call be at 808 523-1798. Thank you. Sylvia Ching

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: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017, State Capitol Conference Room 211, 9:35 a.m.
RE: SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA

To Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support SB 534, Relating to Kupuna Care because Hawaii's caregivers need our assistance in order to care for their loved ones at home while being able to keep a job to support themselves. My name is Paul Nishimura and I am a 59 year old resident of Waipahu. This program allows caregivers to hire a trained health professional to assist with day to day care while they are working.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Paul Nishimura
Waipahu

Written Statement of
Zubin Adrian Menon

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 23 2017, 9:35AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

I'm writing to express my strong support for SB 534.

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

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

Please make SB 534 a priority, and send a clear message that we value our kupuna and the families caring for them.

Aloha,

Zubin Menon
zmenon@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:54 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: brendonf@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM

SB534

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: In Strong Support! --supporting caregivers supports our Kupuna --very needed --thank you!!

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 SENATE
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 9:35 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SUPPORT FOR SB534 Kupuna Care

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

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Valerie Yontz, PhD, 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,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Boyne
96822

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:23 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: tjdavies@juno.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM*

SB534

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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

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



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 211

RE: **SB 534, SD 1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

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

AARP Hawaii **strongly supports** SB 534, SD 1 which establishes a program that supports our 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 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.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 9:35 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SUPPORT FOR SB534 Kupuna Care

Dear Ways and Means, Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and 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