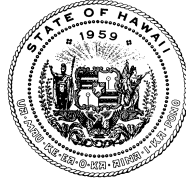


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1912
Relating to Kupuna Care**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 13, 2018
9:35 am

Room Number: 329

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health would like to provide comments on HB1912. We support the intent of this measure
3 provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's
4 executive biennium budget.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$2,000,000 in FY19 for the Kupuna Caregivers
6 Program.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that the appropriation in this bill is a priority of the Ige
8 Administration. Governor Ige's budget request includes \$600,000 in FY19.

9 Since enactment last year, EOA has established the program by creating program guidelines and
10 public information sheets, developing a caregiver's employment verification process, adopting a
11 caregiver burden assessment tool to prioritize applicants and measure program effectiveness, and
12 executing contracts with the four area agencies on aging (AAAs). All planning and

1 implementation work was completed by existing EOA staff. Consequently none of the \$600,000
2 that was appropriated during the first year of the project was used to cover any administrative
3 costs. We are proud to report that the program was launched on December 13, 2017. The AAAs
4 are currently reviewing and assessing applicants for eligibility. We anticipate being able to serve
5 between 50 and 135 persons statewide. \$2,000,000 would provide services and supports to an
6 estimated 110 - 275 persons statewide.

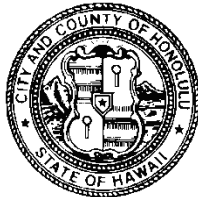
7 We are looking at this first year of the Kupuna Caregiver Program as a pilot project and taking
8 the time to learn what it will take to build a stable and sustainable program that will support our
9 seniors and their caregivers for years to come.

10 **Recommendation:** The Administration's budget request includes \$600,000 for the Kupuna
11 Caregivers Program. We support advancing this measure provided that its enactment does not
12 reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget request.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 200 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND
DIRECTOR

SUSAN L. FERNANDEZ
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 10, 2018

TO: THE HONORABLE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FROM: PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HB1912
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM
HEARING SCHEDULED FOR: TUESDAY, 2/13/2018
9:35 A.M.

The Elderly Affairs Division (EAD) is the designated Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for the island of 'Oahu. EAD operates in accordance with the Older Americans Act of 1965 to coordinate, advocate, and improve services to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

HB 1912 includes funding to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. The program provides up to \$70 a day, in supplemental services, to family caregivers who work at least 30 hours/week. The funding is limited to service dollars, and does not include any funds to administer the program.

With the parameters of \$70 per day, we are limited in the depth of the support we are able to provide to caregivers. During the pilot phase, we determined that the provision of Adult Day services best supported working caregivers as it allowed for 6-10 hours of care at an average of \$70 per day. Other service estimates like in home health is on average \$27 per hour. (Info provided by the State Executive Office on Aging). Several families have expressed a desire to be able to utilize this type of service for the same 6-10 hours a day. The cost would then expand to roughly \$162 to \$270 per day.

Since the signing of the program into law (July2017), EAD has received approximately 1,179 inquiries and has taken the necessary steps to implement and administer the program. EAD received the authorized caregiver tool from the State Executive Office on Aging (EOA) on January 18, 2018, and since then has completed

THE HONORABLE JOHN MIZUNO, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
February 10, 2018
Page 2

36 caregiver assessments. We are currently waiting for employment verification forms to be returned so that services can be initiated. On January 25, 2018, EAD received the fully executed Kupuna Caregivers contract from EOA.

We ask the committee to support HB 1912, and to consider 1) allocating administrative funds to the Area Agencies on Aging to sustain the implementation of this program; and 2) to ensure the timely release of funds following the legislative session so that there will be no break in services. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

We ask the committees to support HB 1912, and to consider allocating administrative funds to the Area Agencies on Aging to sustain the implementation of this program. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



1132 Bishop Street, #1920 | Honolulu, HI 96813
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-537-2288 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/hi | hiaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

House of Representatives
Committee on Health & Human Services
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 329

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Re: H.B. No. 1912, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kerry M. Komatsubara and I am the Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with about 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; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports H.B. No. 1912 which appropriates \$2,000,000 to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. The 2017 Legislature established this “first-in-the-nation” program to help Hawaii’s working caregivers stay in the workforce, but the initial funding of \$600,000 will run out by June 30, 2018.

The initial response of Hawaii’s caregivers to this new program has been extremely positive and that there is a clear need to continue and expand this program to provide the helping hand caregivers need in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. No. 1912.





February 13, 2018 at 9:35 AM
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1912, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

We would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** HB 1912. This legislation seeks to provide financial support to working caregivers looking after a loved one who needs long-term care supports and services. We appreciate that this measure seeks to help Hawaii residents and their caregivers access needed services that might otherwise be unaffordable. Costs for long-term services that allow seniors to age in their homes have continued 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. We humbly ask for your support of this measure. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AN HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

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

SUBJECT: HB 1912 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

HEARING: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 9:35 am
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition **supports HB1912**, which appropriates \$4 million for 2018 to enable the program to expand to serve a significant number of employed caregivers who qualify for the program and also requests the Executive Office on Aging to report on the results to the next legislative session.

RATIONALE:

The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC) 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.

- \$ The Kupuna Caregivers Program passed the 2017 Legislative Session and was signed into law by the Governor. Since passage, over 500 persons have submitted an inquiry for the program. However, the \$600,000 funding level will only assist around 30 qualified persons. The request for \$4 million will enable the program to assist significantly more qualified persons.
- \$ The Executive Office on Aging has created contracts with the 4 country AAA's for delivering services and they will begin offering day care in early February 2018. Day care for their frail relative will enable caregivers to continue their employment by significantly alleviating the burden of care.
- \$ 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. 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.
- \$ Since its passage, the Hawaii Kupuna Caregiver program has received much national attention in the media and many other states are now considering similar legislation. This program is a very significant step in meeting the serious needs faced by families needing to provide long-term care for their frail members. We urge passage of this bill which would provide the needed resources to achieve this vision.





CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

February 13, 2018, 9:35 am, Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Caring Across Generations in strong support of House Bill 1912 with minor amendments.

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 last year we witnesses history when legislators took the important first step in creating the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Since the adoption of the Kupuna Caregivers Act last year, there has been a resounding national response to the program. Advocates across the country are highlighting Kupuna Caregivers as a creative and groundbreaking advance for seniors, and dozens of media outlets have highlighted the fortitude and foresight shown by the legislature in Hawaii. *The New York Times* proclaimed that the Kupuna Caregivers was “easing the burden on caregivers (Dec. 12, 2017). Slate Magazine called it one of the “five good things that happened to the American workplaces in 2017”, along with the #MeToo movement (Dec. 29, 2017). Canadian, British, and Australian publications have also celebrated this first-in-the-nation caregiving infrastructure. Other states have also taken notice, with Washington State and Maine considering similar initiatives.

And why shouldn't other states be following suit? Investing in our family caregivers makes financial sense for our state. The average family caregiver loses nearly \$304,000 over a lifetime as a result of caregiving responsibilities, and a recent study showed that businesses lost \$33 billion in the United States per year as a result of reduced work status of family caregivers. Keeping money in the pockets of caregivers and investing in local businesses is good for families and also an essential investment in our state's economy. This program will also prevent hospital visits by seniors, which can potentially reduce the overall cost of healthcare and reduce the burden on our overwhelmed hospital systems.

Study after study shows that the value of unpaid, and often under-recognized, family care is astronomical, and when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security. No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long term care. **Our own research showed that 1 in 5 people in Hawaii in 2017 indicated that they or someone in the household has had to leave a job or the workforce to help care for an aging loved one.**

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 House Bill 1912 and help ensure that all families have the support they need to provide the care our kūpuna deserve.

We respectfully request some friendly amendments. The amendments will require that the Executive Office on Aging include the requested information on the kupuna caregivers program outcomes in its existing report to the Legislature. The suggested language comes from the Senate version of this bill:

Section 349-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) The planning and administrative services division shall engage in the following activities, including but not limited to:

- (1) Preparation and submission of programs and budgets;
- (2) Preparation of an annual evaluation report on elder programs for the governor and legislature[;], which shall include a section detailing outcomes of the kupuna caregivers program, including but not limited to evaluation metrics; consolidated data of the existing waiting list broken down by county; and recommendations to support the implementation and execution of the program;
- (3) Preparation of studies and analysis;
- (4) Maintenance of personnel records;
- (5) Management of contracts and agreements entered into by the executive office on aging with public and private vendors, consultants, and suppliers;
- (6) Monitoring the purchase of service agreements with public and private agencies and rendering technical assistance to elder program service providers; and
- (7) Establishment and maintenance of reimbursement systems for services provided by agreement with federal, state, and county agencies, as well as private groups.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Pedro Haro
Hawai'i Advocacy Director
Caring Across Generations
pedro@caringacross.org
808-372-5350

Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
House Committee on Health and Human Services

February 13, 2018

Testimony in Support of HB1912 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathy Jaycox, and I write in support of House Bill 1912, which will provide funds to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. I currently serve as the Oahu President of FACE, Faith Action for Community Equity, and my testimony is on behalf of our organization, not just myself. FACE recognizes the importance of the Kupuna Caregivers Program to multiple target beneficiaries: the kupuna who can remain at home, the family caregivers who can remain in their paid employment while still caring for loved ones, and the employers who do not have to lose experienced employees to full-time caregiving.

The need for this program is real. Within weeks of its recent launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented more than 500 requests for services. The initial \$600,000 allocated for this program through June 30 of this year will at best serve fewer than 100 families at \$70 per day. The next step, clearly, is to fully fund the program.

Last year, when the Kupuna Caregivers Bill became the Kupuna Caregivers Act, Hawaii received national attention for creating this model -- the first state in the nation to do so. This is certainly in keeping with our state's history as being ahead of the nation regarding health care. On behalf of the hundreds of families here in Hawaii who so desperately need this modest assistance, we ask you to take the next step and assure continued funding for the program. Please pass House Bill 1912.

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kathy Jaycox
President, FACE Oahu (Faith Action for Community Equity)
559 Pauku St.
Kailua, HI 96734

TO: Representative John Mizuno, Chair – Committee on Health & Human Services
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair - Committee on Health & Human Services

DATE: Tuesday, 13 February 2018
TIME: 9:35 am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

Re: HB 1912 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Position: Strong Support

Dear Representatives Mizuno, Kobayashi, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support HB 1912 to provide funds to continue the 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. They need your help.

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 J. Goto, M.D.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 1912 – Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program
House Committee on Health & Human Services
Scheduled for hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 9:35 AM, in Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **HB 1912**, which would appropriate \$2,000,000 for implementation of the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

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

When the caregiver is working full-time, adding care duties adds significant personal strain for the caregiver. As a result, many caregivers make the difficult decision to leave their job or reduce their work hours to care for an aging family member.

We commend you for creating the Kūpuna Caregivers Program last session, the first of its kind in the nation. The initial funds helped establish the program and took a crucial first step toward both providing a safety net for Hawai'i's family caregivers and investing in our paid care workforce.

However, within a few weeks of launching the program, the Executive Office on Aging received over 500 requests for services. It is essential that the program be funded adequately in order to fully cover all of our families who are in desperate need of the financial support that the program can provide.

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

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

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



**HB1912, Relating to Kapuna Care
Hse HHS Committee Hearing
Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018 – 9:35am
Conference Room 329
Position: Support**

Chair Mizuno and Members of the House HHS Committee:

I am Gregg Pacilio, PT and Board President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA), a non-profit professional organization serving more than 340 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Our members are employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are human movement specialists and are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromuscular and musculoskeletal injuries and impairments to improve and enrich quality of life.

HAPTA supports the appropriation of moneys to implement and support the Kapuna Caregivers Program statewide to improve the support and care for the elderly. Improving this program will allow caregivers to continue to have their kapuna at home while remaining in the workforce, leading to less institutionalization of kapuna as well as fewer family members from having to stop working to take care of their loved ones. When caregivers are also elderly themselves, this program may help decrease injury to the caregivers through this support.

Physical therapists are part of the interdisciplinary team of the growing elderly population, and it is our stance that allowing them to remain in the home with support will maintain the strength, functional mobility, and quality of life. This support will allow family to care for their loved ones for a longer time, staving the need for additional medical care, thus decreasing cost to the state in the long term.

Your support of HB1912 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact Abi Leddy, HAPTA's Elder Care Chair at (214) 883-8329 for further information.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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February 12, 2018

TO: Rep. John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bert Kobayashi, Co-Chair
Members of the Committee Health and Human Services

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, Vice Chair, PHOCUSED

SUBJECT: **Testimony in Support of HB 1912 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 13, 2018
9:35 am
Room 329

Chair Mizuno, Co-Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1912 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our kupuna since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major health and human service providers and peer organizations dedicated to serving the vulnerable populations across our state. As such, PHOCUSED is proud to strongly support this measure.

HB 1912 appropriates \$2M for FY 2018-19 to continue the Kupuna Caregivers Program that was established in 2017 and implemented by the Executive Office on Aging. Act 102, Session Laws 2017, appropriated \$600,000 for FY 2017-18. The Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) only started processing applications in January 2018.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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According to AARP there are 154,000 unpaid caregivers in Hawaii. Many of these caregivers are individuals who are working full time or have multiple jobs in addition to taking care of their loved one. This creates a financial and emotional burden on the caregiver and the family.

\$600,000 at \$70 per day is truly inadequate for the 154,000 caregivers in Hawaii, but it is a start. This bill continues the Kupuna Caregivers Program and brings relief to more of our kupuna and their working caregivers. Helping working caregivers stay employed protects their long-term retirement security and helps businesses retain their workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 1912 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.**

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Hearing: February 13, 2018, 9:35 am, CR 329

Thank you for hearing **HB 1912**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers will receive the support that they need to help keep kupuna safe at home and their family stress level from becoming unmanageable.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers program is very high for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Each of those requests represents friends and neighbors who have few other resources to turn to for caregiving support. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. The first year of funding took the important step of establishing the program and could help assist dozens of families across the state. This next step forward needs to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support offered by Kupuna Caregivers.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 76 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. Kupuna and caregivers are both at-risk for mental health issues due to aging and high levels of stress. The Kupuna Caregivers program supports the mental health of our working and caregiving families.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB 1912**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

February 12, 2018

Via FAX #808-586-6311 (page 1 of 2)

TO: House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)

RE: TESTIMONY; H.B. 1912, hearing on 2/13/18, 9:35 a.m.

Please see attached testimony.

Thank you.

Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)
An Affiliate of Alliance for Retired Americans
c/o Hawaii Education Association
1953 Beretania Street, #5C
Honolulu, HI 96826

**Statement of the Hawaii Alliance For Retired Americans
on H.B. 1912, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 13, 2018; 9:35 a.m., State Capitol, Room 329
House Committee on Health and Human Services

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) strongly supports H.B. 1912, which appropriates funds for implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

HARA is an organization of senior organizations that represent some 21,000 retirees in Hawaii. HARA's affiliates include retirees of HGEA, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, AFT, IAM, Kokua Council, and the Hawaii Caregivers Coalition.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program, while supporting elderly and disabled individuals needing long-term services and supports, is essentially intended to support family caregivers who are still in the workforce and making tremendous sacrifices to keep their loved ones at home rather than become institutionalized. These caregivers often need to take time off from work to attend to caregiving responsibilities, using up vacation leave or taking unpaid leave to do this. In some cases, caregivers feel compelled to quit their jobs or retire early, resulting in reduced income security in the future. Juggling work and caregiving responsibilities also poses tremendous stress and anxiety for these caregivers who may also have child care responsibilities as well.

When elderly and disabled individuals are forced to reside in long-term care facilities they cannot afford and manage to qualify for Medicaid, the State has to pay half the cost, with the other half paid by the federal government. All of it is taxpayer dollars. Family caregivers have saved the State hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars each year in Medicaid matching funds by keeping their loved ones at home, where they prefer to be.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program will allow up to \$70 a day to be paid to service providers for services like adult day care to offer respite and peace of mind to family caregivers. When care recipients are at adult day care facilities, for example, caregivers can go to work and perform their jobs knowing that their loved ones are being fed, have social and mental stimulation, and have someone to look after them throughout the day.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is also good for employers, who can count on their employees to come to work and not think about quitting. In the current labor shortage environment, employers need to retain employees with experience and skills and not be burdened with the costs of replacing employees. The appropriation provided to the Kupuna Caregivers Program is an investment in the workforce and will ultimately serve the "bottom line" for employers as well as the State.

HARA urges passage of H.B. 1912. Thank you for considering our testimony.



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

*American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
District VIII, Hawai'i (Guam & American
Samoa) Section*

TO: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair – House Committee on Health & Human Services
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair – House Committee on Health & Human Services

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 (9:35AM)
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Hawaii Section, ACOG
Dr. Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG, Chair
Dr. Chrystie Fujimoto, MD, FACOG, Vice-Chair
Dr. Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Legislative Chair
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

RE: HB1912 – Relating to Kūpuna Care
Position: SUPPORT

In 2017, the Hawai'i State Legislature honored our tradition in Hawai'i of caring for our kūpuna by establishing the Kūpuna Caregivers Program. The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists supports HB 1912, which would provide funding for the program for fiscal year 2018-2019. As a Section of the Nation's leading group of physicians dedicated to improving health care for women, HI ACOG represents more than 200 obstetrician/gynecologist physicians in our state. Our organization calls for access to 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 Hawai'i.² Many of our diverse cultures in Hawai'i honor our elders who wish to age at home, but the burden on caregivers can be significant and can include financial and emotional stress. Much of that burden disproportionately falls on women. 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. Many women may leave the workforce altogether, which can affect insurance and access to health care. In addition, even the ones who remain in the workforce often leave and return several times throughout their working careers due to caregiver responsibilities, which in turn affects pay and retirement benefits.

HB1912 enables this critical program to continue so that caregivers do not have to choose between caring for a loved one and stable employment and healthcare access. HI ACOG is committed to both facilitating access to and supporting high quality women's health care, including for caregivers and our kūpuna.

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.

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Health and Human Services
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Tuesday, February 13, 2018; 9:35 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 1912
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** H.B. 1912, which appropriates funds for implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Thanks to the foresight of the Legislature, the Kupuna Caregivers Program was established in the 2017 session with an appropriation of \$600,000 to be used to assist caregivers with support services for their loved ones in order to allow caregivers to remain in the workforce. This nominal appropriation was intended to start up the program and serve as a “pilot” of sorts to demonstrate the need and effectiveness of providing services such as adult day care to allow family caregivers to go to work with the peace of mind that their loved ones are properly cared for.

Too many caregivers, lacking financial resources for this type of respite care, have been forced to lose work hours and income or resign or retire far sooner than desired. In most, if not all, cases, fewer work hours or early retirement has resulted in major financial sacrifice for the caregiver in the form of reduced income security in later years. Likewise, employers have suffered economic hardship when employees must take paid or unpaid leave to care for a kupuna or must leave the workforce prematurely, burdening employers with the cost of hiring and training replacement workers. With Hawaii’s unemployment rate the lowest in the nation, employers cannot afford to lose experienced employees to caregiving responsibilities.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program calls for a small investment (\$70 a day does not go far) to help stabilize the workforce to address what is already a growing problem. The frail elderly population will only continue to grow in the future. Recognition of the valuable role played by family caregivers, especially those who are working, is needed to reduce costly institutionalization.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 1912. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members of the House committee on Health & Human Services,

The Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i, representing nearly 600 registered members, **strongly supports** HB1912 to fund the Kūpuna Caregivers Program through the Executive Office of Aging.

Our kūpuna are cherished resources; sources of deep ‘ike who can lighten the path we young people must take in life. They are our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, and we love them deeply. Many of our members have parents, uncles and aunties, cousins or siblings who, on top of working full-time or attending college, care for their aging relatives. Still other YPDA members care directly for their kūpuna because their parents or relatives cannot. Our members struggle to support not only themselves, but also their kūpuna, in an economic period of depression and hardship in which working families are squeezed from all sides and the middle class is quickly evaporating.

We have first-hand experience dealing with this issue. Our board member Maile Murphy is a student at Kapi‘olani Community College studying in the culinary program. She also works a food service industry job to support herself. She also cares for her aging grandmother, who is quickly approaching her centennial. Maile's grandmother is still as sharp as a tack, but she is physically limited in her ability to care for herself. Maile has also cared for an aging family friend as his mental state deteriorated, going so far as to move in to the home of the elderly couple to help the wife take care of her husband as Alzheimer's Disease robbed him of his awareness and competency.

This trying ordeal took its toll on Maile, who—as a 19-year-old—suddenly found her life consumed with the caretaking of another. The strength and patience and determination to help that she exhibited during this time is demonstrative of the best the millennial generation has to offer. Last session, I presented Maile's story at a rally in support of establishing the Kūpuna Care Fund and the Executive Office of Aging. I was not the only speaker, and I realized that her story, while heart-wrenching, is far

from an isolated narrative. Rather, it is just one among thousands of similar stories from families all across our state, and from across the country.

Across the United State, there are some 4 million home care workers and caregivers providing professional elder care, and some 52 million family care givers: people who are providing up to 20 hours a week of care for their family members on top of full-time jobs and other commitments. This is a huge number of people dealing with the pressures of working and holding down a job to support their family while also taking care of aging loved ones. Managing that pressure is one of the primary pain-points that working families in this country are dealing with today. At the same time, millennials—our membership—are entering their 30s and having children. There are 4 million babies being born every year with virtually no childcare infrastructure either to support these new families. The result is a sandwiching effect on the millennial generation, whereby working age adults are being pressured from both sides by the demands of childcare and elder care with no infrastructure or support.

This is a national problem we must address, and Hawai'i has an opportunity—and an imperative need—to take the lead on finding compassionate, effective solutions. Because Hawai'i is a state that is aging quickly. By 2020, there will be 300,000 people over the age of 65 here in Hawai'i. Every day 10,000 people turn 65 in America; every 8 seconds someone turns 65. That's 4 million people per year turning 65. And because of advances in healthcare and medicine, people are living longer than ever before. This is, potentially, a great opportunity: the ability to live longer also means the ability to connect with your family longer, to work longer, to learn, to teach, to contribute, to love. There are all these opportunities that come with longer life-expectancies, but we can only capitalize on them if we have the right infrastructure in place to take care of people, and to make sure they have what they need to live healthy lives.

When we think of infrastructure, we think of roads and bridges and pipes and fiberoptic cables. But, in the 21st century when 75 percent of children are growing up in households where all of the adults are working outside the home, we actually need a whole new infrastructure to support people while they care for their families. We used to rely on women to stay home and take care of the kids and take care of their parents, but that option no longer exists. We must put an infrastructure in place.

The law that established the Kupuna Caregiver Fund is a groundbreaking piece of legislation—the first of its kind in the country. Our state is the first state to invest in the caregiving infrastructure; to invest in the ability of working families to keep their loved ones at home instead of putting them in institutions, and insuring that the workforce that is helping to support that is fairly compensated. It is an investment in both the workers and the families. We should be proud. But there is more that must be done.

It is more than appropriate that Hawai'i be the first place to do this. There is a tradition in these islands of caring for our elders; it is a part of the culture and it is something that the rest of the country must learn from if we hope to create the solutions we need given the increasingly massive demand for elder care that we will experience in the future. If we continue to treat our elders as disposable and invisible, we will fail that impending test. Because Hawai'i already embraces this concept culturally, we have a real opportunity to create the breakthrough precedent of investment in this infrastructure that we need for the idea to be pushed through nationally. It's time for Hawai'i to step into its natural role as a leading state on the issue of elder care, family care and investment in working families. That's what this campaign is all about. It's about the value of caregiving.

Mahalo for your support,

Will Caron
Social Justice Action Committee Chair
8083874920



February 12, 2018

To: Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
House Committee on Health & Human Services

Re: **Strong Support for HB1912**

Hrg: February 13, 2018 at 9:35am room 329

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

HPHA strongly supports **HB1912** which will provide funds to continue the **Kupuna Caregivers** program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers, as well as our local small businesses, will receive the support that they deserve and need.

We know the need for the Kupuna Caregivers program is incredibly high for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Each of those requests represents friends and neighbors who have few other resources to turn to for caregiving support. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. The first year of funding took the important step of establishing the program and could help assist dozens of families across the state. This next step forward needs to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support offered by Kupuna Caregivers.

Last year, the legislature received national attention for its leadership in creating a first-in-the-nation model to value the time and selfless efforts of family caregivers. We ask you to take this important next step to continue the program we so desperately need.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holly Kessler'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Holly Kessler, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Health Association



February 11, 2018

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 (9:35 am)
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329
Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –
Hawaii in **support of H.B. 1912**, relating to the Kupuna
Caregivers Program

Dear Representative John M. Mizuno (Chair), and Representative Bertrand Kobayashi (Vice Chair), and Members of the Committee,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of H.B. 1912** providing more funds for the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

My testimony is on behalf of the 442 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawai‘i, who list equal pay (in which family caregiving plays a strong role) as an important current concern.

AAUW has long advocated for equal pay (e.g., <http://www.aauw.org/resource/the-simple-truth-about-the-gender-pay-gap/>), and members of AAUW in Hawai‘i are aware of the performance of our state in equal pay. (Native Hawaiian women and Pacific Islands’ women are particularly negatively affected in this matter.) Women (because typically women are the family caregivers of the elderly) have their wages negatively impacted by “personal” decisions to look after family members, and it is time for state legislators to implement bills to help these women and their families.

Please, legislators, look to the states and nations beyond Hawaii with similar elder care policies, and note the better health and financial wellbeing of families. Health, social science, and economic data demonstrate that services like the Kupuna Caregivers Program offer important benefits. Please pass H.B. 1912.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely
Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.
Policy Chair



Fernhurst YWCA
1566 Wilder Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
808.941.2231

Kokokahi YWCA
45-035 Kāne'ohe Bay Drive
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744
808.247.2124

Laniākea YWCA
1040 Richards Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808.538.7061

ywcaoahu.org

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health & Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 9:35AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 329

Position Statement House Bill 1912

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayahi, and members of the Committee,

Hawaii made history last year when it created the first model to value time and selfless efforts of caregiving. For these caregivers, the majority whom are women, this program will allow them to stay in the workforce, continue to earn, and care for their loved one. House Bill 1912 will ensure the program is viable for Hawaii's families.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers program is incredibly high for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Each of those requests represents friends and neighbors who have few other resources to turn to for caregiving support. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. The first year of funding took the important step of establishing the program and could help assist dozens of families across the state. This next step forward needs to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support offered by Kupuna Caregivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of House Bill 1912.**

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy



Hawaii Women's Coalition

LATE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB1912 funding for the Kupuna Care Program

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and members,

As women are primary caregivers for their families in overwhelming numbers, The Hawaii Women's Coalition supports this measure that will go a long way to supporting women who are overburdened with work and family responsibilities. It will also benefit employers who often lose trained employees who have to choose between taking care of a parent or keeping their job.

There is a demonstrable need for the Kupuna Caregivers program for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Kupuna Caregivers support those caregiving families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full-time, sometimes at multiple jobs, often taking care of young children and aging Kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, the Kupuna Caregivers program establishes a much-needed "care floor," ensuring that working women and their families have access to resources to provide care at home. The first year of funding established the program. This next step is to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support offered by the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition

Contact: annsreed@gmail.com Phone: 808-623-5676

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and committee members.

As a Kupuna advocate and volunteer with AARP, Kokua Council, the Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans and the Legislative Committee of PABEA, I urge strong support of HB1912 to continue to fund the Kupuna Caregivers program.

This first in the nation program recognizes the need for assistance to family caregivers, most likely women in their 50's or 60's, likely at the peak of their careers.

Kupuna Caregivers will provide a modest amount to allow these caregivers to remain in the workforce and not jeopardize their own careers and retirement. As a result, their loved ones, for whom they care, will be able to remain at home and avoid costly nursing home care.

Please pass HB1912 to continue to fund the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Barbara J. Service MSW

Child Welfare Social Worker (Retired)

House District 19

Senate District 9

House of Representatives
Committee on Health & Human Services
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
9:35 a.m.
Conference Room 329

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Re: H.B. No. 1912, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Salvador Tinajero, and I am an active member of AARP Hawaii. I wish to express my support for H.B. 1912, which provides \$2 million in funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. I know that you and the Members of the Committee understand that the Kupuna Caregivers program provides dedicated family caregivers funding. This funding, \$70 per day is a means to continue to provide care for Hawaii's Kupuna, which they need and deserve.

A little background about myself, and why I ask for your support of H.B. 1219; I have firsthand knowledge of the difficulties and concerns one undergoes while caring for a loved one. The stressors, physical, mental, financial and professional are at times overwhelming.


A few years ago, I cared for my terminally ill wife. I soon learned the stressors of being the sole provider, caring for my wife, children and maintaining a household. Add the fact that I had to earn a living and maintain focus professionally.

Nevertheless, caregiving for my wife had to be a priority, although my employer understood, it did not minimize the fact that I had to be productive to ensure I was able to keep my job throughout this ordeal. The added caregiving expenses encountered was difficult, and although I managed, having additional funding, such as that that H.B. 1912 proposes, would have enabled me to provide better care.

This bill has the means to provide needed funding to Kupuna Caregivers. The \$70 per day will be the relief to those hardworking taxpayers need to continue to care for Hawaii's Kupuna, in their homes, with family and friends.

Last year's funding of \$600,000 was a great start and most importantly, placed Hawaii in the national spotlight with this program. I implore you, fully fund this program, the \$2 million will provide Hawaii's Kupuna Caregivers additional financial support needed to assist in their role as caregivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. No. 1912.


Salvador Tinajero
47-147 Hui Oo Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
9 February 2018

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 2:34:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randolph Hack		Support	No

Comments:

Chair Mizuno

Vice Chair Kobayashi

House Committee on Health & Human Services

February 13, 2018

8:30 AM – Room 329

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Randolph Hack and I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 1912**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers, as well as our local small businesses, will receive the support that they deserve and need.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers program is incredibly great for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Each of those requests represents friends and neighbors who have few other resources to turn to for caregiving support. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for QUEST but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a much needed “minumum benefit,” ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. The first year of funding took the important step of establishing the program and could help assist dozens of families across the state. This next step forward needs to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support offered by Kupuna Caregivers.

Last year, the legislature received national attention for its leadership in creating a first-in-the-nation model to value the time and selfless efforts of family caregivers. We ask you to take this important next step to continue the program we so desperately need. I ask you to please pass House Bill 1912.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

**Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
House Committee on Health & Human Services**

**February 13, 2018
Room 329**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, Chair of the Long-Term Care Taskforce of Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE). I support **House Bill 1912**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers Program, our dedicated family caregivers who are working at least 30 hours per week will receive the support that they deserve and need.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers Program is incredibly high for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Some of them are from my church, Our Lady of the Mount Church, in Kalihi Valley. One of our church members informed me a few weeks ago that his mother is being evaluated for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. He said that his mother goes to an Adult Day Center and pays \$90 daily. He said, the \$70 from the Kupuna Caregivers Program will be “a big help.” With his mother going to an Adult Day Care Center, this will enable him, his wife, his brother and his wife to continue to work full-time. They are grateful for the program.

Last year, the legislature received national attention for its leadership in creating a first-in-the-nation model to value the time and selfless efforts of family caregivers. We ask you to take this important next step to continue the program we so desperately need. I ask you to please pass House Bill 1912.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

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

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 4:35:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall		Support	No

Comments:

Testimony to the House Health & Human Services Committee
Tues. Feb. 13, 2018 at 9:35 am

Re: HB1912 – Kupuna Caregiver Program.

Chair Mizuno and committee members,

I am in SUPPORT of the Kupuna Caregiver Program. My name is Hilby Chinen and I live in Palolo. I am self-employed, a single parent, and caring for my 90 yr. old mother and two teenagers. My business is away from home and I work more than 35 hrs a week in my salon. I take my mother to Central Union Adult health care during the week from 7:30am - 5:00pm.

I was saddened to learn that we do not qualify for the Kupuna Caregiver Program because I am self-employed. Since I first heard of this program last year, I was looking forward to the financial help and was calling every two weeks to see if I could register. Should the Kupuna Caregiver Program continue, please do not exclude self-employed persons such as myself.

Thank you very much,
Hilby Chinen
3460 Pakui St.
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-554-2667

kobayashi2 - Kevin

From: Loriena Yancura <loriena@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 8:06 AM
To: hhstestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 1912, for the hearing on February 13, 2018, at 9:35 am , Room 329

As a family gerontologist practicing in the State of Hawai'i, I am aware of the great economic and social value for family caregivers to our Kupuna. I am in strong support of HB 1912

kobayashi2 - Kevin

From: Amelia Jodar <ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 6:23 AM
To: hhstestimony
Cc: Amelia Jodar
Subject: Kupuna Care Program Testimony

Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
House Committee on Health & Human Services

February 13, 2018
8:30 AM – Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amelia Jodar, and I am writing to express my support for **House Bill 1912**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers, as well as our local small businesses, will receive the support that they deserve and need.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers program is incredibly high for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Each of those requests represents friends and neighbors who have few other resources to turn to for caregiving support. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. The first year of funding took the important step of establishing the program and could help assist dozens of families across the state. This next step forward needs to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support offered by Kupuna Caregivers.

Last year, the legislature received national attention for its leadership in creating a first-in-the-nation model to value the time and selfless efforts of family caregivers. We ask you to take this important next step to continue the program we so desperately need. I ask you to please pass House Bill 1912.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Amelia Jodar
87-238 Hakimo Rd
Waianane, HI 96792**

Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
House Committee on Health & Human Services

February 13, 2018
8:30 AM – Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Deanna Espinas, and I am writing to express my support for **House Bill 1912**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers, as well as our local small businesses, will receive the support that they deserve and need.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers program is incredibly high for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Each of those requests represents friends and neighbors who have few other resources to turn to for caregiving support. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. The first year of funding took the important step of establishing the program and could help assist dozens of families across the state. This next step forward needs to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support offered by Kupuna Caregivers.

Last year, the legislature received national attention for its leadership in creating a first-in-the-nation model to value the time and selfless efforts of family caregivers. We ask you to take this important next step to continue the program we so desperately need. I ask you to please pass House Bill 1912.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Deanna Espinas
2103 Palolo Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816 (808) 228-6345

Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
House Committee on Health & Human Services
February 13, 2018
8:30 AM – Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barbara Yee, gerontologist and caregiver for the last 16 years to my 92 year old father. This testimony is my personal testimony in support of **House Bill 1912**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. I understand the financial burdens of caregiving in our expensive paradise. Families need to work to survive in Hawaii, but want to provide the best care to their elderly relatives. In the last decade, between 50-100% of people around me have cared for or are caring for a frail family member. The Kupuna Caregivers program, can help to ease caregivers' financial burdens so that they do not have to quit their jobs, can secure needed caregiving services while they are working, and support local caregiving small businesses.

Hawaii is on the forefront of proving creative and effective solutions for our aging tsunami and for the national elder care agenda. The Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services within the first few weeks of its launch. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services their family members need. Many families are working full time, or multiple jobs, many are sandwiched between caregiving for young children and an aging kupuna. There are high financial, time, and personal stressors while providing care for our elderly family members. By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a "care floor," that provides working families access to home care services. The next step is to fund the program fully and cover more families in desperate need of support offered by Kupuna Caregivers.

I ask you to please pass House Bill 1912. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Barbara Yee, 4460 Puu Panini Ave. Honolulu, HI 96816

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 2:55:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Midgieann L. Wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Mizuno

Vice Chair Kobayashi

House Committee on Health & Human Services

February 13, 2018

8:30 AM – Room 329

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Midgieann L. Wright, and I am writing to express my support for **House Bill 1912**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers, as well as our local small businesses, will receive the support that they deserve and need.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers program is incredibly high for families across Hawaii. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. Each of those requests represents friends and neighbors who have few other resources to turn to for caregiving support. Kupuna Caregivers is intended to support those caregiving families who are not eligible for

Medicaid but are still struggling to pay for the care services they need. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. The first year of funding took the important step of establishing the program and could help assist dozens of families across the state. This next step forward needs to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support offered by Kupuna Caregivers.

Last year, the legislature received national attention for its leadership in creating a first-in-the-nation model to value the time and selfless efforts of family caregivers. We ask you to take this important next step to continue the program we so desperately need. I ask you to please pass House Bill 1912.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Midgieann L. Wright

39 Hialoa St., #102

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:14:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 2:34:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Legislature in its wisdom created the Kupuna Caregivers program in 2017. It has proven itself, but the need is great. This bill appropriates more funding to address that great need.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 10:28:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 8:03:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair – House Committee on Health & Human Services
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair – House Committee on Health & Human Services

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 (9:35AM)
PLACE: Conference Room 329

FROM: Ronnie Texeira, MD OB-GYN

RE: HB1912 – Relating to Kūpuna Care
Position: SUPPORT

In 2017, the Hawai‘i State Legislature honored our tradition in Hawai‘i of caring for our kūpuna by establishing the Kūpuna Caregivers Program. The Hawai‘i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists supports HB 1912, which would provide funding for the program for fiscal year 2018-2019. As a Section of the Nation’s leading group of physicians dedicated to improving health care for women, HI ACOG represents more than 200 obstetrician/gynecologist physicians in our state. Our organization calls for access to 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 Hawai‘i.² Many of our diverse cultures in Hawai‘i honor our elders who wish to age at home, but the burden on caregivers can be significant and can include financial and emotional stress. Much of that burden disproportionately falls on women. 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. Many women may leave the workforce altogether, which can affect insurance and access to health care. In addition, even the ones who remain in the workforce often leave and return several times throughout their working careers due to caregiver responsibilities, which in turn affects pay and retirement benefits.

HB1912 enables this critical program to continue so that caregivers do not have to choose between caring for a loved one and stable employment and healthcare access. HI ACOG is committed to both facilitating access to and supporting high quality women’s health care, including for caregivers and our kūpuna.

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.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 8:52:32 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: House of Representatives Committee on Health & Human Services

Date: February 11, 2018

Re: HB 1912, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1912, which appropriates \$2,000,000 to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

My name is Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. and I am a retiree. I live in Paauiilo-Mauka on the Big Island. The 2017 Legislature established this “first-in-the-nation” program to help Hawaii’s working caregivers stay in the workforce. But the initial funding will run out by June 30, 2018. Due to the positive response to this program, I urge you to support the continuation and expansion of the program that greatly benefits caregivers in Hawaii.

I urge you to support caregivers by voting **YES** on HB 1912. Mahalo!

Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D.

Positive and Productive Aging Consultant.

Paauiilo-Mauka, Hawaii District

P.O. Box 366

Honokaa

HI 96727

Phone: (808) 775-1064

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 1:11:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

Sylvia Ching
1611 Miller St., Apt. 304
Honolulu, HI 96813

Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
House Committee on Health and Human Services
February 13, 2018
8:30 am – Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

My name is Sylvia Ching and I strongly support House Bill 1912 which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

I know many families who have a very difficult time financially paying for much needed services for their kupuna. These families do not qualify for Medicaid. The Kupuna Caregivers Program will give them the financial support they so desperately need.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 1912.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 12:06:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good morning, I am supporting this HB1912 for the sake of our Kupunas but please don't include any benefits for the unlicensed care homes. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

kobayashi2 - Kevin

From: Kyle Lovett <kyle.lovett@homeinstead.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 2:41 PM
To: hhstestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 1912, for the hearing on February 13, 2018, at 9:35 am, Room 329

Chair Mizuno
Vice Chair Kobayashi
House Committee on Health & Human Services

February 13, 2018
8:30 AM – Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rev. Kyle Lovett, and I write to you in **STRONG SUPPORT** of appropriations for the Kupuna Caregivers program, for House Bill 1912.

In my work with Kukui Nā Kupuna, I regularly encounter families in great need of support as they care for their senior loved ones at home. Many times, the financial and time costs overwhelm the families, including when they hire professional caregivers to fill the puka because of work schedules.

I have spoken personally with families that were so excited when they heard about the start of the Kupuna Caregivers grant program last year. A number of them told me that they choose not to even apply for Kupuna Caregiving grants, because they heard how much money was allocated and they figured there wasn't enough money to include them.

I urge you to set aside the requested funding for this second year of the program. I would dearly love to be able to reassure families caring for their kupuna that their state legislature understands that the need is great and is appropriating even more funds.

Mahalo for the time and energy you are taking to consider this legislation.

~Kyle

Rev. Kyle Lovett, MDiv
General Manager

Kukui Nā Kupuna, LLC

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Web Site

facebook

*Each Home Instead Senior Care franchise office
is independently owned and operated.*

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 4:03:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Ishikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a much needed bill to keep Kupuna Caregivers the ability to stay employed while caring for their loved one. Please appropriate \$2 million for this send year to continue to serve these over-burdened citizens of Hawai'i nei. Thank you in advance for your support.

Jean Ishikawa

A very Concerned Citizen of Hawai'i nei

LATE

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 10:12:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramon Sumibcay	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

These 154,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their 8 parents, spouse, or other relatives who need extra care are our modern day heroes. The State has been benefitting from this crucial role to the healthcare system. Their unpaid services equal to billions of dollars in savings of the State. Most of these unpaid family caregivers have jobs, and take care of their own families. Some have given up their jobs just to take care of their aging parents. I believe it is about time they receive some kind of assistance from the State. The Kupuna Caregivers program must be enacted.

LATE

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 11:39:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Irene Martin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Irene Martin. I am a student from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am for HB1912 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM. Caregiving for an older adult is difficult, whether it is for your parents, siblings, other family members or friends. There are many factors which influence the type of care an older adult receives from their caregiver. One of the major factors is financial means. Financial stability can dictate if an older adult and/or their caregiver receives as hot meal. This can also be reflected in their personal hygiene of having a daily bath or access to proper grooming. Without proper financial means, caregivers and the older adult being cared for are at risk for neglect both physically and emotionally. The Kupuna Caregivers program can change these possible threats by providing caregivers additional access to financial revenues. The daily allowance of \$70 is the difference of receiving a hot meal or a bath. More importantly, this program gives participating family the opportunity to age in place without excessive financial burdens of having their loved one institutionalized. Without funding for the Kupuna Care program, our state will see an increase in homelessness, reports of abuse and neglect, as well as an increase of physical and mental health issues. Hawai'i has been giving a great opportunity to lead through example on how effective this program can be. My hope is that this testimony, and the others in support of appropriating funds for the Kupuna Care Program will give these families a chance to not be victims of debt, compassion fatigue or homeless.

LATE

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 3:27:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruthie Agbayani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Ruthie Agbayani; I have been a family caregiver since the age of 10. This may seem young for some people, but at that time, my mother was our family's primary income earner because my father was elderly and blind. In addition, my maternal grandfather was elderly and hearing impaired. Besides myself, I had two siblings; my sisters were age 7 and newborn at that time.

To this day, I am still a family caregiver. I accompany my mother, my mother-in-law, and cousin to their medical appointments and assist them when they are limited by their physical disabilities. Furthermore, over the past three decades, I have babysat over two dozen children who are mostly related to me - nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grandnephews - from newborn to elementary school age. I am not compensated as a family caregiver.

Aside from my obligations as a family caregiver, my family and I have been Community Care Foster Family Home (CCFFH) providers since 1998. We are certified by Community Ties of America (CTA), the State of Hawaii Department of Health's agency on certification and licensure under the Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA), to care for up to three clients in our home, providing a family-like environment for the aging, rather than institutional nursing home settings. CCFFH is a program for Medicaid recipients, but private pay individuals can also be accepted into this program.

In the past 20 years, we have not had more than two clients nor private-pay clients. As a CCFFH provider, the minimum requirements of a Primary Caregiver is to be a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA). According to payscale.com, a CNA in Honolulu, Hawaii earns an average wage of \$14.48 per hour. Whether the CNA is caring for just one person on a one-to-one basis or up to 20 patients in institutional facilities (hospital, nursing home, etc). Currently, CCFFH Medicaid fee for service reimbursement rates for Level 2, no cost share, is only \$41.06 per day per client. However, many caregivers, including myself, and case managers are delayed paid and not paid for services rendered to Medicaid recipients. It may take weeks, months, years to get paid.

Additionally, I volunteer my time in advocacy and lobbying with the United Caregivers of Hawaii (UCH). The mission of UCH is for caregivers, families, and communities to work together to achieve the common purpose of outstanding quality care for our kupuna.

Collectively, as a family and a community, we urge the committee to support and pass HB 1912. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony online.

LATE

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 7:18:27 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/13/2018 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Iboshi	Zonta Club of Hilo	Support	No

Comments:

The Zonta Club Of Hilo, supports fundng of the Kupuna Caregivers Program. As an international organization of professional and business women, we recognize that elder caregiving negatively affects working women. Many must reduce their work commitments, leave their work temporarily, or retire early to take care of their elder relatives or friends.

We support the Kupuna Caucus' advocacy for funding for this and other Kupuna Programs. The proportion of older people in East Hawaii is highest in the state. Luckily, most kupuna are cared for by family caregivers, which normally allows our kupuna to avoid institutuional care and enjoy socially interactive living.

Thank you for considering our support of the Kupuna Caregivers' Funding.

Charlene Iboshi

Zonta Club of Hilo