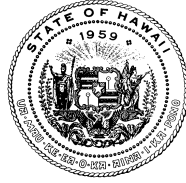


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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, SD2
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: March 20, 2018
8:30 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 SB2988, SD2. 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 \$3,400,000 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 \$3,400,000 would provide services and supports to an
10 estimated 187 - 467 persons statewide.

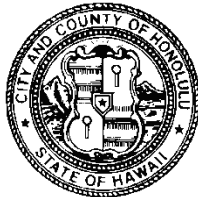
11 We are looking at this first year of the Kupuna Caregivers Program as a pilot project and taking
12 the time to learn what it will take to build a stable and sustainable program that will support our
13 seniors and their caregivers for years to come.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 200 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-7762 • FAX: (808) 768-7792
www.honolulu.gov/dcs



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

PAMELA A. WITTY-OAKLAND
DIRECTOR

SUSAN L. FERNANDEZ
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 20, 2018

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

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

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB2988, SD2, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CARE

Position: The Department of Community Services/EAD supports SB 2988, SD2,
with revisions

The Department of Community Services, 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.

SB 2988, SD2 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 per 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, information provided by the State Executive Office on Aging (EOA). 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.

Per my last testimony, we have continued to receive calls from family members who are in need of a higher level of care. Those services, as we mentioned in prior

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

March 20, 2018

Page 2

testimony, cannot be provided without modification to the language within this legislation. We are working to be responsive to the needs we are hearing from the community, however due to the limitations of this bill and the guidelines set forth by the State EOA, we are unable to respond adequate to their needs.

We ask that the following be taken into consideration:

1) Allocate Administrative Funds to the Area Agencies on Aging to sustain the implementation of this program (10% is currently allocated for Administration of other programs like Kupuna Care). The staffing time required to administer this program is greater than that of Kupuna Care, due to the additional caregiver assessment and the employer attestation forms.

2) Modify the amount of funds allocated, rather than have it set at \$70 per day, allow it set up to \$350 per week or \$1400 per month (based on a five-day work week). This would provide flexibility for the family on how the funds could be used, especially in those cases where higher level of care and higher cost services are required.

3) Modify the scope of services covered under Kupuna Caregiver to meet the needs of those individuals with a higher level of need, rather than duplicating the language in Kupuna Care; and

4) Ensure the timely release of funds following the legislative session. If this does not occur, there will be a break in services and those families currently participating in Kupuna Caregiver will be left without the support they need.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

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

March 20, 2018, 8:30 am, Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988 SD2 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Caring Across Generations in strong support of Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 2.

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, Senate Draft 2, 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
808-372-5350



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
Wednesday, March 20, 2018
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Re: S.B. No. 2988, S.D. 2, Relating to Kupuna Care

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 S.B. No. 2988, S.D. 2, which appropriates \$3,400,000 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. 2.



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

DATE: Tuesday, 20 March 2018
TIME: 8:30 am
PLACE: Conference Room 329

Re: SB 2988 SD2 Relating to the Kupuna Care

Position: Strong Support

Dear Representatives Mizuno, Kobayashi, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support SB 2988 SD2 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.

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

March 20, 2018
8:30 am -- Room 329

**Testimony in Support of SB2988. SD2
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 Senate Bill 2988, Senate Draft 2, 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 2.

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

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:24:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katinka B. Hammerich	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Katinka B. Hammerich
2440 Campus Rd. #373, Honolulu, HI 96822

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Senator Josh Green, Chair

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

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 8:30 A.M.

Conference Room 329

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

Dear Chairs Baker and Green, Vice-Chairs Tokuda and Chang and Members of both committees:

My name is Katinka Hammerich and I stand in strong support of S.B. 2988, which appropriates continued funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. There is a high demand for the Kupuna Caregivers for families across Hawai'i. The Kupuna Caregivers program is intended to support family caregivers who work outside the home and who are struggling to pay for the care services they need for their kupuna.

As a social worker, having worked with older adults and family caregivers for many years, I have experienced first hand the enormous physical, psychological, and financial burden that family caregivers are experiencing in our state. When family caregivers are working full-time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children, adding care duties of a kupuna to their obligations brings personal strain. The Kupuna Caregivers Program assists in lifting some of the financial burdens of these caregivers and will give our kupuna an opportunity to be cared for at home, surrounded by their loved ones.

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 am hopeful that this program will continue to provide working caregivers with the opportunity to continue working with the peace of mind of knowing that their loved ones are safe and are receiving services and support that maximize their independence and quality of life. I ask you to take this important next step to continue the program we so urgently need. I ask you to please pass Senate Bill 2988.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Katinka B. Hammerich, MSW, LSW

katinka@hawaii.edu

DATE:	<u>Tuesday March 20, 2018</u>
TIME:	<u>8:30 am</u>
PLACE:	Conference Room 329 State Capitol

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Steven Mitchell, and I am writing to re-express my support for Senate Bill 2988, which is needed to provide funds for the Kupuna Caregivers program. I have testified in person in the past, but will be unable to do so on the 20th, so please read my testimony, and hear the solution.

Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, dedicated family caregivers, as well as local small business workers and owners, can receive the support that they deserve and need.

I was a caregiver (my wife passed of Alzheimer's in 2013) who was under duress with no family help, respite, or funds for a CNA. I closed 3 retail Stores, fired 15 employees, and was forced to stay home to care for my wife and partner. The stress cost me, my employees, and the State of Hawaii hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue, as well as taxable income and state excise and income taxes. This bill will not cost money, it will make money for the State. I do appreciate your efforts on behalf of the people of Hawaii, so forgive me if as a business man, I say that I think this is a no brainer.

As a 64 year old caregiver who survived, I feel it will be a lifeline to working tax payers.

By providing a modest care benefit of even \$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. Mahalo for that. 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.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Steven Mitchell
Former owner of Wireless Choices
Maui, Hawaii

Widower of Lynda Mitchell
(Former District Administrator -Librarian Maui)
1212 Nuuanu Avenue #3509
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

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

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

SUBJECT: SB 2988 SD 2 Relating to Kupuna Care

HEARING: Tuesday March 20, 2018, 8:30 am
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC) strongly supports Bill SB 2988 SD 2 which would appropriate \$3.4 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 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 is also important in expanding job opportunities in eldercare and growing the community-based services which will enable more frail elder persons to remain at home and not have to enter expensive residential settings.

- 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 created contracts with the 4 country AAA's for delivering services and they will began offering services, especially day care, in February 2018, enabling 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 only 30 clients for the remaining months of the fiscal year. SB 2988 SD 2 proposes \$3.4 million for fiscal year 2018 in addition to the governor's budget of \$600,000, 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



March 20, 2018 at 8:30 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**
SB 2988 SD 2, 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 committee for the opportunity to **support** SB 2988 SD 2. 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.



**SB2988sd2, Relating to Kupuna Care
House HHS Committee Hearing
Tuesday, March 20, 2018 – 8:30 am
Conference Room 329
Position: Support**

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi 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 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 SB2988sds 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.



March 18, 2018

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Andria P.L. Tupola
Rep. Lei R. Learnmont

Re: **Strong Support for SB2988 SD2**

Hrg: March 20, 2018 at 8:30am 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 **SB2988 SD2** 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

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 SB 2988 SD2 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE
Hearing: March 20, 2018, 8:30 AM, CR 329

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 2988 SD2**, 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 SB 2988 SD2**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:12:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights AND The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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, March 20, 2018; 8:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2988, SD2
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 2988, SD2, which appropriates \$3,400,000 for implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program and requires the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to include in its annual report to the Legislature a section that details program outcomes. Also requires EOA to offer a plan to maximize the number of participants in the program, offer certain core services (including attendant care and activities of daily living), and submit a copy of the plan to 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” 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 would be properly cared for.

Too many caregivers, lacking financial resources for caregiving assistance, have been forced to lose work hours and income or resign or retire far earlier than desired. In most, if not all, cases, fewer work hours or early retirement has resulted in financial sacrifice and reduced income security for the caregiver 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, requiring employers to hire and train replacement workers. With Hawaii’s unemployment rate the lowest in the nation, employers cannot afford to lose experienced employees to caregiving responsibilities.

S.B. 2988, SD2 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.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program recognizes the valuable role played by family caregivers who are still in the workforce. Since kupuna prefer to live at home, not in a nursing home, providing support to caregivers will serve the needs of kupuna while potentially saving the State millions of dollars in Medicaid matching funds. As the cost of nursing home care exceeds \$11,000 a month, most kupuna, who need long-term care but have no one able to help them, will need to seek financial help from Medicaid.

We fully agree with the concern raised by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to maximize the number of participants in the program. Offering a range of services less costly than adult day care will allow far more caregivers to benefit from the respite and assistance offered by the Kupuna Caregiver Program. The Program requires considerable coordination among the Executive Office on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers to ensure that more people may be served. A report to the Legislature will also ensure accountability.

The Kupuna Caregiver Program is just one small measure to address a growing need in our community. As more of Hawaii's population ages and need financial and other assistance to remain at home or to afford long-term care in a facility, the Legislature must consider various means of assisting Hawaii residents in this area of need. If proactive steps are not considered, taxpayers may become, by default, burdened with increasingly higher costs for Medicaid. This is something that the Legislature must address sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, the ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2988, SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

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

DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 (8:30AM)
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: SB2988_SD2 – 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_SD2, 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.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.

SB2988_SD2 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.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 2988 SD2 – Relating to Kupuna Care
House Committee on Health & Human Services
Scheduled for hearing on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 8:30 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 **SB 2988 SD2**, which would appropriate \$3,400,000 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 and to offer a plan to maximize the number of participants in the program and with certain co services.

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.

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:05:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair and Members of the House Committee on Health & Human Services:

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 **SB2988 SD2** relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program; Executive Office on Aging; Report; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2988 SD2** and supports its passage.

SB2988 SD2 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 outcomes of the Kupuna Caregivers Program; requires the Executive Office on Aging to offer a plan to maximize the number of participants in the program and offer certain core services and to submit a copy of the plan to the legislature; includes activities of daily living and attendant care as services covered by the program; and appropriates \$3,400,000 for implementation of the program, effective 7/1/2050.

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 **SB2988 SD2** requires the Executive Office on Aging to include in its annual report to the legislature a section that details outcomes of the Kupuna Caregivers Program; requires the Executive Office on Aging to offer a plan to maximize the number of participants in the program and offer certain core services and to submit a copy of the plan to the legislature; includes activities of daily living and attendant care as services covered by the program; and appropriates \$3,400,000 for implementation of the program, effective 7/1/2050, 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, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:58:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	FACE (Faith Action for Community Equity)	Support	No

Comments:

I am a volunteer member of FACE, a group of approximately 40 churches and temples that support critical changes needed in our community. Please adopt 2988 and provide appropriations to our Kupuna Care program. This is an essential program to help our seniors age in place in loving contact with family, instead of needing to move into care facilities that are much more expensive and limited. Caregivers need the financial support to assist them in being able to provide this care.

Thank you, Ellen Carson

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:51:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 11:07:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert H Stiver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD2
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, 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 \$3,400,000 -- to institutionalize the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance Program (Act 102, last year). \$3,400,000, 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

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 7:23:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators of our Great State and our Culture that cares for its Kupuna...!

Even if it is not kupuna, I know the value of what this legislation is doing to serve our people and it IS GOOD! I lost my husband 2 years ago and this is the type of program that becomes a lifeline to many more than just the one who is in failing health. If the program can **serve more ohana** ALL THE BETTER! We need this and we want to prove the accountability so to extend the program. Why this is started until 205?? Wassup with that?

Mahalo for your compassion,

April Lee/Hawi, HI

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:07:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Essential to pass.

March 18, 2018

House Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

RE: SB2988, RELATING TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Dear Chair Mizuno and committee members,

My name is Jeannette Kojane, I am writing to express my **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB2988, which asks for a \$3.4 million appropriation to expand the family caregiver support program.

Caring for the seriously ill and supporting their loved ones and caregivers has been central focus of my career. I currently serve as the Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, Hawaii's Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Over the last 30 years I have seen the need for support for family caregivers as they deal with the joys and burdens of caring for a loved one. Our system relies on loved ones for a wide range of support and it is very clear to me in my professional and personal life that we need to provide dramatically more support beyond what is currently available. We have already hit crisis level with this issue and it will only get worse in the years ahead.

Right now, across Hawaii, families are juggling to care for a loved one. We know that this means taking time off work, retiring early, and sacrificing their own health and happiness. So many families are looking for some sort of respite and increasing the funding for the Kupuna caregiver bill will be an important step in the right direction as it will give people the ability to send mom to adult day care or make sure that Uncle can have a few hours a day of in-home support. This bill will not solve all our problems and we will need to look for other solutions, especially as our population continues to age and the number of people needing this support increases.

Thank you for the consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo,

Jeannette Kojane, MPH
PO Box 62223
Honolulu, HI 96839

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:23:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

03-19-18

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

Hearing on: March 20, 2018, 8:30 AM – Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD2
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2988, SD2, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, Family Caregivers will receive the support that they deserve and need. It is interesting to know and I must include this in my testimony, that local small business will also receive the support that they need, given the fact that many Family Caregivers are also employed and part of Hawaii's workforce.

We know that the need for the Kupuna Caregivers Program is critical and, understandably, incredibly high for Caregiving Families across Hawai'i. 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, especially as their Kupuna are living at home too. They are working full time, sometimes working multiple jobs, and often taking care of young children and an aging kupuna at the same time. So, the "Aging Sandwich", much discussed throughout the country, is a veritable part of the daily experience of caregiving here in multi-cultural and "ohana intimate" Hawai'i.

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 need, desperately in need of support offered by the Kupuna Caregivers 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 and richly, through our cultural milieu, deserve! I ask you to please pass Senate Bill 2988, SD2.

Me ka mahalo,
John A. H. Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW, LSW

51 Ku'ula Street

Kahului, HI 96732-2906

808-280-1749

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

CC: PABEA ListServ, HPHAMAUI, NASWADMIN, MAUISTATELEGIS.

Beth Hoban
45104 Mahalani Circle * Kaneohe, HI 96744
March 19, 2018

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

March 20, 2018

8:30 AM – Room 329
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD2
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Beth Hoban, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 2988, SD2**, 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. As a caregiver to my 93 year old mother, I know the financial and emotional challenges we face. I work full time as a business owner, balancing caring for my mother and working fulltime. Caregiving expenses is something we did not plan in our senior years but essential to be able to work and be productive in our community.

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, SD2. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Beth Hoban



Meals From the Heart = Food For the Soul

19 March 2018

Our Mission

Hawai'i Meals on Wheels, Inc., a private, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, is dedicated to helping O'ahu's elders and individuals with disabilities preserve their independence at home. We do this by providing hot, nutritious meals and regular, personal interaction with those we serve.

Hawai'i Meals on Wheels, Inc. P.O.
Box 61194
Honolulu, HI 96839-1194
(808) 988-6747
www.hmow.org

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Mike Tottori

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Kapiolani Medical Center

Irmgard Hörmann

Emerita and Founder

Support for SB2988 SD2 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and the Committee,

Hawaii Meals on Wheels delivers hot meals daily to kupuna on Oahu from Hawaii Kai to Ewa Beach, Pearl City to Mililani, and Windward Oahu from Kaneohe to Waimanalo.

Many of our clients live with family members who are away from home at work during the day. We support aging in place not only by delivering meals, but by serving as a daily wellness check for working family members.

We support continuing the innovative Kupuna Caregivers program which started so successfully last year. We also support SD2's appropriation of \$3.4 million which would go far to help more seniors and their families.

Mahalo for your innovative support for local working families.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michelle Cordero-Lee
CEO, Hawaii Meals on Wheels

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:11:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
I. Robert Nehmad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2988, SD2, 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 for an elder or disabled family member.

THANKS

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:54:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

AAUW-Hawaii supports.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.

Policy Chair

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 7:00:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Membrs,

The support and care of our Kupuna is vital to Hawaii. The Kupuna caregiver program is much needed. I was a caregiver to my mother for several years and finding help was next to impossible. Their are so many families in need of help. This bill will not only provide for reporting but also expanison into more needed areas with much needed funding.

Please pass this bill,

Mahalo for reviewing my testimony,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 Kamehameha Hwy. #A

Hauula, Hi 96717

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:24:37 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayshi and CHH committee members,

I strongly support SB2988 SD2 to fund kupuna care for working caregivers.

Home is where a family member should be if at all possible. This bill will allow many more of Hawaii's caregivers to continue working outside the home while caring for their kupuna at home.

With the cost of nursing facilities skyrocketing, it is comforting to know that Hawaii will do its part to help with home care and services so that the family breadwinner can continue to earn a paycheck.

My husband and I were caregivers for several years, and I can attest to the peace of mind it gave my mother-in-law when we told her she would be living at home with us after a stay at a nursing facility. Her exact words were, "I'm a queen!"

Besides benefitting the kupuna and providing support to families, bill SB2988 helps the state maintain its workforce and its tax base.

It is clear from the response from families thus far that funds for kupuna care are sorely needed. The cost is great, but the need is great and will only continue to grow.

Please support this family-friendly bill, SB2988 SD2 to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

SB-2988-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:50:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
darren ueki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Mizuno and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2988 Relating to Kupuna Care.

My name is Darren Ueki and I am the primary caregiver for my 78 year old father. In May of 2017, life took a 180 degree turn for our family when my father fell in his backyard, suffering severe brain trauma. He went from a totally independent man to one who cannot not be left alone because of physical and decision making issues. Despite a handful of medical setbacks, he has made progress to regain strength, balance, and memory, but he is far from being anywhere near where he was prior to his accident. The bottom line is that we are not able to leave him alone.

During the Fall of 2017, after caring for Dad at home, a decision was made to enroll him at the Kilohana Senior Enrichment Center. The burden of time away from work and the need for Dad to stay mentally stimulated as a part of his recovery led us to the decision. The toughest part of this decision was the financial impact it had Dad being that he, like many Kupuna, is on a fixed income.

When I learned about the Kupuna Caregiver Program, I immediately reached out to the City and County Office of Elderly Affairs to place his name on the list for interested parties. In February we were contacted and went through an in home interview. In early March we were notified that he was accepted into the Kupuna Caregiver Program. The financial help provided between now and June 30, 2018 has put Dad at ease with regard to the financial burden.

Kilohana provides Dad with a safe environment and allows me to work full time without having to worry. The daily activities and friends that he has made has also helped with his ongoing recovery.

Seeing firsthand how the Kupuna Caregivers Program is helping my family, I strongly urge you to pass SB 2988 SD2.

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

March 20, 2018
8:30 AM – Room 329

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988, SD2
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Gayle Asatani, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2988, SD2, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. I was so excited to hear about the program and how it would support family caregivers, as well as our local small businesses to receive the support that is needed to care for the elderly.

Our family surely needed help in caring for my 90-year-old father. I signed up as soon as I could and just received word that my father was accepted into the pilot program. What a huge burden was lifted off my shoulders knowing that my father would receive help in paying for the care services needed. My goal is to keep my father out of a care home so that he can live as normally as possible. Care services are very expensive and since he was also needing help in the evenings, we were quite concerned about him running out of finances paying for day care and night care as well. We have not done much with hiring night care because of the cost, which has left it to me to attend to his needs all night long. Since I work a day job, this has made it difficult for me to get the rest I need. Perhaps now we can get a few hours in during the evening hours.

The \$70 per day care benefit is a huge financial help to us and I hope that the program will continue to aid more and more families who face similar challenges in the work force and in caregiving. My family desperately needs for this program to continue. Please pass Senate Bill 2988, SD2.

Mahalo,

Gayle Asatani
45-589 Paleka Road #103
Kaneohe, HI 96744

kobayashi2 - Kevin

From: Jonathan Boyne <boyne@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:55 AM
To: hhstestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2988

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

I cared for my elderly mother at home, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2988, SD2, 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, SD2.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Boyne
96822