

SB2988

Measure Title: RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE.

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

Description: Appropriates \$4,000,000 for the full implementation and sustainability of the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Requires the Executive Office on Aging to submit a report to the Legislature prior to each regular session that details program outcomes.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH/HMS, WAM

Introducer(s): TOKUDA, BAKER, S. CHANG, ENGLISH, HARIMOTO, IHARA, KEITH-AGARAN, K. RHOADS

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:28:59 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

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

Comments:



Hawaii Women's Coalition

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 5, 2018

TIME: 3:10 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 016

STRONG SUPPORT FOR Adequate funding for Kupuna Caregivers program

Aloha Chair Baker, Chair Green and members,

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed Co-Chair, Hawai'i Women's Coalition
Contact: annsreed@gmail.com Phone: 808-623-5676

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

THE SENATE

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Monday, February 5, 2018; 3:10 p.m.

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

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 2988, which appropriates \$4,000,000 for the full implementation and sustainability of the Kupuna Caregivers Program and requires the Executive Office on Aging to submit a report to the Legislature prior to each regular session that details program outcomes.

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 retain their jobs. This nominal appropriation was intended to start up the program and serve as a “pilot” of sorts to demonstrate the need and effectiveness of providing services such as adult day care to allow family caregivers to go to work with some peace of mind that their loved one would be properly cared for.

Too many caregivers, lacking financial resources for this type of respite care, have been forced to lose work hours and income or resign or retire far earlier than desired. In most, if not all, cases, fewer work hours or early retirement has resulted in financial sacrifice for the caregiver in the form of reduced income security in later years. Likewise, employers have suffered economic hardship when employees must take paid or unpaid leave to care for a kupuna or must leave the workforce prematurely, 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 because of caregiving responsibilities.

S.B. 2988 calls for a small investment (\$70 a day does not go far) to help stabilize the workforce to address what is already a growing problem. The frail elderly population will only continue to grow in the future. Recognition of the valuable role played by family caregivers, especially those who are working, is needed to reduce costly institutionalization.

We also fully support the requirement in S.B. 2988 for EOA to provide an annual report of program outcomes to help ensure accountability.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2988. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

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

February 5, 2018, 3:10 pm, Conference Room 16

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CARE

Caring Across Generations in strong support of Senate Bill 2988.

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 witnessed 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 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

From: [Robert H Stiver](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#); [HMS Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 2988; KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 4:30:50 PM

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

February 1, 2018

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

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

I gave care to my wife, Masako, until her passing of endometrial cancer, as complicated by other age-related issues, on August 19th, 2016--almost 18 months ago. Caregiving was a most distressful episode of my life; I gave my all to Masako but often felt inadequate. (At the time of her passing, Masako was 79, I 72; thus, I could not have been eligible for the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance Act as passed in 2017 with unanimous Senate/House support and the quick signing by Governor Ige. Nonetheless, I testified on behalf of the legislation and am gratified at its passage and now its implementation phase.)

I write to express my support for Senate Bill 2988, 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. I, and all supporters like me, ask you to take this important next step to continue the program that is so desperately needed. Please: I ask you to pass Senate Bill 2988.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely and aloha,

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

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

February 5, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Beth Hoban, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 2988**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. My mother lives with me. She is 93 years old with a chronic heart condition. Last year, she broke her Right arm, her dominant arm, restricting her ability to feed and perform personal care. I had to get help to care for her, so I can continue working fulltime. I am blessed to be able to have my mother live with me and we celebrate her life with us one day at a time.

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 represent 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. 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.

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.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Beth Hoban
45-104 Mahalani Circle, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

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

February 5, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chairs Baker and Green, Vice Chairs Chang and Tokuda, 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**, 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.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

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

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 6:10:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 8:56:10 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Gonce	Self	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha CPH/HHS Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

Our Kupuna population is increasing and in need of much assistance in our current volatile economy. This measure would be a welcomed step in the right direction to giving our older population security and piece of mind. Please support this measure.

-Randy Gonce

Young Progressives Demanding Action

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 9:01:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:30:13 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:00:20 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/5/2018 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Gonsalves		Support	No

Comments:

The Kupuna Caregiver Program is a very important program that will enable families to receive much needed assistance providing meaningful and safe care for their vulnerable loved ones while allowing them to continue working. What happens when Dad suffers a stroke but he was the primary caregiver for Mom who has Alzheimer's disease? All the children are still of working age and all are working trying to make ends meet. This program can offer them some much needed assistance to care for both parents. Please support this program.