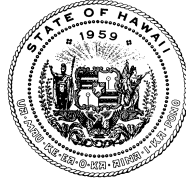


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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 SB2988, SD1  
Relating to Kupuna Care**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 21, 2018  
10:08 am

Room Number: 211

- 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 SB2988, SD1. We support the intent of this
- 3 measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within the
- 4 Administration's executive biennium budget.
- 5 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$4,000,000 in FY19 for the Kupuna Caregivers
- 6 Program and includes new annual reporting requirements detailing outcomes of the Kupuna
- 7 Caregivers Program, including but not limited to evaluation metrics, consolidated data of the
- 8 existing waiting list broken down by county, and recommendations to support the
- 9 implementation and execution of the program.
- 10 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that the appropriation in this bill is a priority of the Ige
- 11 Administration. Governor Ige's budget request includes \$600,000 in FY19.

1 Since enactment last year, EOA has established the program by creating program guidelines and  
2 public information sheets, developing a caregiver's employment verification process, adopting a  
3 caregiver burden assessment tool to prioritize applicants and measure program effectiveness, and  
4 executing contracts with the four area agencies on aging (AAAs). All planning and  
5 implementation work was completed by existing EOA staff. Consequently none of the \$600,000  
6 that was appropriated during the first year of the project was used to cover any administrative  
7 costs. We are proud to report that the program was launched on December 13, 2017. The AAAs  
8 are currently reviewing and assessing applicants for eligibility. We anticipate being able to serve  
9 between 50 and 135 persons statewide. A \$4,000,000 would provide services and supports to an  
10 estimated 220 - 549 persons statewide.

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

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

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018  
10:08 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Re: S.B. No. 2988, S.D. 1, Relating to the Kupuna Care

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of both Committees,

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 S.B. No. 2988, S.D. 1, which appropriates \$4,000,000 to the Kupuna Caregivers Program and requires the Executive Office on Aging to submit a report to the Legislature of the Program's status prior to each regular session. 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 S.B. No. 2988, S.D. 1.



**TO :** **SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
**Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair**  
**Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair**

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

**SUBJECT: SB 2988 SD 1 Relating to Kupuna Care**

**HEARING:** Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 10:08 am  
Conference Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

**POSITION:** The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC) strongly supports Bill SB 2988 SD 1 which would appropriate \$4 million for implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program and requires the Executive Office on Aging to include in its annual report to the legislature a section that details program outcomes.

**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.

- Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce and their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families as well as to assure that they will have sufficient social security and savings to support themselves in retirement.
- Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due to the demands of caring.
- Employers are also adversely affected by the strains their employees experience due to the difficulty of balancing work and caregiving. Besides lowered productivity, other costs are high absenteeism and the eventual loss of valued employees and the associated costs of having to hire replacements.
- The Kupuna 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. 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.

- Unfortunately, the current level of funding is woefully inadequate to serve the existing need, around 30 clients for the remaining months of the fiscal year. SB 2988 proposes \$4 million for fiscal year 2018 which will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful number of employed caregivers.

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. We believe 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.

Thank you  
Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D



February 20, 2018

To: Chair Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **Strong Support for SB2988 HD1**

Hrg: February 21, 2018 at 10:08am room 221

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 **SB2988 HD1** 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'.

Holly Kessler, Executive Director  
Hawaii Public Health Association



**February 21, 2018 at 10:08 AM**  
**Conference Room 211**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**To:** Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

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

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**SB 2988 SD 1, Relating to Kupuna Care**

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

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii would like to thank the committees for the opportunity to **support** SB 2988 SD 1. This legislation seeks to provide financial support to working caregivers looking after a loved one who needs long-term care. We appreciate the 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.



# CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

**Chair Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**February 21, 2018, 10:08 am, Conference Room 211**

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CARE**

Caring Across Generations in strong support of Senate Bill 2988, SD1.

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 Senate Bill 2988, SD1 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**  
**Hawai'i Advocacy Director**  
**Caring Across Generations**  
**pedro@caringacross.org**



# ACOG

The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 (10:08AM)  
PLACE: Conference Room 211

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: SB2988\_SD1 – 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 SB 2988, which would provide funding for implementation and sustainability of this program. 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.<sup>1</sup>

By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i.<sup>2</sup> 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.

SB2988 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

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

<sup>2</sup> Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Population and Economic Projections for the State of Hawaii to 2040.

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 S.B. 2988, SD1, Relating to Kupuna Care**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 21, 2018; 10:08 a.m., State Capitol, Room 211  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) strongly supports S.B. 2988, SD1, which appropriates \$4,000,000 for implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program and requires the Executive Office on Aging to include in its annual report to the Legislature a section that details program outcomes.

*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 are able 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. In the current labor shortage environment, employers need to retain employees with experience and skills and not be burdened with the cost 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 S.B. 2988, SD1. Thank you for considering our testimony.

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 10:41:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Foster	Testifying for The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony ubmitted by Scott Foster, Chair, for The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i.



**SB2988sd1, Relating to Kupuna Care  
WAM Decision Making Committee Hearing  
Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018 – 10:08 am  
Conference Room 211  
Position: Support**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 Kupuna Caregivers Program statewide to improve the support and care for the elderly. Improving this program will allow caregivers to continue to have their kupuna at home while remaining in the workforce, leading to less institutionalization of kupuna 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 SB2988sd1 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.



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Supporting SB 2988 SD1 – Relating to Kupuna Care  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Scheduled for hearing at 10:08 am on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 in Conference Room 211

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Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 2988 SD1**, which would appropriate \$4,000,000 for the Kūpuna Caregivers Program as well as require the Executive Office on Aging to include in a report to the Legislature details of program outcomes.

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.

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*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.*

Chair Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Keith-Agaran  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 21, 2018  
10:08 am -- Room 211

**Testimony in Support of SB2988. SD1  
Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathy Jaycox, and I write in support of Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1, 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 Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1.

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

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Chairs Donoval M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran  
Senate Ways & Means Committee**

**February 21, 2018**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CARE**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, Chair of the Long-Term Care Taskforce of Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE). I support **Senate Bill 2988, SD1** 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 Senate Bill 2988, SD1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

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



eliminating racism  
empowering women

**ywca**

O'ahu

**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 Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 10:08AM  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 211

*Position Statement Senate Bill 2988 SD1*

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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. Senate Bill 2988 SD1 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 Senate Bill 2988 SD1.**

Kathleen Algire  
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

**YWCA IS ON A MISSION**

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 11:36:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

10:08 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2988 SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2988 SD1 relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program; Executive Office on Aging; and its annual report to the legislature.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No.2988 SD1 and supports its passage.

Senate Bill No.2988 SD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Executive Office on Aging to include in its annual report to the legislature a section that details program outcomes and it appropriates \$4,000,000 for implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

The DPH Platform states that "[a]ccess to health care is a basic human need. Our citizens and visitors have an inherent right to high quality, high standard health care. The state legislature and the federal government should take all appropriate steps to create and support a health care system of public, for-profit, and nonprofit hospitals and other medical facilities that follow best practices to enhance and protect and preserve life. (Platform of the DPH, P.7, Lines 360-364 (2016)).

We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups, as well as on better nutrition. (Platform of the DPH, P.7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No.2988 SD1 requires the Executive Office on Aging to include in its annual report to the legislature a section that details program outcomes and it appropriates \$4,000,000 for implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

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Schools Our  
Keiki Deserve

808-351-0980  
808-627-0193

1488 Glen Ave.  
Wahiawā

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1  
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS  
PROGRAM**

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

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1, 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. 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.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Amy Perruso  
Executive Director**

**Testimony in Support, Zonta Club Of Hilo, for SB 2988, SD1, Relating To The  
Kupuna Caregivers Program Funding**

Hearing before the Senate Committee On Ways And Means

**Wednesday, February 21, 2016; 10:08 A.M., State Capitol Room 211**

Senators Dela Cruz, Chair, Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Committee Members

My name is Charlene Iboshi. **The Zonta Club of Hilo supports SB 2988, SD 1.** Zonta is an international organization of business and professional women whose mission is to advance the status of women and girls.

**We voted recently to support this Kupuna Caregivers Program Funding, SB 2988, SD 1.** As an organization, we realize that aging issues disproportionately impact women for two main reasons; 1) greater social, medical and economic costs associated with longer life-expectancies for women; and 2) women still bear most of the responsibilities of elder caregiving. Many of our members are "Baby Boomers" or of the "Great Generation." We understand the challenges of being an "elder." I personally returned home from the mainland to care for my parents, and provided family caregiving for my mother, while working full-time and raising two children.

As stated in supporting research, "[Who Are the Caregivers?](#)"

Most older persons with long-term care needs—65%—rely exclusively on family and friends to provide assistance.<sup>1</sup> Another 30% will supplement family care with assistance from paid providers.<sup>2</sup> Care provided by family and friends can determine whether older persons can remain at home. In fact, 50% of the elderly who have a long-term care need but no family available to care for them are in nursing homes, while only 7% who have a family caregiver are in institutional settings.<sup>3</sup>

Within our complex system of long-term care, women's caregiving is essential in providing a backbone of support. In fact, the value of the informal care that women provide ranges from \$148 billion to \$188 billion annually.<sup>4</sup> Women provide the majority of informal care to spouses, parents, parents-in-law, friends and neighbors, and they play many roles while caregiving—hands-on health provider, care manager, friend, companion, surrogate decision-maker and advocate.<sup>5</sup> Family Caregiver's Alliance.

We fully support Kupuna Caregivers Program Funding, which reflects the needed funding to address the growing social and economic challenges facing the elder caregiving. We ask that you support the funding levels as requested.

Since my retirement as the Hawaii County Prosecutor, I have involved myself in organizations, such as the Zonta Club of Hilo, which support a healthy and safe community, especially for women and children. To reduce economic and social costs facing the elders and their care-givers, a plan with collaborative, comprehensive implementation of "best practices" are critical. The plan must include a government and community "support net." Kupuna Caregivers Program is recognized nationally as visionary.

The funding proposals in SB 2988, SD 1, would reduce the overall societal and economic and social costs by avoiding institutional care.

The Legislature should adopt the Kupuna Caucus and PABEA recommendations to support the economic and social vitality of our growing elder populations. This support is especially helpful to women, who do the caregiving primarily, then become the cared for elder as they become frail and unable to take care of themselves because of their longer life expectancies.

The funding will be helpful for Hawaii County, which has the challenge of being the largest county with strained infrastructure. Our super-rurality makes any delivery of services for elders more challenging. Hawaii County's growing elder population is outpacing the current resources. Over 21% of the population is over 60, higher than the state average.

Please pass this bill to fund self-help, family caregivers' strategies and avoid costly institutional care. Additionally, the quality of life is better when elders are allowed to age with their family caregivers.

Thank you for your expected support and opportunity to testify.

Charlene Iboshi, Zonta Club of Hilo

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 1:04:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 10:22:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randolph Hack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, Feb 21 2016

10:00 AM, Conference Room 211

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Re: SB 2988 SD1, Relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaram, and Committee Members:

My name is Randolph Hack and I am an Advocacy Volunteer for AARP Hawai'i. I strongly support SB2988 SD1 which appropriates \$4,000,000 to the Kupuna Caregivers Program and requires the Executive Office on Aging to submit a report on the status of the program prior to each regular session. The 2017 Legislature establishes this groundbreaking program to help Hawai's caregivers stay in the workforce; however, the initial funding of \$600,000 will run out by June 30, 2018.

The initial response to this new program has been extremely positive with 500 inquiries. There is a clear need to continue and expand this program to provide the assistance caregivers need in Hawai'i

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2988 SD1.



**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 11:16:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2018 2:45:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would testify in person, but I live on Kauai. Please pass this bill with it's funding. I strongly support this bill.

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 12:21:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It's vital to support caregivers of family members. Please support the Kupuna Caregivers program and pass it out of Committee for ultimate vote by the all the legislators. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 5:46:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jim Cisler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as a taxpayer, a kupuna and a caregiver.

TO: Senate [Committee On Ways And Means](#)  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 2018  
RE: [SB 2988, SD1](#) RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of [SB 2988, SD 1](#), Relating to Kupuna Care. My name is Linda Dorset and I am a concerned aging resident living in the Wailuku area.

I believe that the Kupuna Caregivers Program helps maintain strong communities by lowering barriers facing family caregivers working outside the home as they balance work with caregiving. Providing that care can often create financial and emotional stress. In 2016, the cost home health care in Hawai'i was almost \$10,000 higher than the national average. The annual cost of hiring a home health aide was nearly \$60,000 in 2016 and is expected to increase to more than \$75,000 over the next decade.

By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i. That means that most of us will either be caregivers or need care. Working caregivers need to keep their jobs; not just to support their families now, but also to protect retirement security because leaving their jobs to provide care will reduce their Social Security credits.

The Executive Office on Aging has already reported over 500 requests for services in the first few weeks after it launched in late 2017.

The 600,000.00 appropriated last session was only for a half year. A full year should at least double that; but, in light of the already strong demand, \$4,000,000.00 at least would be needed to create a strong program. Please allow this bill to move forward out of committee with the appropriation intact.

Mahalo

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 12:27:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

My name is Dawn Morais Webster, and I am writing to support Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program.

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 fulltime, 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 Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

10:08 am

Conference Room 211

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Re: S.B. 2988, Relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and Members of committee:

My name is Sylvia Ching and I strongly support S.B. 2988, S.D. 1 which appropriates \$4,000,000 for the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

It is so important to adequately fund this program which provides essential services to seniors living at home. Recently I developed a painful stomach condition which rendered me home bound. Fortunately I recovered and was able to survive at home by receiving such services as home chore and laundry service, home delivery of meals, personal care and transportation. I know first hand how important these services are. There is such a great need for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. It is essential that we support caregivers financially so they can continue to provide such care.

The initial funding of \$600,000 will run out by June 30, 2018. It is essential that we continue funding this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of S.B. 2988.

**Chair Dela Cruz**  
**Vice Chair Keith-Agaran**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**February 21, 2018**  
**10:08 AM – Room 211**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

My name is Liane Kimura Briggs, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Through personal experience as a family caregiver, I know the rewards that caregivers receive from caring for a loved one and the costs, financial and emotional, that caregivers bear.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program 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. AARP statistics (Botorff 2015) show that there are approximately 154,000 caregivers in Hawai'i who put in about 144 million hours of care. The majority of family caregivers work outside of the home - about 61% - and 72% of these working caregivers adjust their work hours or take time off from work for caregiving (Botorff 2015). Working caregivers take leaves of absence, work reduced hours, or leave the workforce entirely so that they can provide care (Botorff 2015). Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services for the Kupuna Caregivers Program, which demonstrates the great need of caregivers who have few other resources to turn to for support and would benefit greatly from the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Seniors, caregivers, **and** their employers benefit from the program.

The Hawai'i State Legislature took the first important step in 2017 to establish the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This next step forward for the 2018 Legislature is to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support.

I thank you for considering my written testimony, and I respectfully ask that you to pass Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1.

Sincerely,

**/s/ Liane Kimura Briggs**  
**46-369 Haiku Rd D11**  
**Kaneohe, HI 96744**

Botorff, Bruce. 2015. "Hawaii Caregivers Provide \$2.1 Billion in Unpaid Care." AARP.  
<https://states.aarp.org/hawaii-family-caregivers-provide-2-1-billion-in-unpaid-care-sc-hi-wp-advocacy/>



**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2018 9:01:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

02-20-18

RE: Supporting Testimony on SB2988 SD 1

Aloha,

I am submitting this strong support for SB2988 SD1. This bill, which offers services to qualified employed Caregivers, requests \$4million for the next year. This extends the program to a more meaningful and programmatically and data-significant number of employed caregivers. I know that it aslo asks that the EOA submit an anual report detailing its outcomes. I know the significance of this bill and the program and expenditure it proposes to extend. In an increasingly aging Hawai'i, all of us, throughout Hawai'i Nei are directly or indirectly deliverng and/or impacted by caregiving of our aged/ aging loved ones.

Mahalo

John A.H.Tomoso +, MSW, ACSW, LSW (Social Worker and Episcopal Priest)

51 Ku'ula Street, Kahului, HI 96732-2906

808-280-1749, john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

(Member: PABEA, HPGS Board)

**Chair Dela Cruz**  
**Vice Chair Keith-Agaran**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**February 21, 2018**  
**10:08 AM – Room 211**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee,

My name is Deanna Espinas, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1**, 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 Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

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

**Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair**  
**Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2018**  
**10:08 AM – Room 211**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1**  
**RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

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

My name is Cynthia J. Goto, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 2988, SD 1**, 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 Senate Bill 2988, SD 1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Goto

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2018 12:08:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melissa Moats	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 19, 2018

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means: Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair and Committee Members J. Kalani English, Brickwood Galuteria, Breene Harimoto, Lorraine R. Inouye, Kaiali'i Kahele, Michelle N. Kidani, Gil Riviere, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, and Glenn Wakai.

FROM: Melissa Moats

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB 2988 Relating to Kupuna Care**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 21, 10:08 am Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

I testify today to give you my full support of SB 2988, which would appropriate \$4,000,000 for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. As you know, the Kupuna Caregivers Program was established during 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 retain their jobs. The program was received with great enthusiasm both locally and nationally and serves as a stellar example of what good can be done when we come together as a community to creatively problem solve.

As a nursing student, I have had experienced first hand the hardships that families endure to provide care for their elderly loved ones. This semester, I am working with Kupuna in East Hawaii to execute their Advanced Health Care Directives. A reoccurring theme in conversations with these Kupuna is a worry that they will be a burden on their family. Appropriating funding through the passage of SB 2988 would help secure monies to help support caregivers and help ease these kupuna's worries.

One of the things I regard most about living in Hawai'i is the value placed on ohana. Our kupuna are valued members of our families and of our community and it is absolutely

essential that we continue to provide support to family members who care for them. In closing, I would like to reiterate my full support of SB 2988 and of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Melissa Moats

moats2@hawaii.edu

**SB-2988-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2018 4:55:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/21/2018 10:08:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**From:** [Robert H Stiver](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support SB 2988! (WRT hearing, Feb. 21, Room 211, State Capitol)  
**Date:** Sunday, February 18, 2018 12:03:03 AM

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**Chair Dela Cruz**  
**Vice Chair Keith-Agaran**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**February 21, 2018**  
**10:08 AM – Room 211**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,  
I write in passionate support of **Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1**, which will provide funds -- at the level, I understand, of \$4,000,000 -- to institutionalize the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance Program (Act 102, last year). \$4,000,000, I aver, is the absolute minimum that is "right" for the program, and I predict necessary increases in the near future. So be it -- we need to care for our caregivees and caregivers, who are increasing progressively, in the interest of a compassionate and properly working society.

I am retired, 74 yo, and I lost my beloved wife after decades of debilitating illnesses on August 19, 2016. Although I wouldn't have been eligible for this respite program at the time of Masako's most desperate straits, my mind and body know that the time is right to assist stressed and exhausted caregivers to care for their loved ones. Please give, via SB 2988, your most fervent commitment toward furthering the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance Program.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Robert H. Stiver  
98-434 Hoomailani Street  
Pearl City 96782  
Tel. 455-9823

**From:** [Marjorie Erway](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB 2988, SD1,- hearing on February 21st, 2018, at 10:08am, Conference Room 211  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2018 12:18:37 PM

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Please support for Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1, as it will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, dedicated family caregivers, as well as local small businesses, will receive the support that they deserve and need.

Kupuna Caregivers program is incredibly high for families across Hawaii. 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.

As you probably know, 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.

I urge you to take the next step to continue the program we so desperately need, and to vote to pass Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1.

Mahalo for your consideration.  
Sincerely,  
Marjorie Erway  
PO Box 2807  
Kailua Kona, HI 96745  
808-324-4624



**From:** [Helen](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Caregiver care act 2988  
**Date:** Saturday, February 17, 2018 10:22:00 AM

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Dear committee members

It is very important to Hawaii Seniors that special support be given to SB 2988 Caregivers are needing assistance.  
May this be used for Caregivers in need!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [John Comella](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 2988, for the hearing on February 21st, 2018, at 10:08am, Conference Room 211  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2018 8:00:22 AM

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Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 21, 2018  
10:08 AM – Room 211

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1  
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is John Comella, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1, 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 Senate Bill  
2988, Senate  
Draft 1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

John Comella  
1900 J F Kennedy Blvd Apt 1624 Philadelphia PA 19103

**Chair Dela Cruz**  
**Vice Chair Keith-Agaran**  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**February 21, 2018**  
**10:08 AM – Room 211**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

My name is Liane Kimura Briggs, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Through personal experience as a family caregiver, I know the rewards that caregivers receive from caring for a loved one and the costs, financial and emotional, that caregivers bear.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program 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. AARP statistics (Botorff 2015) show that there are approximately 154,000 caregivers in Hawai'i who put in about 144 million hours of care. The majority of family caregivers work outside of the home - about 61% - and 72% of these working caregivers adjust their work hours or take time off from work for caregiving (Botorff 2015). Working caregivers take leaves of absence, work reduced hours, or leave the workforce entirely so that they can provide care (Botorff 2015). Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services for the Kupuna Caregivers Program, which demonstrates the great need of caregivers who have few other resources to turn to for support and would benefit greatly from the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Seniors, caregivers, **and** their employers benefit from the program.

The Hawai'i State Legislature took the first important step in 2017 to establish the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This next step forward for the 2018 Legislature is to fund the program fully to cover all other families who are in desperate need of support.

I thank you for considering my written testimony, and I respectfully ask that you to pass Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Liane Kimura Briggs**  
**46-369 Haiku Rd D11**  
**Kaneohe, HI 96744**

Botorff, Bruce. 2015. "Hawaii Caregivers Provide \$2.1 Billion in Unpaid Care." AARP.  
<https://states.aarp.org/hawaii-family-caregivers-provide-2-1-billion-in-unpaid-care-sc-hi-wp-advocacy/>

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Conference Room 211

Chair: Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice Chair: Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 10:10 am

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I write in strong support of SB2585. SB2585, if passed, will create a new bargaining unit, 15, for graduate assistants in Hawaii. At some point every undergraduate student is taught by a graduate teaching assistant; graduate research assistants advance scientific frontiers; and graduate administrative assistants run key facilities on campus. The university increasingly relies on graduate labor to run. Graduate assistants deserve a seat at the table when decisions are made that affect their lives, those of their students, and the broader community. Unfortunately, graduate assistants are poorly compensated, with wages that are far below a living wage and far below competitive standards of other universities. Graduate assistant compensation has neither kept up with inflation, the cost of living, or rising productivity. Additionally, graduate assistants are vulnerable to capricious and arbitrary decisions and attacks from management, including sexual harassment, without a proper mechanism for pursuing grievances.

In 2016, the National Labor Relations Board reversed the decades-long ban on private university graduate unions at places such as the University of Chicago, Harvard, and Yale, declaring that graduate assistants are workers that deserve the right to unionize. There are currently dozens of graduate unions across the country at public and private institutions, in states such as California, Oregon, Washington, New York, Illinois, Montana, Massachusetts, Iowa, and many more. Graduate assistant unions have existed for 50 years, and all scholarly research has shown that unionized graduate assistants report higher levels of personal/professional support and higher pay that improves educational outcomes, and that faculty report that unionization does not inhibit their ability to advise, instruct, or mentor.

Hawaii led the way in breaking ground in supporting public sector unions. For the cutting-edge research and instruction graduate assistants do, the ability to collectively bargain over compensation, benefits, and working conditions is essential and long overdue. I urge you to pass SB2585.

Timothy Zhu	Borjana Lubura	Nicholas Chagnon	Van Wishingrad	Rachael Wade
Daniel Wilkie	Kristen Harmon	Kevin Landers	Tommie Laba	Jason Ellinwood
Amali Wedagedara	Ya-chu Chang	Alex Miller	Chantell Balaan	Julie Zill
Jacob Henry	Narrissa Spies	Christopher Gray	Matthew Lorentz	Georgia Fredeluces
Chelsie Counsell	Alexandria Barkman	Tyler Greenhill	Derek Ford	Noam Altman-Kurosaki
Ashley McGuigan	Mirza Uzair Baig	Brett Jones	Alealani Dudoit	Vânia Filipa Lima Fernandes
Laura Williams	Hosanna Lettvin	Devin Barney	Maya Uemoto	Ellen Cachola
Lucie Knor	Ida Peric	Han Tseng	Kate Feloy	Ross Villiger
Kirsten Moy	Patricia Sendao Sendao	Kerry Long	Olivia Conover	Jonathan Fisk
Randy Ching	Jessica Schaefer	Robyn Screen	Darcy Yogi	Cameron Ahia

Luke Campillo	Kathleen Tatem	Brian Crow	Jonathan Cohn	Kamahualani Barbett
Jesse Black	Lilia Merrin	Wesley Sparagon	Dawn Hoewaa	Emily Cardinali
Laura Damiani	Liat Portner	Leilani Dawson	Daniel Flores	Hannah Liebreich
Kera Lovell	Christian Zavala	Katie Taladay	Paola Rodelas	Michael Hinchman
charu lata	Lisa Grandinetti	Cindy Aban	Eric Dilley	Matthew Milette-Winfree
Kyle Kajihiro	Hunter Heavilin	Brian Dawson	Nathaniel Wehr	Will Cecil
Erika Ruppelius	Holly Arthur	Tom Iwanicki	Kahala Johnson	Henryk Szadziewski
Scott Goldberg	Don Krasky	Steven Heisey	Taylor Stacy	Sitara Palecanda
Anela Akiona	Yvonne Barkley	Joan Pan	Keith Scott	McLean Worsham
Katherine Kazlauskas	Helen Sung	Mary Baker	Evan Barba	Piikea Kalakau
Justin Jansen	Nikau Hindin	Kawehi Kina	Jillian Adams	Hinaikawaihiilei Keala
Becca Lensing	Austin Greene	Michelle Brown	Mariana de Souza	Yvonne Barkley
Theresa Chen	Michael Hoban			

**From:** [halanikai@aol.com](mailto:halanikai@aol.com)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 2988, for the hearing on February 21st, 2018, at 10:08am, Conference Room 211  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2018 7:50:25 AM

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Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 21, 2018  
10:08 AM – Room 211

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1  
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Brucella Halani Berard, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1, 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 Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Brucella Halani Berard, Kupuna  
776379 Kenika Place  
Kailua Kona, Hawai'i 96740

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Dawn Webster](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 2988, for the hearing on February 21st, 2018, at 10:08am, Conference Room 211  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2018 8:00:16 AM

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Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 21, 2018  
10:08 AM – Room 211

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD1  
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Dawn Morais Webster, and I am writing to support Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program.

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 Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 1.



Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Dawn Morais Webster  
1, Keahole Place, #3501,  
Honolulu, HI 96825.

**From:** [Jonathan Boyne](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** testimony in support of Senate Bill 2988, for the hearing on February 21st, 2018, at 10:08am, Conference Room 211.  
**Date:** Monday, February 19, 2018 12:33:09 PM

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Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee,

We cared for our parents at home as long as we could as they aged, but eventually had not enough time and money. Help would have made this more possible.

Senate Bill 2587, Senate Bill 29188, and House Bill 1912 will:

- Provide second year funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program into the 2018–2019 fiscal year. Without this funding, the program will not continue past its initial launch phase.
- Provide services to those in need. A large number of families are faced with the dilemma of not qualifying for Medicaid services, yet also not having enough funds to pay out-of-pocket for the ongoing care that older adults in their family require. The Kupuna Caregivers program, which is the only program in Hawai‘i aimed at providing relief to caregivers, will assist those families.
- Create home health care jobs. These dollars represent an economic infusion into the home health industry and will help turn these jobs into high-quality jobs with fair wages. More than 90 percent of home health workers are women of color. As home care workers often piece together multiple clients to have enough work to support themselves, this program can help stabilize the care profession and ensure retention of caregivers, promote bonds between older adults and their caregivers, and create more economic opportunities for home care workers.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Boyne  
96822