
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2017, 17.8 per
2 cent of Hawaii's population was sixty-five years or older, and
3 with projections of an increase to 19.4 per cent by 2020 and 23
4 per cent by 2030, caring for Hawaii's kupuna is a high priority
5 of the legislature.

6 The legislature finds that currently there are 154,000
7 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their
8 parents, spouse, or other relatives who need extra care. Family
9 caregivers play a crucial role in the State's health care system
10 by providing long-term care to the elderly, all unpaid.
11 However, it is imperative to ensure that the caregivers take
12 care of themselves and have the necessary support and services
13 to sustain their own health as well as the health of the family
14 member for whom they are caring.

15 To address this issue, the kupuna caregivers program was
16 established on July 6, 2017, and aims to provide working
17 caregivers with additional resources to cover a variety of



1 support services such as: adult day care, assisted
2 transportation, homemaker services, and many more important
3 services to qualified kupuna. The program ensures that
4 caregivers continue earning their own retirement benefits, which
5 helps businesses retain experienced workers and provides peace
6 of mind that loved kupuna are well cared for while caregivers
7 remain in the workforce. This program allows caregivers who are
8 juggling their own employment with their caregiving
9 responsibilities to simultaneously take care of their kupuna and
10 themselves.

11 Since the establishment of the kupuna caregivers program,
12 the executive office on aging has reportedly received hundreds
13 of calls from Hawaii residents wishing to receive the benefits
14 of the program. While the creation of the program was an
15 important first step, the legislature believes that the program
16 requires additional third and fourth year funding to have the
17 impact it needs. With the high volume of residents showing
18 interest in the program, the current funding needs to be
19 increased in order to better serve the people of Hawaii.

20 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
21 implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.



1 SECTION 2. Section 349-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

3 "(c) The kupuna caregivers program shall award an
4 allocation of funds, subject to the availability of funding and
5 up to a maximum of [~~\$70 per day,~~] \$350 per week, to cover costs
6 for the following services that would otherwise be performed by
7 the qualified caregiver for the care recipient:

- 8 (1) Adult day care;
- 9 (2) Assisted transportation;
- 10 (3) Chores;
- 11 (4) Home-delivered meals;
- 12 (5) Homemaker services;
- 13 (6) Personal care;
- 14 (7) Respite care; or
- 15 (8) Transportation;

16 provided that the allocated funds shall be issued directly to
17 the service provider upon request and receipt of an invoice for
18 services rendered."

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the



1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2 2020-2021 for proper implementation of the kupuna caregivers
3 program.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the executive
5 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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H.B. NO. 467

Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Kupuna Caregivers Program; Appropriation

Description:

Changes the kupuna caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week. Appropriates funds for implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

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