

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB534 on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:36:57 AM

SB534

Submitted on: 2/21/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 23, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support restoring a culture that cares for our kupuna. Let's not pretend this community value has not diminished over time and through the choices we have made as community. Let's start taking a stand.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: [Paola Rodelas](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB 534
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:20:42 AM

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

I strongly support SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. My husband and I are young professionals who moved to Hawai'i to care for my husband's grandma after his grandpa passed away. We are the only family she has left in Hawai'i. By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this would greatly help families who provide care for our kupuna at home.

Please stand with our kupuna and the loved ones who care them by supporting SB 534. Thank you for your consideration!

Warm regards,
Paola Rodelas
Kapahulu resident

From: [Patricia Blair](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony+for+SB+534+hearing+on+February+23+at+9:35am+in+Room+211
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:24:35 PM

I support SB 534 Patricia Blair, Kailua, 888-6394

Sent from my iPad

From: [Anthony Lenzer](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 SD !
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 1:41:57 PM

To: [Committee on Ways and Means](#)

From: Anthony Lenzer, PhD

Re: [Support for SB 534 SD 1](#)

Hearing: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 9:35 a.m.

Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

My name is Anthony Lenzer, and I am a member of the legislative committee of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). This Board advises the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) on aging issues, and advocates on behalf Hawaii's kupuna and their families. My testimony reflects the views of PABEA and not necessarily those of the Executive Office on Aging.

PABEA strongly supports Senate Bill 534 SD 1 which creates a Kupuna Caregivers Program within the Executive Office on Aging. This program is designed to help employed caregivers of elderly family members obtain necessary services, which will help them remain effective members of Hawaii's workforce. These services include transportation, personal care, respite care, adult day care, and chore/homemaking services. Qualified caregivers will receive vouchers for up to \$70 per day for agencies to provide such services. The program will be administered by the Area Agencies on Aging, through their Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

This program is vitally important for three reasons:

(1) over one-fifth of Hawaii's population is now aged 60+, including over 34,000 persons age 85+. The percent of residents aged 85+ is expected to double in the next 30 years. (a) These "oldest old" are most likely to have multiple chronic illnesses and/or disability, and be most in need of help in order to remain at home;

(2) family members, friends, and other unpaid caregivers provide most of the assistance to frail elders. An AARP study found 154,000 unpaid elder caregivers in Hawaii, and AARP's 2014 study of 1,000 registered voters aged 45+ found that 53% were providing or had provided care for an elderly loved one (b). National data indicates that the typical long-term family caregiver is a 49 year old woman who is caring for her mother, for twenty hours/week, while trying to keep up with work and other household responsibilities (c). Many studies have documented the physical, emotional, and financial stresses associated with caregiving, especially when few workers (nationally, only 13%) have paid family leave (d);

- and (3) while some state, federal, and county funds are available to assist frail elders, there is little money for the caregivers themselves. The situation has been described by one County Executive on Aging as follows: "Unless a County receives funding from their County Council, our options to provide caregiver-specific services are limited. For Maui County, we can use approximately 10% of our overall Federal funding (Title III E) for services such as Family Caregiver Support, Training, and Counseling, Adult Day Care Respite, In-Home Respite, and support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (not to exceed 10% of Title III E). Without additional County funding, our ability to actively serve family caregivers would be, therefore, quite limited."(e)

In summary, the Kupuna Caregivers bill is needed because: Hawaii's growing older population, and the

increasing number of oldest old persons require a variety of services to remain at home, and these are primarily provided by unpaid family caregivers; family caregivers are typically employed and have other responsibilities in addition to elder care; and there are few sources of financial support for the services which will help caregivers continue to assist their loved ones, while meeting other responsibilities.

Please support Senate Bill 534 SD 1 Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Notes:

(a) Yahirun, J. & Zan, H. (2016). Hawaii's Older Adults: A Demographic Profile. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i, Center on the Family

(b) Binette, Joanne. (September 2014, updated October 28, 2014). 2014 Hawaii Caregiving Survey: Opinions and Experiences of Hawaii Registered Voters Age 45 and Older. Washington, DC: AARP Research

(c) PBS Newshour. (January 6, 2014). One of the hardest part-time jobs you will ever have—and the pay? Nada.

(d) US Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2014). Employee benefits survey. Table 32, Leave benefits, Access, Civilian Workers, National compensation survey, March, 2014. Washington, DC: US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(e) 1/19/17 email from Deborah Stone-Walls, Maui County Executive on Aging. Subject: Update on 1/17/17 Mtg. with Sen. Baker regarding the Kupuna Caregivers Program

From: [balihai7](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony+for+SB+534+hearing+on+February+23+at+9:35am+in+Room+211
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:41:55 PM

Aloha,
Kupunas cared for us; now, it's our turn to care for them. Please
support SB 534!
Mahalo,
Lilinoe Smith
Kalaheo, Kauai

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

From: [Riley Johnson](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Commenting on SB 534
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:48:22 PM

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee, My name is Riley Johnson, and I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families. By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers! I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need. Thank you for considering my testimony.

From: myra.myatt
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 534
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 4:02:13 PM

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice - Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
TIME: 9:35 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF Senate Bill 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice - Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,
My name is Myra Myatt and I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program . This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

I believe that I planned well for my retirement --- with modest savings and a Long-Term Care policy – what I didn't count on was being a full-time caregiver for my aging mother-in-law, Rica.

Rica will turn 100 this June and shows no signs of declining. She does have medical needs, and my husband and I must dip into our own retirement funds to cover some of the costs. If I were to put her in a care facility, the funds would be gone in no time. Hence, I take care of her at home and I have been doing so for the past five years.

Because Rica needs someone all the time, I am not afforded the opportunity to see my own 95-year-old mother on the mainland. (Respite care for Rica would run about \$300 a day.) Additionally, my sister has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. We are only two in the family and she will not be able to care for our mother. Soon, I will need to figure out how to care for both my mother on the mainland, and my mother-in-law in Hawaii – and somehow take care of myself.

Taking care of our elders at home truly enhances their lives, but it has the potential to be devastating financially, draining emotionally and can pose a real threat to the caregiver's health. It is not a situation that anyone would wish for, but it is a reality for many people in their 50s, 60s and 70s. Our parents are living a long time; they need care, yet many caregivers also need to remain in the workforce to help cover living costs.

The proposed Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill would provide a much-needed opportunity for stay-at-home caregivers to literally "take a break" or help defray the cost of putting a loved one in day care so that a younger caregiver can continue to work.

As our duly elected legislators, we look to you to pass new legislation that meets our --- your constituents -- needs. Bill SB 534 more than qualifies for that consideration.

Sincerely,
Myra Myatt
361 Kikoo Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Dawn Webster](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 534 for the hearing on February 23, 2017 at 9:35 AM, Room 211
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 4:02:50 PM

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee:

We are grateful that the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill , SB534, has reached this point in its passage through the legislature.

Our response as a state has lagged the growth in the need among seniors and their families for some relief from the crushing weight of reduced income and the escalating cost of care. The demographics tell us that the need for a solution to the growing numbers of elderly people needing help at home with some of the activities of daily living is only growing.

This bill does not attempt to address the entire challenge of taking care of our kupuna in a manner consistent with our values. But it is a good faith step towards acknowledging the enormous contribution of unpaid family caregivers and gives them some relief.

Please make kupuna care a priority in your appropriation of funds. Doing so will demonstrate that we mean what we say when we profess care and concern for the most vulnerable, including our kupuna. We respectfully ask that your actions as our Senators speak clearly for the values we share as a community.

Gratefully,

DAWN MORAIS WEBSTER Ph.D.
1, Keahole Place, #3501, Honolulu, HI 96825
www.dawnmorais.com

808-383-7581

From: [Ronni](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony+for+SB+534+hearing+on+February+23+at+9:35am+in+Room+211
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:23:48 PM

My name is Darryl Taylor, a resident of the Big Island and I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

I am 68 years old and not long ago nearly dead from medical mistakes made at Hilo Medical Center. It is certain that someday I will need the kind of help that the Kapuna Caregivers program provides, if I live long enough.

Please support and pass this bill.

signed,

Darryl Taylor
po box 6162
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Clementina Ceria-Ulep and I am the Co-Chair of the FACE Long-Term Care Taskforce and also the Interim Associate for Academic Affairs at the UH School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. I want to express my **support for SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create the long-term Kupuna Caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who are also taking care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. This is important as many caregivers are in the sandwich generation, caring for our aging parents and grandparents while also struggle to continue to work to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I know relatives and friends who have struggled caring for their parents, their own family while at the same time working. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need. FACE has been working on this issue for 21 years! Let’s make it happen this year!

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep

211 Hoomalu Street; Pearl City, HI 96782

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Meizhu Lui, and I am writing to support **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families need.

For the last two years, I served as the Chair of the Mayor's Advisory Committee to the Hawaii County Office of Aging, which is a volunteer committee of Hawaii residents from the different Districts; over half are themselves kupuna. We have heard countless stories from family caregivers who have sacrificed their careers and their free time to care for aging relatives. Not only is it a financial sacrifice, but many caregivers are in that "sandwich" generation, caught between caring for their elders and caring for their children. This legislation would finally provide support for these devoted individuals who typically have no other financial or emotional support.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families have access to resources to provide care at home. It can eliminate the need to make the anguishing decision to place a parent in a care home (which is another important issue!) due to the financial and emotional burden of keeping the elder at home. Family caregivers could use the funds to hire home care aides for a few hours or to provide transportation services.

As we are just experiencing the tip of the wave of the aging tsunami that is coming, we must prepare in advance to ensure the best quality of life for Hawaii kupuna and their families. Please help achieve that by supporting this bill, and thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Meizhu Lui
P.O. Box 175
Papaaloa HI 96780

From: [Lori Yancura](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 7:43:30 PM

Chair Jill Tokuda

Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Lori Yancura and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing

transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lori Yancura

1714A Maui Place, Honolulu, HI 96816

**Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee On Ways & Means**

*DATE & TIME: Thursday, February 23rd, 2017 @ 9:35 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street*

****TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE****

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz & Members Of The Committee,

*My name is Michael Stephen Douglas, and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This Bill will provide the needed Respite care that our Kupuna Caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.*

This legislation would create a long-term Kupuna Caregivers program, which would provide support for working Caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this Bill focuses on providing respite care for working Caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging Parents and Grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our Families.

By providing a Care Benefit of \$70 per day, this Bill establishes a much needed "Care Floor," ensuring that working Families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This Fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring Home Care Aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of Respite Care is a lifeline for Family Caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As Legislators, we have elected you to be Leaders to the People of Hawaii, and we are asking you now, to lead on helping us provide the Care our Families need.

Thank you very much for considering my Testimony.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Douglas
Mr. Michael Stephen Douglas
~United States Naval Veteran~
<>
michaelst.douglas@yahoo.com
86-084 Farrington Hwy. Apt. 408
Waianae, HI. 96792
Cell: 808.276.5536

**Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Date: February 23, 2017

Time: 9:35 am

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Roseanne Sakamoto. I strongly support **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care for our kupuna caregivers and provide help to our kupuna.

I strongly support this because the \$70 voucher means the difference between elders being able to attend day care or being at home alone and isolated. Day care and other care services this bill would provide for are not always affordable, despite the caregiver working, and places our elders in risky situations. If the \$70 voucher is used for day care, it will assure our elders health and safety for an entire day of care, and improve their quality of life through the social interaction afforded there.

As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and I am appreciative to those that drafted this Ohana bill. I ask that you pass SB534 to provide the care families in Hawaii need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Roseanne Sakamoto
P.O. Box 142
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

From: [Roberta Lonoaea](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB 534 hearing on February 23 at 9:35am in Room 211
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 8:43:28 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I support this bill because there are many families including mine who are struggling to care for an elderly family member with little to no support.

My aunty currently cares for my grand-uncle who is in his 80's and suffers from dementia. She receives no assistance from his immediate family who have abandoned him, taking his belongings, selling his souvenirs and family heirlooms and leaving his retirement fund and savings dry.

She is contemplating putting him in a care-home because of the never-ending costs to care for him as well as the overall long term care he needs. She pays for all of his expenses out of her pocket and doesn't complain but it is taking its toll.

Having affordable care AND compassionate, licensed respite care would ease some of her worries.

I support this bill in hopes of helping many local families dealing with the responsibilities of caring for their Kupuna. Please help make this possible.

Respectfully,
Roberta Kupo-Lonoae'a

--

[Live, Laugh, Love.](#)

From: [April Ching](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Kupuna Bill
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:13:08 PM

**Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is April Ching, and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Sincerely,

April Ching

2916 Kahawai St., Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Doreen Lum](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony+for+SB+534+hearing+on+February+23+at+9:35am+in+Room+211
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:16:13 PM

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Doreen Hosaka-Lum, and I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This is a challenge that I am personally facing at this very moment. As a full-time social worker for the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, together with my husband who also works full-time for United Airlines, we are struggling to juggle our work schedules and hire caregivers for my 91 year old, blind mother. She is unable to safely care for her own needs and requires 24 hour care. I have had to take a lot of time off from work to help care for my mother's daily needs on top of taking her to medical appointments. At this time I am still waiting on the approval of my application for family leave under the Federal Family & Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) from my employer and have had to take vacation leave to provide her care. This has not only put a strain on my family, marriage and finances, but on our individual physical, social and emotional well-being as well. We truly want to provide the best care for my mother in her own home on her own terms for as long as we possibly can; but if we are unable to do this ourselves, we don't even believe we could afford placing her in a care home setting as an option.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers, like ourselves, who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that we are by far **not** the only family struggling to care for our loved ones in the comfort of their own home environment, but we all know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Doreen K. Hosaka-Lum, MSW

From: [Janet Galdones](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Care for our Kupuna/Senate Bill 534/House Bill 607
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 9:31:26 PM

February 21, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support in passing the Senate Bill 534/ House Bill 607, to create a fund to help caregivers provide care for our kupuna.

I am a full time employee, work 40 hours a day. Back in the late 1990s, my mom and I took turns taking care of my father who had alzheimer then became bedridden. My mom then work three different shifts while I was still attending college. When she works the morning or afternoon shifts, I would always in a hurry to get home from school to feed and care for my father.

Then in 2006, we have to care for my grandfather again. My mom is now retired taking care of him and baby sitting my niece. My mom doesn't drive so it was between my brother and myself bringing him to his doctors' appointments. If my grandfather does not have doctor's appointment, it's my mom's turn which brings me and my brother to take off work. My grandfather died at 99 years of age.

My mother is getting older too and we want to care for her. We love our families and we don't want them to go to a care home facility. Having this Bill to pass will help and eases the burden of the family members. The couple hours helps alleviate the stress.

Hope that our legislators can vote to pass this Bill.

Sincerely,

Janet Galdones
Hilo, Hawaii

From: [John Webster](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB534
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:06:54 PM

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the WAM Committee:

Thank you for bringing Kupuna Caregivers Assistance (SB534), to this point in its passage through the legislature.

Seniors and their families must have some relief from the escalating cost of care. The need for a speedy solution for those needing help with the activities of daily living is essential.

This bill is a good step in acknowledging the plight of unpaid family caregivers.

We respectfully ask you to make this a priority in your allocation of funds.

Sincerely,

John Webster, PhD

*University Professor
Director, Hogan Program
Chaminade University*

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania St.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Troy J. Siruno and I am writing to support SB 534 SD1, creating the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Last year, my mother was diagnosed with lung cancer. I remember the confusion, sadness, and many questions our family felt during those first few moments. Then came the multiple doctor appointments in preparation for a lobe removal surgery, tests, the surgery itself, recovery in and out of the hospital, and multiple follow-up appointments. I live in Honolulu and my sister lives in Kapolei, and for many of these appointments, one of us would take time off from work to pick up my mom, a proud Army veteran, from her home in Waipahu and drive her to Tripler Medical Center. Fortunately, my mom was able to access and receive the treatment needed to save her life. And both my sister and I are lucky that our employers allowed us the time off, which often added up to 4 hours or longer, to be able to provide care for my mom. But I know many others are not so lucky, and I can only imagine how families cope with caregiving that spans years.

I support SB 534 because it would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers, like myself, who take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers.

I urge you to please pass SB 534 SD1 today. Our working caregivers are counting on your leadership. Mahalo for your time in considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Troy J. Siruno
1634 Nuuanu Ave. Apt. 112
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: mee.waah@gmail.com on behalf of [Miwa Tamanaha](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#); [FINTestimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT for SB 534
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:19:58 PM

Aloha,

I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Creating a long-term kupuna caregivers program is so important to working families and to the care our Hawai'i kupuna need and deserve to age with dignity and love.

Mahalo nunui for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,
Miwa Tamanaha-Enos
94-1144 Moololo St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Laura Boehm and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers like me who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families. I need to work to care for them all financially and maybe retire myself one day,

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Laura Boehm
1801 Keeaumoku St #403 Honolulu, HI

From: [Janet Pappas](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB534
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:59:46 PM

Dear Senators,

I am in strong support of SB534, the Kupuna Care bill. As a 5-year caregiver for my now 98-year-old mother-in-law (Florence), I realize how difficult it can be to care for an elderly loved one at home. Although Florence is healthy now, she (and we) have been through three separate injuries (shoulder, back and hip), each requiring a different caregiving protocol. While my husband and I were working, our sons took their turns caregiving with us during the week. We have also used a combination of in-home caregivers, adult day care and, for a time, a nursing home. Home care takes planning and money as well as the right attitude and healthy, competent, caring caregivers.

Most elderly people would choose to live at home if possible. And many would-be caregivers would like to oblige their relatives; yet the many barriers (financial, logistical, medical, etc.-- every situation is unique) prevent them from even trying.

The kupuna care bill could be just what the doctor ordered: cash to spend on respite care, adult day care, transportation or other services that would otherwise make home care out of reach for many of Hawaii's working families. With a daily stipend, caregivers can consider home care rather than quitting their job or stressing over daily finances. [I would also like to put in a plug for state-supported education and training programs that focus on keeping caregivers healthy and able to manage stress.]

With our aging population growing rapidly over the next few decades, we cannot afford to wait any longer to address this critical issue.

Please support SB534 and show some love to Hawaii's kupuna and those who care for them.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

98-1287 Akaaka St.

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

From: [Robert H Stiver](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 534 (Hearing Thursday, February 23)
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:10:20 AM

Dear Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute to what I hope is a huge citizens' movement toward passage into law of the Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers program.

I am passionate about caregiving. I have "been there and done that." My beloved wife Masako was in need of caregiving, of an always increasing and more desperate urgency, for nearly all of the last 35 years of her life that ended on August 19, 2016, in St. Francis Hospice (she was 79; I was 72 at the time of her passing). Through those decades of multiple episodes of clinical depression, asthma/COPD and related allergy problems, pancreatic issues, Alzheimer's Disease diagnosed in 2013, and finally endometrial/uterine cancer in 2015-16, I tried to balance work (until my retirement in 1999), my own need to be fit and attentive to Masako, and the caregiving responsibility for which I was woefully unprepared and probably inadequate. I hasten to credit the services of our Kaiser Permanente membership and the final-days compassionate caring of the St Francis Hospice institutional team, but at the end of the day -- and eventually the beginning, middle and end of every day -- I was Masako's sole support. I gave it my all in accordance with our marriage vows: a labor of love that was terrifying, all-consuming, and exhausting. The labor took a toll on my own spirit and body, mostly in the form of a severely crippled spine [I admit to an heredity disposition] that was ill equipped for the deadweight -- and amateurish/untrained -- maneuvering of my Masako in her final months from bed to bathroom to living room and then the reverse.

It is important to consider financial impacts that pertain to caregiving. In my case, I retired from my federal civil-service position as soon as I was eligible at age 55, with the concomitant income loss of about 50 percent. I almost surely would have persevered to age 65 or 70 but for my wife's condition and need for care. The simple arithmetic I can arrive at is that, say, 10 additional years of employment would have meant some \$35,000 extra per annum as an income stream = \$350,000; plus the federal and state taxes that would have bolstered government tax revenues (I of course have paid no state taxes since 1999); plus additional buying power to increase local businesses' retail sales; plus the considerable uptick in my monthly retirement income for the remainder of my life. It is an absolute fact that my caregiving for Masako hurt our "bottom line" severely and irrevocably. (Also, Masako was a full-time homemaker who never became eligible for a Social Security pension; I have only my civil-service-retirement-system annuity, so mine is a "one check" retirement household.)

I can only imagine the relief, and gratitude, I would have felt had a resource like the Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers program been available back in my caregiving days. You, legislators, now have the chance to make the resource a reality to those who have succeeded me...and who knows when I will assume the role of caregivee instead of caregiver? The respite-relief aspects of the program, within the parameters to be applied to it, are growing in tandem with our aging population and constitute, I am convinced, a proper allocation of public funds to assist such a wide spectrum of our community. And so I ask, I plead: Please give SB 534 a resounding "Yes" vote!

With sincere thanks and hope, Robert H. Stiver, 98-434 Hoomailani Street, Pearl City 96782

(tel. 455-9823)

From: [Betty White](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 534
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:52:52 AM

Testimony in support of SB 534, for the hearing on February 23, 2017, 9:35 a.m., Room 211:

I hope each legislator will see it beneficial to act with courage and put or empathy toward a positive outcome for our Kupuna. It is time to make this a priority item and show our Kupuna and their families that we care about our elders. Each of the families of a dependent Kupuna can use the voucher of 70 dollars to get some needed respite.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my appeal.

Betty White
Head of School
Sacred Hearts Academy

From: [Amelia Jodar](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Amelia Jodar](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB 534 hearing on February 23 at 9:35am in Room 211
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 6:36:27 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Aloha Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amelia G. Jodar, and I am writing to express my support for SB 534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. I am also sending this letter in behalf of the members of the Sacred Heart Church-Waianae Fiipino Catholic Club that has many elderly members.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I take this issue personally because my brother used to take care of our aging parents. He had to take care of them 24/7. I also know of many cases where the caregivers gave up their full-time jobs to be able to take care of their elderly parents and grandparents. I believe you also know of people who need long-term care and know of people who provide long-term care. Some of the latter may have given up their profitable income.

Please help our kupuna and their caregivers by approving SB 534 and allowing the bill to become a law.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Amelia G. Jodar
87-238 Hakimo Road
Waianae, HI 96792

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Kristine Osada, and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program.

I have a grandparent who is 96 years old and physically incapable of moving about on her own but she is still mentally strong. My sister has been taking care of her for the most part but has to take off from work to take her to her doctor's appointments. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and to support our working families and businesses need.

The \$70 per day care benefit would help to support an at home caregiver and give the families another means to provide the same care as if they were in a facility.

As a caregiver, we are asking for your support to approve SB 534.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kristine Osada
7190 Hawaii Kai Drive #268
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Priscila Rayray](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony+for+SB+534+hearing+on+February+23+at+9:35am+in+Room+211
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 7:15:31 AM

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

My name is Priscila Rayray and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families extremely need.

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Priscila Rayray
808 295-4219
pdrayray@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sheela Jane Menon](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Supporting SB 534: Hearing - 2/23, 9:35am, Room 211
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:23:25 AM

Dear Members of the WAM Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance Bill, SB 534.

As a young adult watching members of my family care for my grandmother in the final years of her life, I understand the challenges - emotional, financial, and logistical - that come with caring for our kupuna. These challenges are exponentially greater for families who are struggling to make ends meet, while also providing the necessary care for their seniors.

If we truly value our kupuna - and if we believe that they should be cared for with dignity and compassion - then SB 534 is a small but important step towards supporting both our family caregivers and our elders. It is also a visible sign that we, as a state, recognize that this kind of labor falls primarily on women and that they, too, deserve our support in this important work.

Please make SB 534 a priority, and send a clear message that we value our kupuna and the families caring for them.

Sincerely,

Sheela Jane Menon, Ph.D.
1 Keahole Place #3501
Honolulu, HI 96825

Chair Jill Tokuda

Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

Senate Committee on Ways and Means SB534

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017. TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conf. Room 211, State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania

Aloha. My name is Steven Mitchell.

During my lifetime in Hawaii, I have been an employee, a business manager, and a business owner. I am here today to ask legislators to please support the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance bill SB534. I know first hand, how much it would mean, to businesspeople, their employees, and to the State of Hawaii.

I address you as one who has gone through this.

Most people who have gone through this, are so damaged, depleted, and unhealthy, that they can no longer advocate for themselves, much less for others.

As a caregiver, under duress, without respite, I made poor decisions that cost me and the state of Hawaii hundreds of thousands of dollars.

I closed a business, shut down 3 stores, laid off 15 people, and stopped a cash flow that paid the State excise taxes, employment taxes, and income taxes.

I was a business owner under duress, with no respite.

I failed to take care of myself, ballooning to almost 300 pounds, endangering my health and my very life.

Then who would take care of my sick wife, or me?

The expense to the State would definitely be high, and unnecessarily premature.

As little as \$70 a day for family caregivers to hire trained home aides for respite, will pay for itself.

As responsible family caregivers, our desire to care for our loved ones causes us to make irresponsible decisions, and do irreparable harm to our selves, our families, and the state revenue stream.

As Caregivers, we push ourselves through love, and devotion. We neglect our own needs as we sell our assets and our parents assets, we put our health on the back burner, and we sometimes take on irresponsible levels of debt.

We need to tell ourselves that we have done our best.

The state needs to adopt the bill that is before them right now, even if it isn't the perfect solution. We need to be able to tell ourselves that we have done our best. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Steven Mitchell

Individual-Retired (808) 352-0306.

Mauinetsteve@gmail.com

**Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Lynn Iwamoto, and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families for ourselves! **It is a scary and frightening place to be! What would you do in that predicament? How do you make that choice?**

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.
Sincerely,

**Lynn Iwamoto
493-W Mananai Place**

From: [Mary Weir](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony for SB 534 hearing on February 23 at 9:35am in Room 211
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 8:57:05 AM

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair DelaCruz, and Members of the Committee:

Testimony in Support of SB534 Relating to Kupuna Care.

My name is Mary Weir, and I am writing to express my strong support of SB534 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

As Hawaii's aging population grows the need for long term services and supports continues to increase. I know of families struggling to balance work and caring for their aging parents. They are in a very difficult situation and they need the support that this Kupuna Caregivers program would provide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mary Weir
103 Hauoli St
Kailua, HI 96734

Chair Jill N. Tokuda
Senate Ways and Means Committee

February 21, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Colette Browne, and I have the privilege of serving as the Rose and Richard Takasaki Professor in Social Policy at the University of Hawai`i in Manoa. I write to you today as a private citizen who has some knowledge about age, aging, and caregiving issues. I am an older adult myself providing long distance caring for a 92-year-old mother. I express my strong support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. I understand that this this bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. Although this bill will not provide me with assistance, it will serve many others with this great need.

This legislation will create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, and will provide support for working family caregivers who take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is difficult and sometimes not possible due to workforce demands.

This bill will provide a care benefit of \$70 per day, and will establish a much needed "care floor," ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund will not fund institutional long term care; instead, it will allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. How can we not provide this support when families are doing so much with so little?

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawai`i, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Colette Browne
7805 Makaaoa Place Honolulu HI 96825

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017, State Capitol Conference Room 211, 9:35 a.m.
RE: SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA

To Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support SB 534, Relating to Kupuna Care because Hawaii's caregivers need our assistance in order to care for their loved ones at home while being able to keep a job to support themselves. My name is Paul Nishimura and I am a 59 year old resident of Waipahu. This program allows caregivers to hire a trained health professional to assist with day to day care while they are working.

Often times, people who are stretched both physically and financially end up needing care. We need to make sure that caregivers have the resources, if they need them, to make choices that will improve the quality of life for everyone involved. I urge you to appropriate funds to establish this program.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Paul Nishimura
Waipahu

From: [David Gierlach](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony+for+SB+534+hearing+on+February+23+at+9:35am+in+Room+211
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 6:26:51 PM

I enthusiastically support SB 534. It's way past time to assist our working citizens who also provide grueling care for our elders. Please pass this long needed legislation.

david+

The Rev David J Gierlach, SCP
Rector
St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
720 North King Street
Honolulu Hi 96817
808-845-2112

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017

TIME: 9:35 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 534 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

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

My name is Brian Mark, and I am writing to express my support for **SB 534** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Brian Mark

[Insert Name]

[Insert Address] Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

**Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance**

Thursday, February 23, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is _____, and I am writing to express my support for **HB 607** and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill will provide the needed respite care that our kupuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need.

This legislation would create a long-term kupuna caregivers program, which would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of their aging loved ones. Unlike other programs, this bill focuses on providing respite care for working caregivers who typically have no other financial or emotional support. As so many of us know, the desire to spend time caring for our aging parents and grandparents is often in competition with our need to continue participating in the workforce to be able to provide for our families.

By providing a care benefit of \$70 per day, this bill establishes a much needed “care floor,” ensuring that working families would have access to resources to provide care at home. This fund is not meant to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home, which we know is often much more expensive than home care. Instead, it would allow for support at home with activities of daily living, like hiring home care aides for a few hours or providing transportation services. It may not sound like much to some people, but this sort of respite care is a lifeline for family caregivers!

I believe that all of us know at least one person who has needed long-term care. As legislators, we have elected you to be leaders to the people of Hawaii, and we are asking you, now, to lead on helping us provide the care our families need.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**[Insert Name]
[Insert Address]**

From: [Ken Takeya](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ["Pedro Haro"](#)
Subject: Revisions to S.B. No. 534
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:18:13 AM

Aloha,

As a 24/7 caregiver for my wife for the last 13 years I have experienced all the frustrations caregivers go through on a daily basis. I retired from my job to take care of her because it became too expensive hiring a service to watch her for 8 hours a day at \$25 per hour. I started by using the service for 2 hours per day but as her dementia progressed I increased the hours to four hours then to six hours. Finally I had to retire. 5 years ago I found she could attend adult day care for \$65 per day. She still attends which gives me the respite care I truly needed but would not admit it at first until I started having physical problems like high blood pressure, headaches, and the list goes on. While my wife is at adult day care I now find time to advocate for caregivers by providing them with resource material and free counseling to help them survive and thrive. I facilitate a caregivers support group in Kailua at the adult day care where my wife attends. S.B. 534 would be a godsend to so many caregivers. I realize the bill is meant to help families that are working but I feel it leaves out a very important segment of the population. There are many seniors that are retired and on a fixed income like myself that are taking care of a loved one at home.

I totally support S.B. 534 but would like to have two items added:

1. To qualify a person has to work 30 hours per week. I feel there should be an income cap both up and down. Some people could be working 30 hours per week and making \$10,000 per month and qualify. Then you have senior caregivers living on a fixed income taking care of a loved one that is retired yet needs some respite care and they would not qualify. Thus, I believe income should be a considering factor in the qualification process.
2. Having all service providers on contract will just slow down the process. For example, an adult day care center would have all the necessary qualifications to operate yet they still have to be under contract. I realize the necessity of accountability being built into the system, but it will hurt the very segment of the population S.B. bill 534 is supposed to help by delaying the process. EOA and EAD are having a difficult time managing what they currently have now. How are they going to manage a large influx of additional request for service unless the system is properly modified. My understanding for a simple service the wait time is about one month. How long will the wait time be once S.B. Bill 534 is passed without any modification? You will end up with a bureaucratic nightmare and much of the money will be wasted in trying to sort everything out unless the government partners with the service providers to come up with a better working system at the very beginning. Thus, a committee of

government and service providers should be brought together to decide how the service is provided.

One last comment would be the health care industry, especially in the caregiving segment, is a very short field of employment because of the wages. Maybe it is time to look at some type of wage relief for qualified caregivers. The entry level positions are just too low for anyone to survive working full time. There are immigrants from certain countries where caregiving is a way of life for their families which could be brought into the work force and trained to be certified caregivers to augment the shortage of caregivers as well as providing caregiver training our youth population at the high school level as a career option. Higher wages might attract more younger people into the caregiving workforce as well as a first step to higher positions in the medical field.

I really appreciate all of you for taking the time to consider my comments.

Mahalo,

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From: [Karen Muronaka](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony SB 534
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 11:49:03 AM
Attachments: [TestimonySenWaysMeans21Feb2017.wpd](#)

Please open the attachment to read my testimony re. SB 534. Thank you for considering my testimony. Cordially, Karen Muronaka