

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.

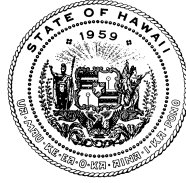
Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH/HMS, WAM

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2988
Relating to Kupuna Care**

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTIONS, AND HEALTH
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 5, 2018
3:10 pm

Room Number: 016

- 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. We support the intent of this measure
- 3 provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's
- 4 executive biennium budget.
- 5 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$4,000,000 in FY19 for the Kupuna Caregivers
- 6 Program and includes new annual reporting requirements detailing kupuna caregivers program
- 7 outcomes, including but not limited to evaluation metrics, the existing waiting list broken down
- 8 by county, and recommendations to support the implementation and execution of the program.
- 9 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that the appropriation in this bill is a priority of the Ige
- 10 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 Caregiver 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. As EOA does not have a
17 dedicated resource to support functions of this new program, we would like to humbly request
18 that in lieu of an additional stand alone report, that the proposed reporting requirements be
19 included in the EOA annual report to the State Legislature.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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:



February 1, 2018

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

Re: **Strong Support for SB2587**

Hrg: February 5, 2018 at 3:10pm

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 **SB2587** 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



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: annsfreed@gmail.com Phone: 808-623-5676



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Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Senate Committee on Human Services
Monday, February 5, 2018
3:10 p.m.
Conference Room 16

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Re: S.B. No. 2988, Relating to the Kupuna Care

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



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 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 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



February 5, 2018 at 3:10 PM
Conference Room 16

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

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Jill N. Tokuda

Chair Josh Green
Vice Chair Stanley Chang

Re: Testimony in Support
SB 2988, Relating to the 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. 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.



**HAWAII CHAPTER - AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY
ASSOCIATION**

(800) 554-5569 x13 • www.hapta.org • info@hapta.org

**SB 2988, Relating to Kapuna Care
Senate CPH/HMS Committee Hearing
Monday, Feb. 5, 2018 – 3:10 pm
Conference Room 016
Position: Support**

Chairs Baker and Green, and Members of the Joint CPH and HMS 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 400 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Our members are employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are human movement specialists and are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromuscular and musculoskeletal injuries and impairments to improve and enrich quality of life.

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

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

Your support of SB2988 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.



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

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

DATE: Monday, February 5, 2018 (3:10PM)
PLACE: Conference Room 016

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 – 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 full 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 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.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2988 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Hearing: February 5, 2018, 3:10 pm, CR 016

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 2988**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers will receive the support that they need to help keep kupuna safe at home and their family stress level from becoming unmanageable.

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB SB 2988**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 7:26:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:



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

February 5, 2018

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TO: Senator Roz Baker, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health and Committee on Human Services

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, Vice Chair PHOCUSED

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

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2018
3:10 pm
Room 016

Chair Baker, Chair Green, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2988 Relating to Kupuna Care.

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

SB 2988 appropriates \$4M to continue the Kupuna Caregivers Program that was established in 2017 and implemented by the Executive Office on Aging. Act 102, Session Laws 2017, appropriated \$600,000 for FY 2017-18. The Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) only started processing applications in January 2018.

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



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

Board of Directors

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Natalie Okeson, Exec. Dir.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 2988 Relating to Kupuna Care.**

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



Aloha Chairs Baker and Green, members of the joint committees on Consumer Protection and Health, and Human Services,

The Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawai‘i, representing nearly 600 registered members, **strongly supports** SB2988 to fund the Kūpuna Caregivers Program through the Executive Office of Aging.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your support,

Will Caron
Social Justice Action Committee Chair
8083874920

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 SB2988 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

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

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

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



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting SB 2988 – Relating to Kupuna Care
Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and on Human Services
Scheduled for hearing at 3:10 pm on Monday, February 5, 2018 in Conference Room 016

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **SB 2988**, which would appropriate \$4,000,000 for the Kūpuna Caregivers Program as well as require the Executive Office on Aging to submit a report to the Legislature prior to each regular session that details 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.

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.

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.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 11:44:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Domestic Violence Survivor Advocate	Support	No

Comments:

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

Date: January 30, 2018

Re: SB 2988, Relating to the Kupuna Care

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2988, Relating to the Kupuna Care.

My name is Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. and I am a retiree. I live in Paauilo-Mauka on the Big Island. The passage of this Bill is vital as it appropriates \$4,000,000 to the Kupuna Caregivers Program, to help Hawaii's working caregivers stay in the workforce.

The 2017 Legislature established this program, but the initial funding will run out by June 30, 2018. Due to the positive response to this program, I urge you to support the continuation and expansion of the program that greatly benefits caregivers in Hawaii.

I urge you to support caregivers by voting **YES** on SB 2988. Mahalo!

Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D.

Positive and Productive Aging Consultant.
Paauilo-Mauka, Hawaii District

P.O. Box 366

Honokaa

HI 96727

Phone: (808) 775-1064

SB-2988

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 3:06:59 PM

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

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

Comments:

Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senate Committee on Human Services

Monday, February 5, 2018

3:10 p.m., Conference Room 16

My name is Randolph Hack and I am an Advocacy Volunteer for AARP Hawaii. AARP is an organization which serves Hawaii seniors with a membership of about 150,000. We are in strong support of this measure.

This measure appropriates \$4 million to the Kupuna Caregivers program. Many fully employed individuals care for aging loved ones in their homes. Full-time jobs and often other family obligations add additional stress. Kupuna Caregivers program offers respite in the form of hired help, adult day care, and the like per a daily reimbursement.

Seniors don't want to be a burden on their families in their twilight years! Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 5:41:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster		Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo,

Scott Foster, Chair

The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

SB-2988

Submitted on: 1/31/2018 6:00:41 PM

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

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

Comments:

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 11:09:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Cisler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is the part of lawmaking that is essential to any effort to improve the quality of life for us residents. Please make this funding possible. The caregivers of us older folks can use the support. If only twenty percent of our aging population needs caregiving services, the \$4 million amounts to less than \$70.00 per person. It's a start. It's certainly the right time.

From: [Ronni](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 2988, for the hearing on February 5th, 2018, at 3:10pm, Conference Room 016
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 9:34:21 AM

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 CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Ron Taylor_____, and I am writing 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. 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,
Ron Taylor
pob 6162
Hilo, Hi 96720

[Insert Name]
[Insert Address]

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 CARE

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

My name is Deanna Espinas, and I am writing 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. 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,

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

From: [John A. H. Tomoso](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 2988, for the hearing on February 5th, 2018, at 3:10pm, Conference Room 016
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2018 9:02:23 AM

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 CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is John A. H. Tomoso+, Social Worker and Episcopal Priest, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 2988, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, dedicated family caregivers, many of whom you know and live amongst all of us in a "Aging Hawai'i", as well as our local small businesses, will receive the support that they deserve and need. Many of these family caregivers are still part of our workforce!

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, within our Aging Network of services and programs, many being home and community-based, 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 urgently and desperately need. Together with an aging Hawai'i Nei, I ask you to please pass Senate Bill 2988.

Me ka mahalo iho,

John A. H. Tomoso+, MSW, ACSW, LSW
51 Ku'ula Street
Kahului, HI 96732-2906
john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com
808-280-1749

cc:PABEA ListServ

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 1:52:37 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha CPH & HMS

This is essentially the infrastructure that is needed, as there are too many poor people taking care of other poor people who really can't afford to spend much more than they already have. With all manner of taxes and prices increasing, this is the relief they need. Please support SB2988.

Mahalo,

Dave Kisor, Puna resident, Naval Veteran USN/USNR, Geographer, Retired Nerd

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 4:57:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Midgieann L. Wright	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	Support	No

Comments:

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 Midgieann L. Wright, and I am writing 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. 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,

Midgieann L. Wright

39 Hialoa St., #102

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 7:19:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Ching		Support	No

Comments:

Chairs Baker and Green, Vice Chairs Tokuda and Chang and members of the committees,

I support SB2988 because the Kupuna Care Program fills a vital need. The state's senior population is growing rapidly and they need help with daily activities that most of us take for granted. The \$4M appropriation will help ensure the success of the Kupuna Care Program.

Please pass SB2988. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Randy Ching / Honolulu / makikirandy@yahoo.com

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

February 2, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2988 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Jun Shin and I am a board member at-large for Young Progressives Demanding Action – Hawaii. I am testifying on support of SB2988, which is due for a hearing on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 3:10 PM.

I want to thank the legislature for their hard work in creating the Kupuna Caregivers Program, which would not only assist in lifting some of the financial burdens of family caregivers, but it gives our Kupuna an opportunity to be cared for at home, surrounded by their loved ones, instead of in a unfamiliar setting like a hospital or a care home. I hope that you can support this bill and take it one step further by getting this train started through funding and letting the work begin.

With Hawaii’s population continuing to age, more and more family members will be staying home to take of their Kupuna and so this program will be very important in the coming years, insuring that these family care givers don’t lose their own retirement security and that they can continue to stay in the workforce, protecting their livelihood and eventually helping to insure our economy remains stable as a state when the time comes to answer these questions. I urge you to pass SB2988.

Thank you for your hard work and deliberation on this bill,

Jun Shin,
Board Member At-Large
Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii
1561 Kanunu St. #2106 Honolulu, HI 96814
Cell: 8082556663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair – Committee on Human Services
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair - Committee on Human Services
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair - Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair - Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

DATE: Monday, February 5, 2018
TIME: 3:10 pm
PLACE: Conference Room 016

Re: SB 2988 Relating to Kupuna Care

Position: Strong Support

Dear Senators Green, Chang, Baker, Tokuda, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support SB 2988 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.

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 2:27:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Murphy	Young Progressives Demanding Action	Support	No

Comments:

In the summer of 2015, when I was just 20 years old, I found myself in a difficult situation. Earlier that the year, a dear family friend named Bob had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Bob had worked with my grandfather in the history department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, long before I was born, and continued to stay close with the family long after my grandfather passed away. Bob and his wife, Marian, were a holiday institution in my household while I was growing up; he would always save a wink and a few kind words of encouragement for me when I inevitably tipped the dinner table into one chaotic political conversation or another. When I was a teenager, I went through a rough spot, and Bob made time in his life to help guide me toward a better path. I have cherished memories of Bob, sitting across a table from me at the 'Āina Haina Subway. With mussed, gray hair, a wrinkled collar and a tweed jacket on, he would ask me, "What do you love, Maile? What is it that you want to accomplish in life?"

Bob's condition would deteriorate quickly, the doctors said, and he and Marian had no children or close family to help him. My father, grandmother and I made a family decision that we would do everything we could to help the couple. The house Bob and Marian lived in was unsuitable for their healthcare needs, so we moved them into an assisted living facility. They needed groceries, so I would stop at Foodland on my way home from work. Their dog was antsy, so my dad would take him for a walk.

Things settled into a manageable routine and my father left for a long-planned, extended hiking trip on the mainland. I became the sole care provider for my then-97-year-old grandmother, as well as a helper to Bob and Marian, in addition to my full-time job. It must be noted that my Tāta, as I call her, has all of her marbles, and some of mine too. Even so, I became a live-in housekeeper and chauffeur. It was at this point, of course, that everything went ass-over-teakettle.

Events unfolded quickly and, by the end of a single day, Marian was in the hospital for an extended stay and Bob, worried that the care facility staff wouldn't be enough with Marian gone, began living in my spare bedroom with his dog. Over the next week or so, Bob's condition declined steadily and he started showing signs of dementia. It soon became evident that we needed more help around the house.

I discovered that a social worker named Rachel had been assigned to Bob's case and contacted her. A few hours later she was sitting on my IÄ• nai, holding my hand and telling me what I could do and what resources were available to us. She introduced me to a nurse named Asia that had come with her from Islands Hospice and connected me with a service that would come to my house three times a week to give Bob a bath and do the household chores that, suddenly, nobody had time to tackle. Rachel answered her phone every time I called—every single time—even if it was just to say, "It's okay," and, "You're doing the best you can. It's going to be alright."

Eventually, Asia gave me a prescription for liquid morphine and told me to keep it in my refrigerator until the time came that she would administer it to make Bob's passing less painful. And there it sat in the refrigerator door: soymilk, ketchup, pickles and a bottle of liquid that would signal the end of Bob's life. "What an absurd thing," I thought to myself. It felt like I had entered the *Twilight Zone*.

Islands Hospice sent a nurse out every day to check in and help administer medication. They were there within an hour every time I called, even at 2 or 3 in the morning. The relief that constant support provided for me was immense. At this point, I was a shadow: I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep and I was suffering from panic attacks almost daily. I vividly remember spilling something at work and just standing there, staring at it, crying. Everything had become so hard.

During the day, I would spend hours sitting in the living room with Bob, trying to comfort him in his confusion and allay his fear. At night, he wandered the halls looking for Marian.

Eventually, he didn't even recognize me.

I knew the end was near, so I promised myself: "I will give Bob the best death that I can." I tracked down an estranged brother to come visit him in his last days and, as soon as Marian was released from the hospital, I moved Bob back into his apartment with her so that they could be together. Rachel kept checking in, the hospice nurses kept visiting, the in-home care facility kept doing chores. I spent more time on the couch at Bob and Marian's apartment than I did at home.

The next week, sitting in his favorite armchair with his dog in his lap, Bob passed away with a smile on his face. I had been at work, but a nurse had been there with Marian.

I was devastated. I am still devastated. But I kept my promise. I was able to give Bob the best death that I could and I was able to do it because I was not alone. In just one month, I lost 15 pounds, became incredibly sleep deprived, lost clumps of hair from stress and only remained employed because I was lucky enough to have a very understanding boss. Just a month. That's all.

I'm not sharing this story because I want you to think that I'm great or brave or heroic. I'm sharing this story because I was lucky. There are people who do this for years

without any help at all. We cannot abandon them. I can't imagine how much harder it would have been without the army of nurses and caregivers that came when I called or a job that allowed me the time I needed. I certainly would not have been able to provide the quality end of life for Bob alone. Easy and affordable access to end-of-life care is one of the single most important social services that we can provide. Every human being deserves the best death that can be given to them, and it is within our means to provide it. Please pass SB2988.

Sylvia Ching
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Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senate Committee on Human Services

Monday, February 5, 2018

3:10 P.M.

Conference Room 316

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Chair

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

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

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

The initial funding of \$600,000 will run out by June 30, 2018. It is essential that this program continues with adequate additional funding. The need is great to help caregivers pay for services for those they care for.

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

SB-2988

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 10:59:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments: