

SB534

Measure Title: RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE.

Report Title: Kupuna Care; Caregivers; Executive Office on Aging; Appropriation (\$)

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

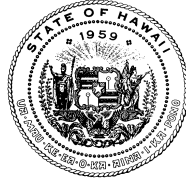
Companion: HB607

Package: Kupuna Caucus

Current Referral: CPH/HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, S. CHANG, GALUTERIA, GREEN, HARIMOTO, IHARA, INOUYE, KEITH-AGARAN, KIM, NISHIHARA, Espero, K. Kahele, 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
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0534
Relating to Kupuna Care

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, 2:45 pm

Room Number: CONF. ROOM 016

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health supports this measure, provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities
- 3 within the Administration's budget request.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates funds in the amount of \$600,000 for fiscal year
- 5 2017-2018 and \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** As Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, the need for long
- 7 term services and supports will continue to increase. As stated in the preamble to the bill, unpaid
- 8 caregiving is on the rise. Caregiving places burdens on families financially, emotionally and
- 9 physically which over time leads to chronic stress.

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

4 This proposal builds on the infrastructure in place that the Executive Office on Aging has with
5 the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The bill would provide funding to allow
6 ADRC to better serve caregivers and is aimed at supporting caregivers to allow them to remain
7 in the workforce. It would provide up to \$70 per day to cover costs for transportation services,
8 personal care services, respite care, adult day care, and chore or homemaker services. Eligibility
9 is modeled after the Kupuna Care program with the 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. Should there be a surplus of funds available for these
13 measures, we would be supportive as it is consistent with EOA's goals and objectives. If the
14 Legislature deems these programs necessary, EOA respectfully requests that the Legislature
15 provide the appropriate resources, rather than supplant existing resources for this proposal.

16 **Recommendations:** EOA respectfully requests your consideration of the following suggested
17 amendments to incorporate into the bill. These edits and comments align with our federal
18 definitions and components of the current HRS 349.

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

- 1 4. Page 5 re-number (3) to be (4) and (4) to be (5).
- 2 5. Page 5, line 17 should read “Chore” not “Chores”
- 3 6. Page 5, line 18 should read “Homemaker” not “homemaking”
- 4 7. Page 6, line 13 should read long-term services and supports
- 5 8. Page 7, line 2 and 3 replace supports and services with “services and supports”
- 6 9. Page 7, line 3 insert after through with “one of two delivery options through”
- 7 10. Page 7, line 5 insert between “Traditional service delivery” and “shall” with the
- 8 following verbiage, “shall be a service provider organization or person who provides
- 9 services to clients under a formal contractual arrangement with the Executive Office
- 10 on Aging or Area Agency on Aging who”
- 11 11. Page 7, line 8 to 9 please delete “the executive office on aging’s process for” and
- 12 insert “the”
- 13 12. Page 7, line 11 delete the word “specific” and insert “assessed”
- 14 13. Page 7 lines 12 - 13 delete “the executive office on aging’s process for” and insert
- 15 “the”
- 16 14. Page 7 line 13 after person centered planning insert “process and documented in the
- 17 support plan.”
- 18 15. Page 8, line 2 insert “support” between “person centered” and “plan.”
- 19 16. Page 8, line 17 insert a new #3 to read (3) Not covered by any comparable
- 20 government or private home and community based care services.
- 21 17. Page 8 re-number (3) to be (4) and (4) to be (5).

1 18. Page 8, line 18 after assisted living facility insert “including all the care programs of
2 assisted living,

3 19. Page 10, line 1, item (2) shall read “if warranted, an assessment of the eligible
4 individual

5 20. Page 10, line 2 delete “eligibility to” and include “utilizing a” statewide uniform....

6 21. Page 10, line 3 after in home delete the word “care” and replace with assessment.

7 22. Page 10, line 3 after “in home assessment.” the following text needs to be included:

8 Upon completion of the in home assessment, the individual develops a written
9 individualized person-centered support plan, with participation from family, friends,
10 and others, if the individual desires that additional assistance. The support plan
11 identifies all the services and supports needed or currently used to meet the
12 individual’s needs, both formal and informal, including those provided by other
13 programs such as Medicaid, or private paid. The plan shall be reviewed with the
14 individual to confirm it is the plan the individual desires.

15 (f) The AAA shall use the assessment data and individual’s support plan to confirm
16 Kupuna Care eligibility, then authorize and coordinate services and supports. The
17 AAA shall directly authorize and allot Kupuna Care services, and shall not delegate
18 the service authorization function to its subcontractors.

19 (g) An individual if determined to be ineligible for Kupuna Care services when:

20 (1) An individual does not meet the eligibility requirements specified;

21 (2) An individual need is not substantiated through an in home assessment;

22 (3) An individual leaves the state or the person’s whereabouts are unknown;

- 1 (4) An individual refuses services.
- 2 (h) The AAA shall provide an individual with written notice of the disposition of the
3 request for Kupuna Care services.
- 4 (i) An individual who have been determined ineligible for Kupuna Care Services has
5 the opportunity to grieve the disposition of the service.
- 6 (1) If an individual is not satisfied with the authorizing AAA’s decision, the
7 person has the right to appeal to the EOA Director within 90 days after the notice
8 date of the AAA’s written decision.
- 9 (2) EOA Director’s decision will be issued in writing and is final.
- 10 24. Page 10, line 8, item (f) shall be changed to (j).
- 11 25. Page 11, line 6, item (g) renamed to (k).
- 12 26. Page 11, line 9, item (h) renamed to (l).
- 13 27. Page 11, line 14 shall read “or chair, and walking.” Delete “or moving about by
14 other means within the home”
- 15 28. Page 11, line 16 after “personal care” insert for dependent elders
- 16 29. Page 11, line 17 delete “for an individual”
- 17 30. Page 11, line 18 following the end of the sentence, insert “Services offered in
18 conjunction with Adult Day Care/Adult Day Health typically include social and
19 recreational activities, training, counseling and services such as rehabilitation,
20 medication assistance and home health aide services for adult day health.”

- 1 31. Page 12, line 7 to 9 should be replaced with the following “Assisted transportation is
2 assistance and transportation, including escort, to a person who has difficulties,
3 cognitive or physical using regular vehicular transportation.”
- 4 32. Page 13, line 10 – 11 shall be replaced with the following: “Chore” means assistance
5 such as heavy housework, yard work, or sidewalk maintenance for a person.
- 6 33. Page 14, lines 3 to 5 shall read, “Homemaker” means assistance with preparing
7 meals, shopping for personal items, managing money, using the telephone, or
8 performing light housework.
- 9 34. Page 14, line 17, item (5) replace “homemaking” with “homemaker”
- 10 35. Page 14, line 18, item (6) replace “Nutrition and meal delivery” with “home delivered
11 meals”
- 12 36. Page 15, line 1 – 3 shall be deleted and replaced with the following: “Home
13 Delivered Meals” means a meal provided to a qualified individual in his/her place of
14 residence. The meal is served in a program administered by State Unit on Aging
15 and/or an Area Agency on Aging and meets all of the requirements of the Older
16 Americans Act of 1965 as amended, and all state and local laws.
- 17 37. Page 15, line 14 after personal assistance delete “including hands on the body
18 support”
- 19 38. Page 15, line 16 delete “to assist a participant with activities of daily living.”
- 20 39. Page 15 line 17 – 19, delete.
- 21 Thank you for considering our suggested amendments and for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

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

Executive Director
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February 1, 2017

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection and Health

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 534, which would establish the Kupuna Caregivers program. This program is designed to help provide additional assistance to working caregivers.

Hawaii currently has the highest percentage of multigenerational households in the nation. This means that many family members are called upon to provide care to their family in addition to maintaining much needed employment. Historically, caregiving work, whether for newborns or elderly family members, has fallen on the shoulders of women. As such, women often have to make a difficult choice between providing care for family members or maintaining stable employment.

SB 534 provides for a voucher program. The vouchers could be used for some respite care, transportation costs, or caregiving assistant services. This honors the important work of caregiving while also allowing working caregivers to remain in the workforce.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 534.



February 1, 2017

Chair Roz Baker & Chair Josh Green
Vice Chair Clarence Nishihara & Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senate Committee on Human Services

SUPPORT FOR SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

The Hawaii Public Health Association emphatically **supports 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.

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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Kessler
Executive Director



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

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

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

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committees for the opportunity to **support** SB 534. 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 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

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

SUBJECT: SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care

HEARING: 2:45 pm Wednesday , February 1, 2017
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition **strongly supports SB 534** 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 or 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 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 administrating the funds, and for collecting systematic data for monitoring, evaluating and planning, have been developed.

- SB 534 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.

The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition urges passage of HB 534 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.

Native Hawaiian Health Task Force

Co-chairs:

Keawe'aimoku
Kaholokula
Kamana'opono Crabbe
Virginia Pressler

Members:

Lola Irvin
Lorin Kim
Noa Emmett Aluli
Puni Kekauoha
Kamaki Kanahale
Nalani Benioni
Keola Chan
Diane Paloma
Dane Keohelani Silva
Nalei Akina
Sharlene Chun-Lum
Claire Hughes
Joelene Lono
Michelle Hiraishi
Kamahanahokulani
Farrar
Sheri Ann Daniels
Kuhio Asam
Mary Oneha
Sean Chun
Joey Gonsalves
Shawn Kana'iaupuni
Neil Hannahs
Keopu Reelitz
Malia Taum-Deenik
Mervina Cash-Kaeo
Maenette Benham
Mahina Paishon-Duarte

Testimony Presented Before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND
HEALTH**

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 1, 2017 at 2:45 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534

**AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS
PROGRAM**

By

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force convened pursuant to S. R. No. 60 S.D. 1, regular session of 2014 .

Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang and members of the committees, on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force, we wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to include long-term care options with home-based care in a statewide insurance program.

We support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Caring for our kūpuna is a cultural tradition in Hawai'i. Aging is a natural occurrence, and by establishing a statewide, insurance-covered, long-term care program, we are helping those who really need help.
- In a recent study of the effect of home-based primary care (HBPC) on Medicare costs and mortality in frail elders, HBPC reduces Medicare costs while sustaining similar survival outcomes across cases and controls. Receiving care at home provides our kūpuna (elders) with a familiar care setting and eliminates the burden of frequent hospitalizations or skilled nursing facility expenses.
- According to the Hawaii Long Term Care Association, age is the single most important factor in understanding the need for health resources. In Hawai'i, the elderly population (kūpuna) aged 65 and older comprises 15% of the state population and is growing at a much faster pace than the rest of the nation. With a larger elderly population, there will be a greater need for long-term care services.

- The Department of Veterans Affairs has a Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program benefitting those who need extra care for their medical, social, or behavioral conditions. With the HBPC program, Veterans Affairs and Medicare costs were 11.7% lower than projected and the combined hospitalizations were 25.5% lower than before. Furthermore, patients reported high satisfaction with access to care under HBPC as well as the continuity of care. With lower expenses and more patient centered care, the general public should also be offered the option of a home-based long-term care program.
- A research study by the Urban Institute determined about 15% of 65-year-olds will spend, on average, \$250,000 on health care expenses. Long-term care is required by the elderly as well as younger people with chronic conditions or trauma, therefore it is necessary to figure out more affordable care options for our loved ones or even for ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force



ALAN ARAKAWA
Mayor

CAROL K. REIMANN
Director
Housing & Human Concerns

JAN SHISHIDO
Deputy Director
Housing & Human Concerns

DEBORAH STONE-WALLS
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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 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2017; Conference Room 016, 2:45 p.m.

MCOA's Position: Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) is in **strong support** of SB 534 that expands Kupuna Care services to include a Kupuna Caregivers Program with one proposed amendment.

Purpose and Justification: Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in all counties have implemented the Kupuna Care Program throughout the State for almost two decades. Services provided through Kupuna Care have benefited recipients and allowed individuals to remain living independently in the community rather than needing to live in institutional settings. While Kupuna Care has changed the lives of many seniors, AAA staff members have expressed the desire for a vehicle by which to better assist family caregivers. As the needs of frail seniors increase over time, family caregivers (most often women) are forced to either place their loved one in an institution or resort to leaving the workforce. The loss of employment not only brings short-term financial

To promote and protect the well-being of the Older Americans in Maui County.

hardship, but also results in long-term reduction of retirement and Social Security benefits. The Kupuna Caregivers Program would serve to assist these family caregivers by allowing them to maintain employment with the assurance that their loved one is safe.

MCOA proposes one amendment to SB534. On page 3, lines 16-19 should read:

(c) The kupuna caregivers program shall award a **paper or electronic** voucher of a maximum of \$70 per day to cover costs for the following services that would otherwise be performed by the qualified caregiver for the care recipient:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding 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

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 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Payne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Christine Payne
Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:08 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: susan.wurtzburg@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM*

SB534

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	American Association of University Women, Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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

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CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

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

February 1, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is 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.

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

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



TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair – Senate Committee on
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Josh Green, MD, Chair – Senate Committee on
Human Services

DATE: Wednesday, February 1, 2017
TIME: 2:45 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016

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 Senator Baker, Senator Green, and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) supports SB534.

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



1124 Fort Street Mall, Suite 205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
P 808.521.1846 | F 808.533.6995
www.mentalhealthhawaii.org

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

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

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

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

Hearing: February 1, 2017, 2:45 pm, CR 016

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.



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 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

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 534 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 in support for SB 534.

Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, Advocacy Director, AARP Hawaii



Comments on Hawaii SB534, legislation to create a public long term care program

Submitted by Karen Kahn, for PHI

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

PHI is pleased to submit testimony in support of **SB534**, a bill designed to help families care for their elders.

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

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

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

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

SB534 provides an innovative solution to helping Hawaii’s families cope with the many costs of caregiving. By providing a limited benefit of \$70 per day for 365 days, the

legislation provides a “care floor,” ensuring that families can hire paid support to supplement the care they are able to provide.

In addition to directly supporting family caregivers, the bill has benefits that will strengthen Hawaii’s caregiving infrastructure. Currently, only those who qualify for Medicaid can access publicly funded long-term services and supports. This forces families to “spend down,” essentially impoverishing themselves to get the services they need. Spending down puts an added strain on families, which **SB534**, in providing an additional source of funds to invest in long-term care, helps mitigate.

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

These low wages make it difficult to attract people to the home care profession. But with the rise in the elder population, our analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Labor shows that Hawaii’s demand for home care workers will increase by more than 35 percent over the next decade.^{vi} It is essential for Hawaii to attract, train, and retain a compassionate, skilled workforce to help relieve the burden on family caregivers. **SB534** creates an opportunity for the state to make a real investment in building the caregiving workforce needed to ensure all of Hawaii’s *kupuna* can age with dignity in the settings of their choice.

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

ⁱⁱ Eldercare Workforce Alliance. Care Coordination. Issue Brief.

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

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

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

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

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

February 1, 2017

Testimony in Support of SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs 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 -- and especially to Senator Baker -- 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

Testimony: Lawrence H. Nitz. SB 534—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. 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.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 1, 2017 at 2:45 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang and members of the committees, I am Dr. Sheri Daniels, executive director of Papa Ola Lōkahi, and member of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to include long-term care options with home-based care in a statewide insurance program.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Caring for our kūpuna is a cultural tradition in Hawai'i. Aging is a natural occurrence, and by establishing a statewide, insurance-covered, long-term care program, we are helping those who really need help.
- In a recent study of the effect of home-based primary care (HBPC) on Medicare costs and mortality in frail elders, HBPC reduces Medicare costs while sustaining similar survival outcomes across cases and controls. Receiving care at home provides our kūpuna (elders) with a familiar care setting and eliminates the burden of frequent hospitalizations or skilled nursing facility expenses.
- According to the Hawaii Long Term Care Association, age is the single most important factor in understanding the need for health resources. In Hawai'i, the elderly population (kūpuna) aged 65 and older comprises 15% of the state population and is growing at a much faster pace than the rest of the nation. With a larger elderly population, there will be a greater need for long-term care services.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs has a Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program benefitting those who need extra care for their medical, social, or behavioral conditions. With the HBPC program, Veterans Affairs and Medicare costs were 11.7% lower than projected and the

combined hospitalizations were 25.5% lower than before. Furthermore, patients reported high satisfaction with access to care under HBPC as well as the continuity of care. With lower expenses and more patient centered care, the general public should also be offered the option of a home-based long-term care program.

- A research study by the Urban Institute determined about 15% of 65-year-olds will spend, on average, \$250,000 on health care expenses. Long-term care is required by the elderly as well as younger people with chronic conditions or trauma, therefore it is necessary to figure out more affordable care options for our loved ones or even for ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

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

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AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang and members of the committees, I am Robin Miyamoto, a Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Departments of Native Hawaiian Health and Family Medicine and Community Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to include long-term care options with home-based care in a statewide insurance program.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Robin E. S. Miyamoto, Psy.D.

Assistant Professor
Department of Native Hawaiian Health
Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa
677 Ala Moana Blvd. 1016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Office: 808-692-1012
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robinemi@hawaii.edu

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, Senator Josh Green, Chair
Date: Feb 1, 2017
RE: SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care

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

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

Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 11:04 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: patriciablair@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM*

SB534

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
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:14 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: pastordianem@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM

SB534

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
Diane S. Martinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the effort of SB534 to assist families in caring for their elders at home by providing financial support and services to the working caregiver. We have many families whose lives are stretched in time and financial resources in their effort to care for their loved ones at home. With our aging population, increasing numbers of families will be in this situation.

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From: anita3396@aol.com
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: KUPUNA Care
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:09:50 PM

My name is Jaunita Colon. I lived in Ewa Beach since 1971. I have been retired for many year. I have seen and experienced many tribulations in life. I lost two children in their prime lives. I am a mother, grandmother and a great grand mother. My children lives far away from me. I depend on the public transportation to get m to places I need to go. The cost of living in Hawaii is so high that even with retirement and social security comes in to play in my existence I find myself stretching my dollars for food after I pay medications.

I will be 83 years old soon. God willing I may have more years to be on earth, I am a KUPUNA still contributing to the welfare of he society. specially organizations in the Catholic Church. I am the President of the Filipino Catholic Club at OPH Parish, member of he Oahu Catholic Club under the Diocese of Honolulu. We work with other denominations in this lands. We are Seniors Citizens very vibrant in the community. We are there when we are need. always helping.

I am passionately asking you to put this KUPUNA care where "We" senior citizens can benefit. Mahalo for listening. I am trying to find a transportation to come to the rally but with my health it is not going to happen. That is why I am here in the computer begging for help for me and my fellow seniors.

Respectfully,

Juanita Colon

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

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

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang and members of the committees, I am Nobumi Nakamura, a Research Project Coordinator, and a staff member of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai‘i’s entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to include long-term care options with home-based care in a statewide insurance program.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

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- A research study by the Urban Institute determined about 15% of 65-year-olds will spend, on average, \$250,000 on health care expenses. Long-term care is required by the elderly as well as younger people with chronic conditions or trauma, therefore it is necessary to figure out more affordable care options for our loved ones or even for ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nobumi Nakamura

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 2:41 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM*

SB534

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
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

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AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang and members of the committees, I am Chanley Mālia Purdy, a Doctorate in Public Health student at University of Hawaii, and a graduate research assistant member of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s John A. Burns School of Medicine’s Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai‘i’s entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to include long-term care options with home-based care in a statewide insurance program.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

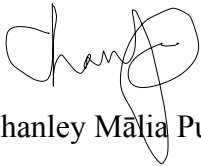
- Caring for our kūpuna is a cultural tradition in Hawai‘i. Aging is a natural occurrence, and by establishing a statewide, insurance-covered, long-term care program, we are helping those who really need help.
- In a recent study of the effect of home-based primary care (HBPC) on Medicare costs and mortality in frail elders, HBPC reduces Medicare costs while sustaining similar survival outcomes across cases and controls. Receiving care at home provides our kūpuna (elders) with a familiar care setting and eliminates the burden of frequent hospitalizations or skilled nursing facility expenses.
- According to the Hawaii Long Term Care Association, age is the single most important factor in understanding the need for health resources. In Hawai‘i, the elderly population (kūpuna) aged 65 and older comprises 15% of the state population and is growing at a much faster pace than the rest of the nation. With a larger elderly population, there will be a greater need for long-term care services.

- The Department of Veterans Affairs has a Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program benefitting those who need extra care for their medical, social, or behavioral conditions. With the HBPC program, Veterans Affairs and Medicare costs were 11.7% lower than projected and the combined hospitalizations were 25.5% lower than before. Furthermore, patients reported high satisfaction with access to care under HBPC as well as the continuity of care. With lower expenses and more patient centered care, the general public should also be offered the option of a home-based long-term care program.

- A research study by the Urban Institute determined about 15% of 65-year-olds will spend, on average, \$250,000 on health care expenses. Long-term care is required by the elderly as well as younger people with chronic conditions or trauma, therefore it is necessary to figure out more affordable care options for our loved ones or even for ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,



Chanley Mália Purdy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 3:35 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mjimmermaid@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM

SB534

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
Mary Jo Morrow	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: We need to help these caregivers. They are usually elderly themselves and women, who are struggling to keep their loved ones bathed, fed properly medicated. They keep the patient medical needs and appointments updated, providing transportation and medication to their loved ones. Let's try to help them, all of us have someone we love.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 1:49 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: melelook@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM

SB534

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
Mele Look	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, I strongly support SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care. I am blessed with both my parents still living at 90+ years old. And our family struggles with finding ways to keep them in the home they have lived for 50+ years. We all want to stay in the home and neighborhoods that we created our life in. This bill is an important step to making sure many families can have the resources to make it possible. We also know that it is less expensive for government and families if our kupuna are cared for in their own homes, and services are wrapped around what the 'ohana are not able to provide. Mahalo loa for your time and consideration. Yours truly, Mele Look

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From: bmih@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Bryan Mih](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support of SB404, Relating to Chapter 245, Hawaii Revised Statutes
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 1:33:50 PM

Dear Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Hrg: February 1, 2017 at 9:00am at Capitol Room 229

As a pediatrician in Honolulu and medical director of the HEALTHY Tobacco & Nicotine Cessation Program, I strongly support SB404 which creates a tax on electronic smoking devices (ESDs) and requires wholesalers and retailers of ESDs to obtain a retail tobacco permit.

Electronic smoking devices are clearly products meant to approximate the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Electronic smoking devices take a mixture of chemicals, including nicotine, and vaporize it at high temperatures. These devices emit nicotine byproducts and a variety of other chemicals, and they have not been fully studied in regards to safety. E-cigarette vapor has been shown to include carcinogens and toxins including nicotine, nitrosamines, diethylene glycol, formaldehyde, and acetaldehyde. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has exhibited concern regarding the safety of electronic smoking devices as well.

Despite entering the market only a few years ago, electronic smoking devices (ESDs), or e-cigarettes are showing huge increases in use among middle and high school students. In Hawai'i, 1 in 5 adults and high school students and 1 in 10 middle school students smoke e-cigarettes, exceeding cigarette use.

ESD or e-cigarette use among youth and young adults has become a national public health concern. E-cigarettes are now the most popularly used tobacco product among youth and young adults, surpassing cigarettes. While smoking rates in Hawai'i has decreased through the years, ESD use has rapidly increased, threatening the state's current tobacco prevention efforts. This is particularly concerning because e-cigarettes provide a new way to deliver the drug nicotine. No matter how it is delivered, nicotine exposure can lead to addiction and harm the developing brain. Studies are also finding that ESDs can lead to smoking cigarettes for new users, including kids.

Contrary to popular belief, ESDs do not emit harmless water vapor. Vaping companies are using the same tobacco marketing tactics by advertising e-cigarettes as inexpensive and comparing them to smoking cigarettes. Popular local e-liquid flavors include Kona coffee, Maui mango, Pele's papaya, and pineapple punch.

Now that the FDA has deemed ESDs as tobacco products, I urge the legislature to regulate and tax e-cigarettes the same way as other tobacco products. ESDs are the only tobacco product without a tobacco tax and increasing the price is a proven strategy that discourages access to these products. In addition, a portion of these revenues should be dedicated to tobacco prevention and quit programs.

This bill will also require a retail tobacco permit which will allow the state to know who is selling e-cigarettes in Hawai'i and work with these merchants to educate and enforce current tobacco laws.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD, MPH, FAAP
Pediatrician

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih
1944 Naniu Pl
Honolulu, HI 96822-1758

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Chang and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health & Committee on Human Services:

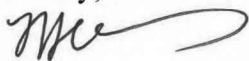
As a faculty member in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine, I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534.

This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

I support this bill for professional and personal reasons. As a Native Hawaiian, having reverence and respect for Kūpuna and providing care for our elders is the right thing to do. In Hawai'i, the elderly population (kūpuna) aged 65 and older comprises 15% of the state population and is growing at a much faster pace than the rest of the nation. With a larger elderly population, there will be a greater need for long-term care services. Providing funds for establishing and implementing the kūpuna caregivers program provides support options for community members who are providing care for elders, allowing these individuals to remain in the workforce and promoting the necessary caregiving that our kūpuna deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Winona K. Lee, MD



Healthcare in your own home

Prime Care Services Hawaii, Incorporated

3375 Koapaka St. Suite I-570 Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Tel: 531-0050 Fax: 531-1158

www.primecarehawaii.com

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

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

I, Beth Hoban, a Caregiver, am writing testimony in support of SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care. I am a caregiver to my 92 year old mother and live with the challenges of balancing fulltime work and caring for my mother at home. I am also the President of Prime Care Services Hawaii, a home healthcare agency, providing skilled services for patients in their home. Many of our patients prefer to stay at home and be cared for by their family; but the families work fulltime and some work a second job to be able to meet economic needs to support the family and care for their loved one at home.

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.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to support SB 534. This legislation seeks to provide financial support to individuals who need long-term care services and their families. As a result, I humbly ask for your support of this measure.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Mahalo and Aloha-

Beth Hoban

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:16 AM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jlouis@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM*

SB534

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Louis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

February 1, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, 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 SB534 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. 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 support at home with activities of daily living (ADLs), like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifetime 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 Hawai'i, and we are asking you, now, to lead in helping us provide the quality care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Allyson Enos
52 Gartley Place
Honolulu, HI 96817

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 1, 2017 at 2:45 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang and members of the committees, my name is Terri Lum and I would like to express my strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

For the past several years, my sister and I have been the primary caregivers for our elderly parents. My father passed away in October, 2015 and we are still maintaining our 88 year old mother in her own home. Although it has not always been easy, this is a decision that is in part due to the high cost of adult care homes, especially for someone like my mother who has limited mobility and requires 24 hour supervision. Both my sister and I work full time and do our best to care for our own families while caring for our mother who resides in the Aina Haina area. I live on the Big Island and commute to Honolulu at least twice a month in order to assist with my mother's care.

I know that we are not alone in this challenge to ensure our mother receives appropriate care and that the cost of either long term care insurance or obtaining services is out of reach for many families. Please help us care for our family members and make sure that they receive quality services so that they can continue to live a life of dignity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terri Lynn Lum
P.O. Box 4217, Hilo, HI 96720

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:05 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: joyamarshall0416@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM*

SB534

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
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

February 1, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Clementina Ceria-Ulep and I am the Co-Chair of the FACE Long-Term Care Taskforce and also the Interim Associate for Academic Affairs at the UH School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. I want to express my support for **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 the long-term Kupuna Caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who are also taking care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. This is important as many caregivers are in the sandwich generation, caring for our aging parents and grandparents while also struggle to continue to work to provide for our families.

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

I know relatives and friends who have struggled caring for their parents, their own family while at the same time working. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need. FACE has been working on this issue for 21 years! Let's make it happen this year!

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep
Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep
211 Hoomalu Street; Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [Dawn Webster](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: [Dawn Webster](#)
Subject: In support of SB534 Hearing on Feb 1, 2017, 2.45p.m. Room 016
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:14:02 PM

I write to urge you to please support passage of SB534 that aims to provide some respite to overburdened family caregivers throughout the state.

Over the past several weeks, I have met with several people to listen to and document their experience of looking after aging family members. It's been a moving experience.

The impulse that drives them all, no matter what their station in life, is a strong sense of filial piety, and love. Above all, it is love. That love drives many family caregivers to extreme lengths to ensure that they provide the best possible care for their loved ones. Family caregivers struggle with the guilt of feeling they are not doing enough, of wishing they could do more. Most are women like myself but I have also met and spoken with men who have expended an extraordinary amount of care on elders in their family. Some have taken on impossible levels of debt. Others have neglected their own health. Some have forfeited thousands in income.

If these heroic caregivers share a strong sense of duty and love, they also share the burden of coping with enormous emotional and financial stress. Often they do so quietly, without telling anyone, and while struggling to hang on to their jobs and preserve their income streams and keep contributing to their Social Security.

They do so at great cost to their own sense of well-being. We are all familiar with the expression that it takes a village to raise a child. But it takes a village to care for those in the twilight of their lives too. Kupuna care should not be a hidden struggle borne alone. We all have someone we know in our families or amongst our friends who is struggling with that challenge. We will all eventually face the challenge of our own inevitable decline. Providing our family caregivers with some respite is a moral imperative--and it is in our own interest.

The demographics do not lie. We know what is coming. For ourselves and for the community. We are counting on your leadership to champion SB534 and move us closer to managing the needs of seniors, most of whom want to age in their own homes.

Let's offer this modest help so family caregivers know they are not alone, and because what the family caregivers do saves the state from having to provide for seniors in other ways. This bill says something about how we think of our seniors and whether we want them to age with dignity. If we really believe that, please let us demonstrate it by supporting SB534.

Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.

1, Keahole Place, #3501, Honolulu, HI 96825

808-383-7581

From: [Linda Morgan](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 534 Kupuna Care
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 6:56:59 PM

Chairs Baker and Green

Vice Chairs Nishihara and Chang

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senate Committee on Human Services

February 1, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Linda Morgan, and I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. I am a healthy and energetic 72 year old, but sometime in the future I may need care from my daughters. I do not want to be a burden on them. This bill will provide the needed respite care that kupuna caregivers deserve and the support that working families need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. 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. 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 help provide care at home.

This bill is not meant to provide funds for a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which is 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. This sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers.

As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders for the people of Hawaii. I am asking you to lead in helping us provide the care our families need and to pass SB 534.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Morgan

P.O. Box 377406

Ocean View, HI 96737

From: [Robert H Stiver](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 534
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 11:42:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of SB 534. My limited familiarity with the text of the bill indicates that I, a retiree at age 72 in August 2016 when my wife Masako passed away at age 79 in hospice care after many months of caregiving provided by me at home, would not be eligible for the benefits that would be available should the bill become law. However, I have the experiential knowledge to aver that this bill should be passed and become law; so many caregivers, and the kupuna to whom they give care would be provided a measure of respite and the comfort that they are supported by society in this most traumatic and exhausting labor of love.

It is long past time that this issue be resolved in compassionate favor of our caregiving community. Please help by voting for SB 534!

Sincerely, Robert H. Stiver, 98-434 Hoomailani Street, Pearl City 96782; tel. 455-9823

From: [Shelley Soong](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:01:27 PM

Aloha Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang, and members of the committees,

My name is Shelley Soong. I am a student, and a staff member of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Native Hawaiian Health. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Our department co-chaired the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force which was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to include long-term care options with home-based care in a statewide insurance program.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Myself in addition to numerous friends and family members I know have had to quit their jobs or quit school because we needed to take care of our parent, grandparent or other kupuna. This has been a challenge financially but there was no other option, we not only couldn't afford a "care home", but that is just not something we would do culturally (put an elder in a "home"). Any financial support would alleviate the stress involved in caring for an elder, and SB 534 can do that.

In addition:

- Caring for our kupuna is a cultural tradition in Hawai'i. Aging is a natural occurrence, and by establishing a statewide, insurance-covered, long-term care program, we are helping those who really need help.
- In a recent study of the effect of home-based primary care (HBPC) on Medicare costs and mortality in frail elders, HBPC reduces Medicare costs while sustaining similar survival outcomes across cases and controls. Receiving care at home provides our kupuna (elders) with a familiar care setting and eliminates the burden of frequent hospitalizations or skilled nursing facility expenses.
- According to the Hawaii Long Term Care Association, age is the single most important factor in understanding the need for health resources. In Hawai'i, the elderly population (kupuna) aged 65 and older comprises 15% of the state population and is growing at a much faster pace than the rest of the nation. With a larger elderly population, there will be a greater need for long-term care services.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs has a Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

program benefitting those who need extra care for their medical, social, or behavioral conditions. With the HBPC program, Veterans Affairs and Medicare costs were 11.7% lower than projected and the combined hospitalizations were 25.5% lower than before. Furthermore, patients reported high satisfaction with access to care under HBPC as well as the continuity of care. With lower expenses and more patient centered care, the general public should also be offered the option of a home-based long-term care program.

- A research study by the Urban Institute determined about 15% of 65-year-olds will spend, on average, \$250,000 on health care expenses. Long-term care is required by the elderly as well as younger people with chronic conditions or trauma, therefore it is necessary to figure out more affordable care options for our loved ones or even for ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shelley Soong

--

Shelley

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 1, 2017 at 2:45 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang and members of the committees, I am Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD, Co-Chair of the Native Hawaiian Health Task Force and Professor and Chair of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

The Native Hawaiian Health Task Force was created during the 2014 legislative session with the goals of articulating priority areas that will help advance health equity for Native Hawaiians, and in turn, the health of Hawai'i's entire population. The task force recently presented its findings as well as 16 specific recommendations to improve the health of Native Hawaiians. One of these 16 recommendations was to include long-term care options with home-based care in a statewide insurance program.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

- Caring for our kūpuna is a cultural tradition in Hawai'i. Aging is a natural occurrence, and by establishing a statewide, insurance-covered, long-term care program, we are helping those who really need help.
- In a recent study of the effect of home-based primary care (HBPC) on Medicare costs and mortality in frail elders, HBPC reduces Medicare costs while sustaining similar survival outcomes across cases and controls. Receiving care at home provides our kūpuna (elders) with a familiar care setting and eliminates the burden of frequent hospitalizations or skilled nursing facility expenses.
- According to the Hawaii Long Term Care Association, age is the single most important factor in understanding the need for health resources. In Hawai'i, the elderly population (kūpuna) aged 65 and older comprises 15% of the state population and is growing at a much faster pace than the rest of the nation. With a larger elderly population, there will be a greater need for long-term care services.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs has a Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program benefitting those who need extra care for their medical, social, or behavioral conditions. With the

HBPC program, Veterans Affairs and Medicare costs were 11.7% lower than projected and the combined hospitalizations were 25.5% lower than before. Furthermore, patients reported high satisfaction with access to care under HBPC as well as the continuity of care. With lower expenses and more patient centered care, the general public should also be offered the option of a home-based long-term care program.

- A research study by the Urban Institute determined about 15% of 65-year-olds will spend, on average, \$250,000 on health care expenses. Long-term care is required by the elderly as well as younger people with chronic conditions or trauma, therefore it is necessary to figure out more affordable care options for our loved ones or even for ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, PhD
Professor and Chair of Native Hawaiian Health, John A. Burns School of Medicine
Co-Chair, Native Hawaiian Health Task Force

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday February 1, 2017 at 2:45 PM
Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534

AN APPROPRIATION TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT THE KŪPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Chang and members of the committees I wish to submit this testimony in strong support of SB 534. This bill would appropriate monies to establish and implement the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

I support this bill for numerous reasons:

I am in full support of all programs to help seniors remain in their home as they age and need home health care services. There are many of us that have worked all our lives, diligently paid our taxes, have a modest savings, but may not qualify for Medicaid or have a long term care insurance policy to help pay for home health services. \$70 per day could help pay for a few hours of chore and personal care services if we experience a serious illness and/or debilitating health issues. Translated, if you have to hire someone for about \$20-25/hr., \$70 a day could give you about 2-3 hours of care per day to help you with shopping, cleaning, personal care like bathing, transporting to doctor's appointment, etc. One serious bout of illness could wipe out a lifetime of modest savings.

Many of my friends are my age and consider "seniors". Some of us have family and friends to help. Others, do not, or cannot ask for help. I found myself in this situation a couple years ago and know the importance of being able to have help during a serious illness. I had no family or close friends to help me when I need transportation to the doctors, shopping, cleaning, laundry, etc. It was devastating and lonely. I used much of my saving to hire help during that six months. Many seniors are isolated, live alone, and have no or very little family to help on a consistent basis during a long-term illness. Having worked in a Medicaid program for a number of years, I have seen the importance of long term home health care to help individuals remain in their homes. This should be something that all citizens should be able to access to. I ask you to support this bill and increase funding to help seniors. A current kupuna care program has a long wait list and I know people who have died waiting for assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jacqueline Hong
99-1220 Halawa Hgts. Rd
Aiea, Hi 96701
Phone (808) 375-4100

January 30, 2017

Hearing Date: February 1, 2017

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

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Josh Green, Chair

RE: SB 534 Relating to Aging – Kupuna Caregiver Program

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

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 534

AND request the members of the Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and the Committee on Human Services recommend the establishment of a Kupuna Caregiver Program.

As the Hawaii population ages, there is an intrinsic need for caregivers.

In-home care with caregivers vs. assisted or nursing care is preferred by seniors...and in fact is a cost saving benefit for the individual and the state.

Caregivers are family members with jobs.

Seniors have needs during all hours of the day.

Contracted workers are needed to fill this need.

A \$70 voucher system, as proposed by SB 534, administered by the State's Office on Aging, is needed.

These facts of Senior Living in Hawaii are constant:

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

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

Please vote affirmatively on this bill to allow the successful 'Aging in Place' of Hawaii Seniors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah
Honolulu Resident

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair – Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Josh Green, MD, Chair – Senate Committee on Human Services

DATE: Wednesday, February 1, 2017
TIME: 2:45 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016

Re: SB 534 Relating to Kupuna Care

Position: Support

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Green, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support SB 534 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.

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CPH Testimony

From: Rosslyn Dawson <rozdawson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:15 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: Kupuna care program

I am in full support of this program to assist our aging. As someone who has been immobilized recently I know how essential assistance is needed to stay at home and recuperate.

Roslyn Dawson

Sent from my iPad

CPH Testimony

From: Karen Muronaka <karen.muronaka@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 12:34 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: testimony SB 534

To: Chairs Roz Baker and Josh Green
Vice Chairs Clarence Nishihara and Stanley Chang
Consumer Protection and Health Senate Committee on Commerce
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Karen Muronaka, Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE)

Date: January 29, 2017

Subject: Support of SB 534

Every eight seconds, someone in the country turns 65 years old. Our local population is aging even more rapidly, and living longer than any other state. By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i. Because of these demographic changes, we need to change the way we provide care for our elders.

Many caregivers make the difficult decision to leave their job or reduce their work hours to care for an aging family member. In 2017, our legislators can vote to pass SB 534 to create a fund to help caregivers provide care for our kupuna. These resources could help pay for a home health care worker, for a little extra help preparing meals or perhaps for transportation when a family caregiver is not available. SB 534 will help make long-term care for our Kupuna more affordable and provide the helping hand caregivers so desperately need. It will create high-quality home care jobs. We need to put compassionate, trained workers in positions that pay fair wages and respect the work they do to care for others. This program represents our values; caring for our kupuna is part of our island culture and makes it easier for everyone to afford the care they need.

In 2016, the cost of homemaker service in Hawaii was \$54,912. In 2026, it is projected to cost \$73,797. In 2016 the cost to hire a Home Health Aide was \$57,772. By 2026 the projected cost is \$77,641.

In 2017 our legislators can vote to pass SB 534 to create a fund to help caregivers provide care for our kupuna.

FACE unit Kahalu'u United Methodist Church (KUMC) supports SB 534. We urge this committee to support this bill too.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Muronaka
Kahalu'u United Methodist Church

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 SB534, an appropriation to establish a program to help working caregivers, so they are able to remain in the workforce.

There are an estimated 154,000 caregivers in Hawaii. Some of those are employed outside the home, but may find it necessary to terminate employment early in order to care for a loved one at home.

This might result in the caregiver not having enough resources for his/her own retirement.

Please support SB534 to establish the Kupuna Caregivers program and support the caregivers who care for our Kupuna.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Barbara J. Service

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

January 31, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Nicolita Garces, and I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kūpuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kūpuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

I am in support because my own mother was a caregiver for 20 years to a longtime family friend. She retired early and was able to provide care to *tata*, who was a tremendous help to my family over the years. He peacefully passed away in his home last September at the age of 101. My mother is 72.

For years, I have seen the emotional and physical stress put upon my mother as a caregiver. She almost had a nervous breakdown in 2012. That was when my brother and I stepped in for assistance until *tata's* daughter—who lives off-island—agreed to provide specialized care.

We already know that Hawai'i is an aging society and so many working adults are caregivers to their parents and/or other relatives. I know of three friends who were caregivers to their parents since they were in high school. The high cost of living here makes it much more difficult to be a working caregiver. The Kūpuna Caregivers program will alleviate some of the burdens that working caregivers carry, such as providing additional helpers for home care, transportation and even homemaking services—things that Medicare does not cover.

My brother and I are already anticipating being working caregivers to our mother. As a society, Hawai'i regards its kūpuna highly, and we do our best to take care of them during their golden years. Having the Kūpuna Caregivers program will be an immense help to working families.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Nicolita Garces

2027 Wilcox Lane #105

Honolulu, HI 96819

To: Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Human Services

Re: SB 534

Hearing: Wednesday, February 1, 2016, 2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Chairs Baker and Green, and Committee Members:

My name is Samantha Calumpit and I am testifying in support of the Kupuna Care Assistance Bill. I'm currently pursuing a degree in Accounting at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. For ten years, my grandmother stuck to one schedule — woke early enough to watch darkness turn to light, rode the city bus full of other early birds, and brought herself into an endless cycle of supporting herself. When my grandmother was sixty-three years old, she needed to stop working because of her health conditions. She was getting old; therefore, she was getting weak. Her leaving her job was indirectly due to her age.

The year 2014 was when my grandma decided to take an early retirement. My grandmother's job required her to carry a lot of heavy things, which was incredibly difficult to do for a lady with so many years on her back. Her family members supported her decision to retire early.

My grandmother is about to turn sixty-five years old. She still takes care of herself; though, being able to cook, do her own laundry, and feed her dog will be a challenge as she grows older and as her health declines. As she ages, she will depend on relatives for knowledge-based help and resources.

When I asked her how she felt about being in a care home, she said, "I'd rather stay home and be cared for by family members rather than paid-non-family related workers." Because the majority of care homes are expensive, she'd rather be cared for in her own home. Although being cared by someone who isn't a family member isn't ideal, the Kupuna Care Assistance Bill

would certainly help my grandmother. The government passing this bill would bring relief to our family.

My grandma did say she will worry about who'll care for her in the future because her own kids will be busy supporting their own. As my grandma lives with us, another worry she has is *what would happen if she didn't have a home*—what would happen if my parents moved out of the state? Who would watch over those who has helped our *keiki*? When the times comes, the government can get a qualified caregiver to help my grandma and others in the same situation. I'd like it if there were a way to help my grandmother worry less.

People in their silver years *aren't* useless. They watch over their grandchildren like their own; they even help others older than they are. They use every ounce of their strength to help their family. We can do the same for our *kupuna*. We need to recognize the needs of those in their silver years and do something to give them respite.

Please support Senate Bill 534. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Samantha Calumpit

smc22@hawaii.edu | 808.228.6896

To: Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Human Services

Re: SB 534

Hearing: Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 2:45 PM
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Chairs Baker and Green, and Committee Members:

My name is Connie Tu, I am a student at University of Hawaii at Manoa researching about the Kupuna Care Bill. My testimony reflects the findings, after interviewing my relatives. I strongly support Senate Bill 534, which creates Kupuna Caregivers Programs within the Executive Office on Aging.

I believe that this bill is needed in Hawaii because we need to establish a program to assist community members who are providing care for elders to stay in the workforce. My great-grandma has lived with my great-uncle ever since she was 50 years old, after she became a widow. At first, she had the ability to take care of herself. Once she reached 70 years old, she slowly stopped her daily routine of going on walks, making breakfast, and going out to the garden. Eventually, she was not even capable of driving herself to her doctor appointments that was only 20 minutes away by car. As a result, she depended on my great-uncle to drive her places because they were living together.

Every morning, my great-uncle or his wife would wake up and pre-make her breakfast and lunch. Then they would go to work and leave her at home by herself. When they came home from work, my great-uncle would prepare dinner while his wife drew her a bath and washed her clothes. After dinner, he would help her to the living room where she enjoyed watching television while eating fruits. Sometimes my grandpa would go visit her, see how she was doing, and help her with anything that she needed assistance with. This meant a lot to my great-grandma because she was always by herself when her son was at work, so when my grandpa visited her it helped her past time and have some human interaction with people besides my great-uncle and aunt.

After a few years, she started to become more ill due to old age and had to go to the doctors more frequently. This affected my great-uncle heavily because he was forced to take off of work and find somebody to cover his shifts. Since this occurred about twice a month, it became difficult for him to receive a steady income to support his family.

A couple months later, my great-uncle discussed this matter with all his other brothers to seek a better solution to care for his mother. They had thought about taking her to a care home, but she wanted to be closer to family. Then they thought about hiring a caretaker, but it was too expensive. So the final decision was for everyone to split up the duties in order to give her the proper care that she needed.

Recently, about two years ago she was home alone and she fell. Luckily, my great-uncle walked through the door just moments later. He rushed her to the hospital and the doctor said that she broke her arm and that she needed physical therapy in order for her arm to fully heal. Around this time, my great-uncle and his wife had just retired, so everything was piling up on them. They

had to pay for their house, car, utilities, all while watching over my great-grandma. Even though my great-grandma had some funds saved up, most of the money was coming out of my uncle's pocket. Moreover, whenever my uncle wanted to go visit his kids and grandkids in Oregon, he would have to see when his brothers were available to watch over his mother. This was difficult because everyone has jobs, families, and other responsibilities. Thus, the burden of taking care of my great-grandma fell greatly on my great-uncle because he lived with her.

In summary, it is crucial to provide some type of long-term care assistance for everyone because many families cannot manage on their own. If my great-grandma was capable of hiring a caregiver, then my great-uncle would have had the ability to focus on his job rather than constantly taking off to take care of her. In addition, she would have received better care because the caregiver can tend to her needs right away rather than having to wait until my great-uncle comes home. It is important for the legislators to look into this issue, especially the Kupuna Care Assistance Bill because many elders are lacking proper care, and many families are stressed. Moreover, if the government does not assist these elderlies, then more families will end up in a cycle of debt. This is due to the fact that they have to choose between either their jobs or families; and many decide to focus on taking care of their families, and as a result sacrifice their jobs and their income.

Please support Senate Bill 534. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:23 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: glcasburn@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 1, 2017 14:45PM*

SB534

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geoffrey Casburn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
560 N. NIMITZ HWY., SUITE 200
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

January 31, 2017

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
415 S Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support for SB534 – Relating to Kūpuna Care

Aloha e Senator Baker and the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

I write to express my sincere support for SB534 - Relating to Kūpuna Care. As a Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, I see numerous Native Hawaiian families that struggle to care for their own kūpuna. There are thousands of these silent, unheralded caregivers across the islands doing the heroic work of making it possible for kūpuna to age in their own homes and end their days in dignity. I know some of these quiet heroes.

This bill is an important step in helping to support the many families throughout the State who aim to balance the inherent responsibility of taking care of family while struggling to maintain an income to survive. This bill will allow caregivers to continue working, take fewer days off for emergencies, and protect their own financial well-being as they themselves age. Ultimately, the scope of this bill not only encompasses the care of our beloved kūpuna, but also ensures the health and wellbeing of those who so diligently work to take care of their elders. Our community is in dire need of support such as SB534 and it is my sincere hope that this Legislative body takes steps to support our kūpuna, their families, and likewise, our communities.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Hulu Lindsey".

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Maui Island Trustee, Office of Hawaiian Affairs