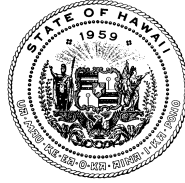


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CAROLINE CADIRAO
PSM MANAGER

BRUCE ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831
eoa@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1025 SD1, HD1
Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TY J.K. CULLEN, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
PSM Manager, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 Room Number: 308
2:00 pm

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health, supports this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities
3 within the Administration's base budget.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates an unspecified amount in SFY2020 and in
5 SFY2021 for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Governor Ige's budget request maintains a total
6 base budget of \$1.2 million from SFY2019 through SFY2021.
- 7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to change the program allocation ceiling
8 to allow for more flexibility and appropriates funds for implementation of the program. The
9 intent is to provide assistance to caregivers to allow them to remain in the workforce while their
10 loved ones are provided with necessary support services. Hawaii's aging population continues to
11 grow, and caregiver assistance is critical to supporting caregivers' own health as well as the
12 health of Hawaii's kupuna. Act 102, HSL2017 appropriated \$600,000 for kupuna caregiver

1 support services in SFY2018. In SFY2019, the Legislature appropriated \$1.2 million which will
2 only maintain funding for those being served. The Kupuna Caregiver Program is in its infancy
3 as this past February marked the one-year anniversary of the program serving caregivers. The
4 program served 110 caregivers statewide as of the end of December 2018.

5 EOA notes that this bill amends the allocation of funds to a weekly amount of \$350 per week,
6 thus supporting the need for flexibility on how the funds are used.

7 Additionally, EOA feels the need to strengthen the program. EOA would support a
8 recommendation to develop a plan to maximize the number of participants served by the
9 program. We suggest adding to Section 2 after line 21, the following: (d) Require the executive
10 office on aging to offer a plan to maximize the number of recipients served by the program and
11 offer certain core services;

12 The plan would include developing procedures to target those with greatest economic needs.

13 **Recommendations:** The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a part of the Administration's base
14 budget request. 1) We support advancing this measure provided that its enactment does not
15 reduce or replace priorities in the Administration's base budget. 2) We support the \$350 a week
16 allotment. 3) We support the idea of a plan to work on assisting more working caregivers. 4) An
17 allotment of \$1.2 million will support the current caregivers. An allocation of \$2 million dollars
18 would expand the number of caregivers served.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

20

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:48:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GARY SIMON	Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Gary Simon, Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA.

My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA.

PABEA strongly supports the KÅ«puna Caregivers Program.

The intent of the Program is to provide enough labor assistance to allow full-time working caregivers to remain in the labor force by subsidizing services, such as, but not limited to, adult day care and bathing services.

By subsidizing these services, the working caregiver would minimize absences and time-off from work.

The goal is to prevent caregivers from retiring prematurely or leaving the labor force with impaired retirement benefits.

PABEA opposes limiting benefits to once per week for qualified working caregivers. Limiting benefits to once per week would be ineffective for most qualified full-time working caregivers in assisting them with remaining employed.

PABEA supports changing the KÅ«puna Caregivers Program limitation from \$70 per day to \$350 per week to allow the Area Agencies on Aging greater flexibility in using the funds to meet the needs of the working family caregivers and their care recipients.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Chair, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Monday, April 1, 2019; 2:00 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 1025, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 1025, SD1, HD1, which requires the Executive Office on Aging (EOS) to: (1) establish a plan to maximize the number of program participants and offer the program's core services; (2) submit a program plan to the 2020 Legislature; and (3) establish administrative rules to implement the program. The bill also changes the program funding allocation cap from \$70 a day to an unspecified amount per week.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program was established in the 2017 session as the first of its kind in the nation. Starting with an appropriation of \$600,000 and increased to \$1.2 million in 2018, funding is used to assist family caregivers with support services for their loved ones in order to allow caregivers to retain their own employment. While services are provided to the kupuna, **the real "client" is the employed family caregiver, who needs assistance to remain in the workforce.** With assistance to care for a loved one, the caregiver can work to protect his or her own financial security now and into the future. Another beneficiary of this program is the caregiver's employer, who is spared the upheaval of absenteeism and premature retirement or resignation due to an employee's caregiving responsibilities.

Although a range of services are available, adult day care has been determined the most cost-effective. Kupuna can receive services at an **adult day care facility** from professional staff who provide meals and a **safe and healthful environment** but also facilitate **opportunities for socialization** during the day while the caregiver is at work. This is good for the kupuna but also affords the caregiver peace of mind that the kupuna is well cared for, thus allowing the caregiver to retain his or her own employment. The relatively nominal cost of adult day care allows kupuna to remain in their own homes, as they prefer, and keeps them out of costly institutional care, which can run more than \$11,000 a month and usually requires kupuna to apply for Medicaid, half of which is funded by the State and taxpayers.

Other services can also provide a caregiver with some peace of mind while they are working. For example, **home-delivered meals** not only mean delivery of meals five days a week but daily contact with the meal delivery person, usually a volunteer, who can spend some time with the kupuna and ensure that the kupuna is safe and well.

We support the provisions under S.B. 1025, SD1, HD1 to require the EOA to have a plan to maximize services to as many clients as possible and establish administrative rules for implementation of the program. When the program was first started, there were no rules, only "guidelines" for delivery of services. With the requirement for administrative rules, the public will

have the opportunity to comment on how the program is working and make suggestions for how the program is publicized and funding is expended.

Our biggest concern, however, is related to the amount of funding available to assist family caregivers who are working outside of the home. HD1 calls for a funding cap of an unspecified amount per week. We hope the committee will **consider a multiple of the current cap of \$70 a day to offer a benefit that will give the family caregiver peace of mind about the kupuna at home alone.**

More, not less, must be provided for programs such as Kupuna Caregivers. The problems of an aging population will continue to grow and efforts must be made to address them now. The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 1025, SD1, HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



State of Hawaii House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Legislature
Monday, April 1, 2019, 2:00 pm
Room 308

SB 1025, SD1, HD1 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Good morning Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Finance Committee:

Lanakila Meals on Wheels is in support of SB 1025, SD1, HD1 which funds and also establishes greater oversight for the Kupuna Caregivers program. As Hawaii's largest and only island-wide home delivered meal provider to kupuna, we see the great need in the kupuna community and the increased demand on working caregivers. The Kupuna Caregivers program provides essential services to relieve working caregivers to allow them to remain in the workforce. We are pleased SB 1025, SD1, HD1 seeks to ensure all core services, including Home Delivered Meals, are utilized under Kupuna Caregivers so caregivers and kupuna have all available options to meet their family's needs.

As the committee considers limiting the daily benefit for each qualified recipient to once per week, please consider how core services such as Home Delivered Meals, Transportation, or Personal Assistance are delivered, so they can make a significant enough impact to allow a caregiver to remain in the workforce. Perhaps capping the dollar amount available to each household on a needs-based sliding scale or implementing different caps for each core service, would allow the program administrators the flexibility to tailor the program to the household.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, seeking to provide relief to working caregivers who are supporting their kupuna in aging in-place. Working caregivers will continue to earn their own retirement benefits and support the businesses they work for, while keeping their kupuna at home, potentially reducing costs to the State by delaying the time when the kupuna would draw on Medicaid.

Please support Hawaii's working caregivers and kupuna by passing SB 1025, SD1, HD1 and ensuring the core services it seeks to provide will serve those most in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Rona Yagi Fukumoto
President & CEO, Lanakila Pacific

Lori Lau
Director, Lanakila Meals on Wheels

Lanakila Pacific Board
Scott Nahme, *Chair*
Carl Hinson, *Vice Chair*
Kristi O'Heron, *Secretary*
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Executive
Director

Ashleigh Loa
Staff Organizer

Soo San Schake
Organizing
Assistant

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1025 SD1, HD1 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA
CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

My name is Evelyn Hao and I am the President of Faith Action for Community Equity. I am writing to express our support for **Senate Bill 1025 SD1 HD1** relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. While we are not opposing SB1025, SD1, HD1 as it continues to fund the program, we ask that you **amend this measure by removing the once per week limit on services**. This is critical if we are to make this an effective program that truly supports caregivers.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year will be no different.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Aczon Hao
President
Faith Action for Community Equity

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 10:15:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katrina Obleada	Hawaii Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports the Kapuna Caregiver Program measure with designated amendments which changes the program funding allocation cap, and includes activities of daily living under the scope of services qualified caregivers can receive program funding for.

Testimony in Support by Zonta Club Of Hilo for Kupuna Care and Caregivers Program Funding

The Zonta Club of Hilo supports the requested appropriation to fund fully Kupuna Caregivers Program without the daily cap, under SB1025, SD 1, HSCR 1646. Although not being heard at the same time, we support funding for Kupuna Care in SB 1023, SD 1, and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers Network bill (SB 1024, SD 1). Additionally, we support the Kupuna Caucus-related bills, including the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Coordinator and Research, and Healthy Aging.

Zonta is an international organization of business and professional women whose mission is to advance the status of women and girls worldwide.

The Zonta Club **voted recently to support Kupuna Caucus bills relating to Aging**, including Kupuna Care, Kupuna Caregivers Support, a "one-stop resource center" for aging and disability services (ADRC), Alzheimer and Dementia Coordinator, and Healthy Aging. As an organization, we realize that aging issues disproportionately impact women for two main reasons; 1) greater social, medical and economic costs associated with longer life-expectancies for women; and 2) women still bear most of the responsibilities of elder caregiving. Many Zontians are "Baby Boomers" who understand the challenges of being an "elder."

To reduce economic and social costs facing the elders, disabled, and their caregivers, we need collaborative, comprehensive implementation of "best practices." The practices must include a government and community "support net" through adequate funding and user-friendly access.

The Kupuna Caucus funding proposals would reduce the overall societal and economic costs by allowing the elders to age-in-place, surrounded by social supports, and avoiding costly institutional care and caregivers' burnout.

The funding will be helpful for Hawaii County, which has the challenge of being the largest county with strained infrastructure. Our super-rurality makes any delivery of services for elders and disabled more challenging. We continue to have the unfortunate status of being the county with the most "challenging" economic and social negative social indicators, including inadequate public transportation and insufficient primary health care services. Hawaii County's growing elder and disabled population is outpacing the current resources. Over 21% of the population is over 60. The Kupuna Caucus funding bills give us hope.

Thank you for your expected support and opportunity to testify. Charlene Iboshi

House
Finance
Monday, April 1, 2019
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

To: Chair Luike, Vice-Chair Cullen
RE: Comments on SB1025, SD1, HD1, Relating to Aging (Kupuna Caregivers Program)

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

My name is Jessica Wooley and I am the Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership-based 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 Hawai'i supports full funding (\$2 million) for the Kupuna Caregiver Program for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same for 2020-2021, to help working caregivers in Hawai'i stay in the workforce. This is a landmark program that is helping caregivers (mainly women) struggling to keep their jobs while caring for loved ones, providing significant benefits to the community.

Language added to this bill to limit the number of days per week for the services should be eliminated, including the language at the top of page 6 (limiting the benefit to once per week). This provision would destroy the purpose of the program for almost all working caregivers. These services keep caregivers in the work force, so they are not dependent on government assistance. In these tough times, the State cannot afford to cripple this recently created program.

Mahalo for your work and the opportunity to testify in support of SB1025, SD1, HD1.

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair, Members, House Committee on Finance

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

Re: TESTIMONY PROVIDING COMMENTS ON SB 1025 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Hearing: April 1, 2019, 2:00 pm, CR 308

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 1025 SD1 HD1**, 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.

While we support the program, we do not support capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, we support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

Mental Health America of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 organization founded in Hawai'i 77 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.

Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.



CGPTA
Chinatown Gateway Plaza
Tenant Association
Since 2006

To: Committee on Finance (FIN)

From: Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)

Date: Monday, April 1, 2019, 2:00 PM

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Re: Comments to Amend SB1025 SD1 HD1, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Aloha e Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on FIN,

My name is Steve Lohse, I'm a resident of Chinatown Gateway Plaza (CGP) and chair of the CGP Tenant Association (CGPTA), organized by CGP residents in 2006 to keep ourselves informed and engaged in matters of concern to our community. On behalf of the CGPTA, thank you for this opportunity to submit written **Comments to Amend SB1025 SD1 HD1**.

The CGPTA shares concerns that help needs to go to more working-family caregivers, but this help needs to be truly helpful and not limited to merely once per week. Please,

- fund the Kupuna Caregivers Program generously,
- **amend SB1025 to remove the controversial once-per-week limit on services**, and
- give the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) a fair chance to establish a plan to maximize Program participation.

If your family is like mine, then you have seen family and community elders grow frail and in need of care, and you know that kupuna caregivers need help to sustain their caregiving roles. How can we possibly deny generous help to our working-family kupuna caregivers? Please, fund the Kupuna Caregivers Program generously, and let's have no regrets when our turn comes to need kupuna care!

Aloha no,

Steve Lohse

Constituent of Rep. Daniel Holt

Chair, Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)

CGP.Tenant.Association@gmail.com



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison

DATE: Monday, April 1, 2019 (2:00 p.m., Room 308)

RE: **COMMENTS on SB 1025, SD1, HD1 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing supportive home and community based services to elders since 1973 and currently serves over 4,000 older persons each year.

CCH provides the following COMMENTS in regard to SB 1025, SD1, HD1:

- **PAGE 5:** Lines 5-7 indicate intent to “(1) Maximize the number of participants served by the program; and (2) Offer the core services listed in subsection (c).”

We fully support this intent to provide relief to more working caregivers and to provide a wider range of services since this acknowledges the diverse needs of working caregivers.

- **PAGE 6:** Lines 2-3 prescribes that a “**daily benefit for each qualified recipient is limited to once per week**”.

This restriction of benefit to once per week does not take into account the diverse needs of working caregivers. For example:

- A working caregiver who may be planning for surgery and unable to provide caregiving for an intensive but short period of time.
- A working caregiver who may have an emergency, such as illness or death of a family member on the mainland, and may need a few days or weeks of intensive caregiving support while the caregiver is off island.

In both of the above examples, the total amount of relief that a caregiver may need would be in a concentrated period of time and could not be served by a once per week allotment.

By allowing more flexibility in how the funding may be used, the program can likely serve more working caregivers since some may need short term assistance rather than ongoing assistance.



Please note that in order to be eligible for the Kupuna Caregiver program, a caregiver already must reveal personal information and allow access to an employer to verify employment status of 30 hours per week. Providing relief to caregivers should be a system that ENCOURAGES working caregivers to apply, giving them hope of relief. It should not cause working caregivers to screen themselves OUT because the benefit is too restrictive to support them in meeting their significant caregiver responsibilities.

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Consider allowing a **monthly, or at least weekly, rate** for authorized services per kupuna. A monthly rate is actually more consistent with the system already used by Kupuna Care's existing Participant Directed Services.
- Advise the Executive Office on Aging to contract with one or several agencies to **administer the funds like an Emergency Financial Assistance Program**, rather than trying to establish individual contracts with numerous service providers. The contracted "emergency assistance" agencies would be responsible to assess for initial eligibility, could be required to get authorization through the State or County, and pay directly to vetted providers of eligible services who would then deliver the service to the elder/caregiver. This would limit the amount of contracts that the State or Counties would have to procure and monitor but would also ensure that caregivers have the greatest access to eligible services.

For more information or if there are questions, please feel free to email Diane Terada, Division Administrator, at diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org or call her via phone at 527-4702.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

TO: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, April 1, 2019, 2:00PM
PLACE: House Conference Room 308

FROM: Hawaii Section, ACOG
Dr. Chrystie Fujimoto, MD, FACOG, Chair
Dr. Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Vice Chair
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

RE: SB 1025_SD1_HD1 – Relating to the Kūpuna Caregivers Program
Position: COMMENTS

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) supports the intent behind SB 1025_SD1_HD1, which would continue the needed funding for the Kūpuna Caregivers program, however we are not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, we support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families

In 2017, the Hawai'i State Legislature honored our tradition in Hawai'i of caring for our kūpuna by establishing the Kūpuna Caregivers Program. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i.¹ 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 their insurance and access to health care.

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.² Kūpuna Caregivers provides critical support to families 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.

Each year the Hawai'i Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the Kūpuna Caregivers program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Population and Economic Projections for the State of Hawaii to 2040.

² The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Access to Women's Health Care, Statement of Policy, Reaffirmed July 2016

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance



CARING
ACROSS
GENERATIONS

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Pedro Haro, and I wish to testify on behalf of Caring Across Generations providing comments on SB1025, SD1, HD1.

In general, we support the majority of the content of the bill. We appreciate the well thought out report on the program's efficacy and financial structure, which will give the legislature and the public a transparent view of the management of the program. We also wholeheartedly agree mandating a plan to reach more people. We particularly believe that community organizations and stakeholders should be engaged in the creation of this plan and would support an amendment that would state as such.

However, we do not support the cap in services to once per week. There are several issues that we believe would create havoc on the young program:

1. **Capping the frequency of services diminishes the bill's intent to have the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) create a plan to reach more people.** By binding the program to a specific service delivery schedule, it completely takes away the possible innovation that can take place as EOA engages stakeholders.
2. **It diminishes the bill's intent to diversify services and creates inequality.** By mandating a specific frequency of services, it would put into a disadvantage those who opt for less costly services, such as meal services, against those who choose more expensive services. One day of service of meal delivery or transportation does not equal to one day of service of adult day care in cost nor quantity of services.
3. **It diminishes the patient-centered approach that the Adult Disability and Resource Centers take to working with families.** By mandating how the services are to be delivered, assessments would no longer focus on meeting the specific needs of working caregivers and their families on a case-by-case basis. This patient-centered-care practice is what is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and has empirical evidence showing better health outcomes than a one-size-fits-all model.
4. **Capping services to once a week raises concerns of the program's future efficacy.** We recommend that if capping of services occurs, it is done using the program's first year of data analysis and with input from key stakeholders, including legislative representatives, service providers, advocates, and consumers.

There is little disagreement that the lack of long-term care coverage is a critical issue facing our country. For the vast majority of families without private long-term care insurance, the only choices available are to either spend down their life savings in order to qualify for Medicaid, or to rely on unpaid family caregivers. Neither choice is sustainable. In Hawai'i, the issue is even more devastating as our cost of home health care is on average \$10,000 more than on the continental U.S. To adequately meet the care needs of families, and of the direct care workforce, we need to support the caregiving infrastructure that the Kupuna Caregivers provides.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes



CARING
ACROSS
GENERATIONS

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 1025 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
Advocacy Director, Hawaii
Caring Across Generations
pedro@caringacross.org

Date: 4/1/2019

Time: 2:00 pm

Committee: House Finance

Title of Bill: SB 1025, SD1, HD1 Relating To The Kupuna Caregivers Program

My name is Iris Nakamatsu and I reside in Kaneohe, Hawaii. As the sole caregiver of my 86 year old mother, I strongly support SB 1025, SD1, HD1. When she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in late 2016, I was so sad and scared. In order to keep her active for as long as possible, I searched for and thankfully found a wonderful day care for her to attend, Windward Senior Day Care Center. Although working full-time, I still could only afford to send Mom just one day a week.

Then a miracle happened – The Kupuna Caregivers Program. Mom and I are blessed to have been approved for this amazing program. I am truly grateful that Mom is now receiving even more of the excellent care that she needs and that I am still able to work full-time. Mom is doing well and I have hope!

I humbly ask that you fully support and pass SB 1025, SD1, HD1 so that even more caregivers and kupuna may benefit from this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this very important and needed bill.

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

DATE: Monday, April 1, 2019
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 308

Re: SB 1025, SD1, HD1 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Position: Support with amendments

Dear Representatives Luke, Cullen, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support SB 1025, SD1 HD1 to continue the \$2 million in total funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program. The need for this program is demonstrated by those currently receiving services as well as the long waiting list of families who need the assistance. Please consider removing the limitation of services to once per week. The program would benefit from additional flexibility with services more than once per week to get the services to those who are in need.

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.

As a caregiver for my parents, I experienced 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-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 1:18:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francis Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

TESTIMONY RELATING TO SB1025 SD1 HD1

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J. K. Cullen and members of the Committee on Finance, my name is Francis Nakamoto, speaking as a private citizen, in support of full funding for SB1025 SD1, HD1, but opposed to limiting benefits to only one time a week.

Kupuna Caregiver is an innovative way to encourage and enable working caregivers to stay in their jobs while taking care of their loved ones.

It has gained nation-wide attention. In the recent issue of Time Magazine, this law was highlighted as one of very few credible efforts nationally to address the real needs of working caregivers and their loved ones by allowing caregivers \$70 a day for Kupuna Care service. Notably, the article did not mention the current effort of this legislature to limit the daily benefit to only once a week.

HB1025 SD1, HD1 now does not specify a per day daily benefit and limits the daily benefit to only once a week.

Working caregivers need help—real help—to allow them to continue to work while caring for their stay-at-home loved ones who choose to remain at home and not in an institution. By allowing working caregivers the ability to provide needed services and care to their loved ones while they continue to work, it helps both while helping society in general since the caregiver continues to pay taxes, maintain their health and sanity and, hopefully, save for retirement, assuming their employer provides for a retirement plan or they are not among the estimated 216,000 Hawaii workers who do not have a realistic means to save for retirement.

To be sure, the existing program has its problems. With the limited funds available, the current \$70 a day benefit is being used up by a few who, in many cases, justifiably require five day a week care to enable their caregiver to remain at work. Other caregivers not familiar with the program either apply too late or the limited funding dries up. In the current legislation, the EOA must “offer a plan to maximize the number of recipients served...and offer certain core services.” This is an important step to assure more effectiveness, fairness and uniformity in the allocation and distribution of limited funding.

Still, by limiting daily benefits to only one use a week, the bill prevents the EOA from providing the least but necessary amount of benefits to allow a caregiver to stay employed. Consideration should be given to assessing the needs of the kupuna, what's minimally but absolutely necessary to allow the caregiver stay at work and whether the caregiver and kupuna can afford to pay for part of the necessary services. A needs test is necessary to prevent abuse of limited resources by those who can well afford to pay while still work.

Let's correct the administrative problem, not render this otherwise innovative, helpful program useless due to arbitrary restrictions. I'm afraid that if we do, our shortsightedness will draw national attention again, but for less complimentary reasons.

Re: SB1025 Relating to Kupuna Care

April 1, 2019 2:00 p.m. room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and committee members.

I am a senior who resides in Senate District 9 and House District 19. I am an active volunteer with AARP, Kokua Council, HARA and the PABEA legislative committee.

SB1025 provides funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, which assists working caregivers to ensure that their elderly loved ones' needs are met, while the caregivers remain in the workforce and protect their own futures and retirement. Since its inception in early 2018, The Executive Office on Aging has received hundreds of calls (through the Area Agencies on Aging) requesting information about the program. The need to expand the program has been demonstrated.

For the program to succeed, a working caregiver would have to receive enough benefit to support his/her aging loved one, in order for the caregiver to remain in the workforce. The \$70 per day roughly equates to the cost Adult Day Care, which is why it was the preferred choice for most of the Area Agencies on Aging to implement. Granted, it is costly. 5 days per week, 50 weeks per year is about \$17, 500. At \$2M, if every working caregiver had this option, 111 families would be served. Most families do not need such intensive services, but even if they did, keeping those loved ones out of nursing home care, upwards of \$150,000 per year, frequently paid out of Medicaid funds, is most cost-effective.

Hawaii is the only state with such a program.

Please amend this bill to delete the limit on benefits to once per week and move it forward.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony.

Mahalo!

Barbara J. Service MSW (ret.)

March 31, 2019

**To : House Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair**

RE: SB1025 SD1,HD1: Relating to Kupuna Care Givers Program

Hearing: April 1, 2019 – 2:00PM – Conference Room 308

Most Honorable Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members.

Please vote in SUPPORT of SB1025, SD1,HD1, Hawaii's Kupuna CareGivers Program.

- ✓ **Vote to support the full funding request of \$2 Million for the next fiscal year, as stated in the bill, as well as the same amount for the following year.**
- ✓ **Vote to support the use of up to \$350 of funds per week for the most urgent needs of the frailest kupuna in our community.**

This very needed program serves the most frail kupuna in Hawaii.

It allows caregivers to be gainfully employed while their loved ones are cared for in a respectful manner at home.

I am in full support of this bill.

Please continue your support of this measure.

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah
Honolulu Resident**

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee,

RE: Senate Bill 1025

April 1st, 2019

My name is Katharine Wear. I am a MSW candidate at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i. I am writing to convey my **support** for Senate Bill 1025, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill is vital to supporting the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Caregiving is an integral part of our ohana based community in Hawaii. For our families, hired caregiving cost continues to rise, and it is difficult to remain fully employed while trying to care for loved ones. This program helps families maintain a more livable income and keeping them away from the poverty line. Relatedly, The Kupuna Caregivers program is forward-thinking. It will save financial resources in the future by supporting families now, instead of letting them fall through the cracks. Not only will this be beneficial cost-wise, but family members will get to be cared for in homes and by other family members which helps support the culture of ohana.

I am testifying in **support** of Senate Bill 1025 to once again be funded to continue to support family caregivers within our community.

Sincerely,

Katharine Wear

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 6:52:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan J. Wurtzburg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support the Kupuna Caregivers Program. I do not have elderly family members in this state. My elderly family members lived in places, with similarly-styled programs, and the programs operated more than once a week. This allowed my elderly family members to live in their homes, with support from family members and other caregivers. This is what I would like to see happen in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D.

From: Clementina Ceria-Ulep <clem@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 6:26 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Clementina Ceria-Ulep, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging to create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep
211 Hoomalu Street; Pearl City, HI 96782
clem@hawaii.edu

From: Alison Hayama <alisonhayama@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 6:54 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Alison Hayama, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Alison Hayama

45-656 Apapane Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744
United States

alisonhayama@gmail.com

FIN-Jo

From: Linda Kiyabu <lindak@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 8:57 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

March 29, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Linda Kiyabu, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Currently, I am a caregiver for my 89 (soon to be 90) year old mother. She attends the Maui Adult Day Care at Oceanview (Wailuku) Monday through Friday. Day Care for her is funded 100% through the Kupuna Caregivers program. Without this assistance, I would have difficulty working full-time at the Maui District Department of Labor and Industrial Relations as a labor law specialist. The Kupuna Caregivers program and the Maui Adult Day Care program helps me and in turn, I am able to help others.

I understand that the current version of the legislation limits the distribution of funds to once a week for its recipients. There certainly are more families who need the help, so I understand the desire to widen the reach of the program. My perspective is that the local state and county agencies who are administrators of the funds are best able to decide how the money should be distributed, whether once a week or otherwise.

Please support the funding for Kupuna Caregivers. We are committed to caring for our parents and loved ones and need your help to fulfill our obligation to give back to our kupuna, who have raised and supported us.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Linda Kiyabu
Kahului, Maui
lindak@hawaiiintel.net

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 11:07:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Inouye	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Chair Luke and Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I would like to provide a comment on SB1025 SD1 HD1. This bill is about the Kapuna Caregivers Program. This program is very important and I support the program and the intention of the bill; however, capping services to once a week is not very helpful toward the success of the Kapuna Caregivers Program.

Sincerely,

Colleen F Inouye MD MMM FACOG

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 12:43:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chrystie Fujimoto	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a vital program for our community and I support the program and the intention behind this bill. However, capping services to once a week defeats the purpose of the bill. Please fund the program without a cap on services.

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 1:36:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Harris	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a vital program for our community and I support the program and the intention behind this bill. However, capping services to once a week defeats the purpose of the bill. Please fund the program without a cap on services.

Mahalo,

Sara C. Harris, MD

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 4:09:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Chin	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I support the intent to continue needed funding for the KÅ«puna Caregivers program, however I do not support capping services to once per week.

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 4:24:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LINDA	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please elimimnate the once per week cap and raise the amount to 350/week. While I support the overall intent to help our working caregivers; one day of relief per week is not nearly enough to help a working caregiver hang on to a full time job.

From: Joanne Bacani <bacanit001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 11:01 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Joanne Bacani, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

As a beneficiary of Kupuna Care, I am grateful for the financial support. Until you are a caregiver, one does not realize the time and effort it takes to care for an adult with physical ailments. To that you add working full time to make ends meet and to qualify for a better level of medical insurance. The assistance from Kupuna Care allows me to get other services for my husband, i.e., massages and physical therapy, to keep him moving so his body does not fail him and he becomes more difficult to care.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Joanne Bacani
4351 Halupa Street
Honolulu, HI 96818
United States

bacanit001@hawaii.rr.com

From: Jan Nishimura <jan.nishimura46@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 3:53 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Jan Nishimura, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jan Nishimura

3363 PAKANU ST
Honolulu, HI 96822-1345
United States

jan.nishimura46@gmail.com

From: Randolph Hack <RandyInKaimuki@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 3:20 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Randolph Hack and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

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Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Randolph Hack

3324 Sierra Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816
United States

RandyInKaimuki@gmail.com

From: Eileen Mena <epmzplace@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 2:23 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Eileen Mena, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Eileen Mena

75-816A Hiona St
Holualoa, HI 96725
United States

epmzplace@gmail.com

FIN-Jo

From: Merrill Adachi <meriru2@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 1:55 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony/Comments regarding SB1025, SD1, HD1 for the FIN Hearing (April 1, 2019)

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen, and House Committee on Finance,

My name is Merrill Adachi and I am writing in regards to SB 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill provides the necessary monetary relief that all caregivers need in order to keep caring for our kupuna while maintaining a full-time career. My mom is the primary caregiver to my grandma, who needs to go to adult day center while my mom continues her full-time job. Adult day center is costly, but it keeps my grandma healthy and safe. The funding gives my mom peace of mind and lifts a financial burden off her shoulders. If funding is cut, my grandma would not be able to go to adult day center during the weekday, forcing my mom to give up working altogether. I know this is the same for other families as well.

Please consider supporting families every day, not just once or twice a week. This money is being used wisely on the kupuna who already gave so much to our community through their hard work and sacrifices. Please also consider expanding everyday funding to other families who need it as well. We already know living in Hawaii is not easy for most and caregiving is a full-time job in itself.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Merril Adachi
45-656 Apapane Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Catherine Tamanaha <Tamacr96@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 10:56 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Catherine Tamanaha, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Catherine Tamanaha

94-1431 Manao Street
Waipahu, HI 96797
Tamacr96@gmail.com

From: amelia Jodar <ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 6:49 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is amelia Jodar, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

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Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

amelia Jodar

87 Hakimo Place
Waianae, HI 96792
United States

ajodar.jodar476@gmail.com

From: karen fujimoto <skyy@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 3:24 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Karen Fujimoto and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program.

KUPUNA CARE FUNDING HAS BEEN A GODSEND . Because of the funding, I am able to continue working full time and earn an income to support myself, as well as be a caregiver to my mother with Parkinson's. Mom needs around the clock care, and I know that being with a family caretaker makes a positive difference in her wellbeing. Especially in Hawaii, with the cost of living, this funding helps me so much. Please continue this program, but amend this measure by removing the once per week limit on services. Limiting services will put me back in the same boat as a year ago.

This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We

hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Karen Fujimoto
Honolulu
skyy@hawaii.rr.com

From: Kathy Jaycox <jaycox@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 2:55 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Kathy Jaycox, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kathy Jaycox

559 Pauku Street
Kailua, HI 96734
United States

jaycox@hawaii.edu

From: Audrey Marumoto <boydmar@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 2:28 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Audrey Marumoto, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Audrey Marumoto

P.O. Box 970338
boydmar@hawaii.rr.com

FIN-Jo

From: Deanna Espinas <espiahawaii@juno.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 12:55 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Deanna Espinas, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Deanna Espinas

Honolulu, Hawaii
espihawaii@juno.com

From: Margaret Perkinson <perkinson.p@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 11:58 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD. Although I am the director of UH Center on Aging, I am writing as an individual to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging to create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD
Honolulu, HI
perkinson.p@gmail.com

From: Marissa Adachi <marissa.triple2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2019 7:19 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Marissa Adachi, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Marissa Adachi

45-656 Apapane St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
United States

marissa.triple2@gmail.com

LATE

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 4:38:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Hawaii Women's Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members,

The Hawaii Women’s Coalition is in strong support of this measure to bring respite to caregivers, the majority of whom are women. Women too often have to choose between caring for a loved one or feeding their families as they often have to quit their jobs if they need to provide such care.

With the predicted aging tsunami upon us, this program is essential for the well being of our citizens.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair, Hawaii Women’s Coalition

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 8:34:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill, which will help caregivers stay at work while caring for kupuna at home. It saves our state and residents very expensive care that would otherwise be need to be provided in institutional settings.

LATE

Aloha nō e Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, Members and Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

From: Breea Souza, MSW Candidate

Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1025 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

I would first like to mahalo you for hearing SB 1025, which allows the Kūpuna Caregivers Program, their families, and their caregivers to be continually supported and funded.

Through the large amount of families the program services, it is clear that the need to keep this program funded is more than ever necessary. The program allows families who do not meet eligibility requirements for Medicaid and other services to still receive assistance such as: adult day care, transportation, home-delivered meals and respite care (to name a few). Hawai'i's health care crisis is currently at an all time high with kūpuna being one of the largest communities to lose access to care. Supporting this bill means that action is being taken to combat this crisis and work towards better the health outcomes (while honoring the lives) of our kūpuna.

So I ask, when considering passing this bill, please think of your own kūpuna. How would you want them to be cared for? What is your responsibility to them? And more importantly, how might you want to be cared for when reaching an age that you can no longer support yourself? The Kūpuna Caregivers Program needs the necessary funds so that they can continue to provide access to resources and care to those kūpuna who need it the most.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of SB 1025.

SB-1025-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 11:56:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Danielle Ogez	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a vital program for our community and I support the program and the intention behind this bill. However, capping services to once a week defeats the purpose of the bill. Please fund the program without a cap on services.

Dr. Danielle Ogez, OBGYN Resident Physician

Testimony Supporting SB 1025
House Committee on Finance
April 1, 2019 at 9:30 in Conference Room 308

LATE

Aloha:

My name is Rev. David Baumgart Turner, and I am the pastor of Church of the Crossroads, Hawaii's first intentional multi-ethnic congregation, founded in 1923. I testify in support of SB 1025 for the following reasons:

Hawaii's elder population continues to grow faster than younger populations. Many of the elderly are or will be in need of long-term care in one form or another. Most people cannot afford the cost of institutional care but, more importantly, they prefer to remain in their own homes.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce because their employment is necessary to support their families and to assure that they will have enough to support themselves in retirement.

There are an estimated 150,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii, with the average caregiver being a 62-year-old married woman who cares for an elderly parent or husband while still working. Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work, and many must limit their work hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

In 2017, Hawaii created the Kupuna Caregivers Program, which helps family caregivers who work at jobs outside the home by providing a \$70/day benefit in services to care for disabled elderly people. These services include adult day care, chore services, personal care, respite care, and transportation.

The goal of Kupuna Caregivers is twofold: to support families in Hawaii in their desire to care for their loved ones, and to do it in an innovative, systematic manner that saves the State money in the long run. Without Kupuna Caregivers, the disabled elderly may have to be institutionalized, and the average cost of nursing home care in Hawaii exceeds \$130,000 per year. As a result, many nursing home residents deplete their savings and qualify for Medicaid, which is a State program.

The Kupuna Caregivers program has proven to be effective. However, the need is much greater than the current funding. I urge the committee to pass the bill.

Aloha,

Rev. David Baumgart Turner

Pastor – Church of the Crossroads 1212 University Avenue / Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE

From: BLYTH KOZUKI <blythkozuki@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 9:25 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Blyth Kozuki, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Most people work more than one day, instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

We know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

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Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Blyth Kozuki

3721 Kanaina Avenue #222, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
blythkozuki@hotmail.com

LATE

From: John A. H. Tomoso <john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 6:51 AM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran; Rep. Justin Woodson; Deborah Stone-Walls
Subject: Testimony/Comments regarding SB1025, SD1, HD1 for the FIN hearing on April 1, 2019 at 2p.m., Room 308.

RE: SB1025, SD1,HD1

In the Kupuna Caregivers Program, **Please remove the once per week limit on services.**
Mahalo for your consideration.

John A. Hau'oli Tomoso+
Episcopal Priest & Social Worker
[808-280-1749](tel:808-280-1749)
S.C.P.



The Episcopal Churches of Maui, <https://mauiepiscopal.church/>

From: Troy Siruno <tsiruno@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 10:47 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Troy Siruno, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Troy Siruno

4300 Waiialae Avenue, #B1101
Honolulu, HI 96816
United States

tsiruno@gmail.com

From: Diane Ware <volcanogetaway@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2019 9:19 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Testimony for SB1025, SD1, HD1; 4/1/19 FIN Hearing, 2pm, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen
House Committee on Finance

Monday, April 1, 2019

COMMENTS ON SB 1025, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Diane Ware, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware

99-7815 KapohaVolcano Pl.
Volcano, HI 96785
United States

volcanogetaway@yahoo.com

House Committee on Finance
Monday, April 1, 2019
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

LATE

Testimony and Comments in Support of SB 1025, SD1, HD1
Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anna Filler, and I am writing to express my comments on Senate Bill 1025, SD1, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging creates a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Thank you for considering my testimony for SB 1025, SD1, HD1.

Anna Filler
Kakaako, District 12
afiller@twc.com



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Hawai‘i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Comments on SB 1025 SD1 HD1 – Relating to the Kūpuna Caregivers Program
House Committee on Finance
Monday, April 1, 2019, 2:00 PM, conference room 308

LATE

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **COMMENTS** on **SB 1025 SD1 HD1**, which would continue funding for the Kūpuna Caregivers Program and require the Executive Office on Aging to report on the outcomes of the program and create a plan to maximize the number of program participants.

We are concerned that capping services to once a week defeats the original purpose of this program, which is to help caregivers stay in the workforce. Therefore, **we respectfully request that your committee amend this bill by removing the once-per-week limit on services, in order to avoid undermining the original intent of this program to keep family caregivers in the workforce.**

We thank you for your leadership in creating the Kūpuna Caregivers Program, the first of its kind in the nation. This groundbreaking program is a crucial way to both provide a safety net for Hawai‘i’s family caregivers and invest in our paid care workforce.

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.

It is essential that the program continue to be funded adequately, and the services not be limited to only once per week. Many of our working families are in desperate need of the support that the program can provide, but limiting the program to only once per week will not provide enough support to keep caregivers in the workforce.

Preserving the original intent of this program 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.

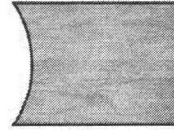
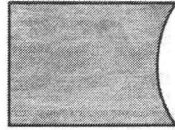
We appreciate your consideration of these comments.

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.

4/1/19 2:00

FIN Rm 308

LATE



Testimony of Church of the Crossroads
Supporting SB 1025 SD 1 HD 1 with amendments
House Committee on Finance
April 1, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. (Agenda #1) in Conference Room 308

The Church of the Crossroads was founded in 1922 and is Hawaii's first intentionally multicultural church.

The Church of the Crossroads supports the bill, with amendments. The Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the Hawaii Legislature in 2017 and is an important step in creating needed supports to family caregivers. By 2020, nearly 300,000 people in Hawaii will be 65 years of age or older, and the number persons needing some assistance with everyday activities continues to increase.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce and their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families as well as to assure that they will have sufficient Social Security benefits and savings to support themselves in retirement.

Research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is designed to enable family caregivers to continue to participate in the labor force by providing assistance with care for their elder family member. The program offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, transportation, homemaker services, meals, and personal care services, up to \$70 per day for 5 days a week. Elder persons needing assistance with at least 2 activities of daily living may qualify for the program.

Within a few weeks of the launch of the program, more than 500 persons inquired about it. The program's relatively small budget, however, limited the services to a relatively small number of clients. The current level of funding, unfortunately, is still woefully inadequate to serve the existing need. Legislators, as well as persons in the community, have expressed a strong desire to expand the number of persons being served.

The bill should be amended to insert a weekly allocation of \$350 per case and to insert an appropriation of \$2 million for the program. That appropriation amount would still be inadequate to fill the need, but it would be a step in the right direction. In addition, the effective date should be changed.

With those amendments the Church of the Crossroads supports the bill and urges the committee to pass it.