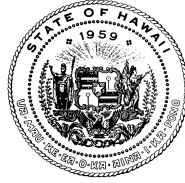


SB 1025

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM.
Report Title:	Kupuna Caucus; Kupuna Caregivers Program; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Changes the kupuna caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week. Appropriates funds for implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.
Companion:	HB467
Package:	Kupuna Caucus
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	IHARA, S. CHANG, FEVELLA, HARIMOTO, K. KAHELE, J.KEOHOKALOLE, MORIWAKI, RUDERMAN, English, Kanuha, Keith-Agaran, Kim, Riviere, Shimabukuro

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 COMMENTING on SB1025
Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program**

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 1, 2019
9:30 am

Room Number: 229

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health, would like to provide comments on SB1025. We support the intent of this measure
3 provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's
4 executive biennium budget.
- 5 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$2,000,000 in SFY2020 and the same amount
6 for SFY2021 for the implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program and includes amending
7 the kupuna caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week.
- 8 **Purpose and Justification:** EOA notes that the appropriation in this bill is a priority of the Ige
9 Administration. Governor Ige's budget request maintains a total base budget of \$1.2 million
10 from SFY2019 through SFY2021.
- 11 Since enactment in 2017, EOA established the program guidelines, created public information
12 sheets, developed a caregiver's employment verification process, adopted a caregiver burden

1 assessment tool to prioritize applicants and measure program effectiveness, and executed
2 contracts with the four area agencies on aging (AAAs). All planning and implementation work
3 was completed by existing EOA staff, and the Kupuna Caregivers Program (KCGP) was
4 officially launched on December 13, 2017. None of the \$600,000 initially appropriated during
5 the first six month of the project in SFY2018 was used to cover any administrative costs but was
6 used predominately to provide a full day of Adult Day Care (ADC) services to the care recipients
7 of 101 caregivers which allowed caregivers the ability to work a full day at the cost of
8 approximately \$70 a day. For SFY2019, the Legislature appropriated \$1.2 million which
9 currently is serving 110 caregivers. Additional funding would be needed to expand the Kupuna
10 Caregiver program because to maintain gainful employment, the assessed caregiver needs at
11 least 3-5 days of services per week. In addition, the current language for the Kupuna Caregivers
12 Program Statute, HRS 349-18, specifies a maximum amount of \$70 a day for services which
13 limits the number of individuals who received Kupuna Caregiver services. If the language was
14 amended for a weekly amount, this would give the AAAs more flexibility on how the funds are
15 used to meet the assessed needs of the caregivers.

16 **Recommendation:** The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a part of the Administration's base
17 budget request. We support advancing this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce
18 or replace priorities with the Administration's base budget. Should there be a surplus of funds
19 available for this measure, we would be very supportive of funding this important initiative.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Stanley Chair Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Meizhu Lui, and I Chair the Hawaii County Advisory Committee on Aging. The Committee is a volunteer body of people from every island District, mostly kupuna ourselves, who bring issues to the attention of our Executive on Aging, Kimo Alameda.

I and my fellow members strongly support **Senate Bill 1025**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. We feel that one of the best ways to help our kupuna is to help their caregivers, without whom their quality of life would deteriorate. SB1025 continues the funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, begun last year, to address the financial needs of family members who must miss work and income to take care of their elders. Since as a state, we have a basic commitment to ohana and we value the contributions made by our elders, therefore we want them to be able to age with dignity in the place of their preference, and for many, that is their own home. But to do so, they need help - often provided by their children or younger family members. These caregivers are performing not only a family service, but a social service, relieving the state of the burden and the cost of elder care. Their efforts should not be made at the expense of their own loss of financial stability, which puts them at risk of being poor elders themselves at some point in the future.

This bill will provide \$2 million in funding for this new and vital program. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would provide up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to better negotiate with vendors and be able to provide more in-home services. We are at the tip of the silver tsunami, and programs like this one will need to be expanded and improved as the numbers of kupuna relative to younger people continues to rise. Our state can get ahead of the wave!

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Meizhu Lui
P.O. Box 175, 35-354 Pahale Rd.
Papaaloa, HI 96780

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 8:43:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Stone-Walls	Testifying for Maui County Office on Aging	Support	Yes

Comments:



HAWAII CHAPTER - AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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

SB1023, RELATING TO AGING
Sen CPH Hearing
Friday, February 1, 2019 – 9:30pm
Room 229
Position: Support

Chair Baker, and Members of the Joint CPH Committee:

I am Gregg Pacilio, PT and Board President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA), a non-profit professional organization serving more than 300 member Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants. Our members are employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are human movement specialists and are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromuscular and musculoskeletal injuries and impairments to improve and enrich quality of life.

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

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

Your support of SB1023 is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact Nick Bronowski, HAPTA's Aging Adult Chair at (808) 546-0937 for further information.



Kokua Council is one of Hawaii's oldest Senior Advocacy Group. **Kokua Council** advocates, informs, and educates to improve laws, policies and practices impacting the well being of seniors, their families and our community.

TESTIMONY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

FEBRUARY 1, 2019 9:30 AM RM 229

RE: SB 1025 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

KOKUA COUNCIL SUPPORTS THIS BILL, THE APPROPRIATION, AND THE WEEKLY INCREASE ALLOWED FOR ONE CAREGIVER

According to the Elderly Affairs Division:

The average age of caregivers who receive services under the program was 59.

The Average Age of the elders they care for is 88.

The average number of ADLs is 4

The average number of IADLs is 7.

This suggests that the needs and frailty of the elders requires a lot more than \$70 once a week!!!

PLEASE FIND BELOW A SHORT REPORT AND UPDATE ON THIS PROGRAM

Kokua Council appreciated the leadership of this Committee and look forward to continued support for Kupuna.

Sincerely
Jim Shon, President

**SPECIAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS
PROGRAM**

**(Based on information generated by the January 28, 2019 Kokua Council
Summit on Kupuna Caregivers)**

On January 28, 2019, the Executive Office on Aging, the City and County's Elderly Affairs Division, and Caring Across Generations reviewed what we know about the program, and how to promote and improve it.

2017 ACT 102

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2017/bills/HB607_CD1_.htm

FUNDING: Distress Among the Providers and the Vulnerable. Although the informal Kupuna Caucus has recommended \$2 million to fund the program, the Governor's budget did not reflect this, and the Chair of House Finance has questioned the effectiveness of the program and completely de-funded it in the Budget Bill: HB 2 HD1.

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2019/bills/HB2_HD1_.HTM

As a result, community providers of services to the vulnerable and their clients are filled with great concern, panic and stress. Providers who could be spending more time serving clients now must spend more hours at the Legislature trying to "save" the program. Employees hired by providers to implement the program find their jobs at risk. Intended or not, some proposals demonstrate an indifference as to the impacts that target the most vulnerable. HB 2 is similar to a government shutdown: Provider employees don't know whether they need to seek another job.

Last year the funding was \$600,000. (To put this into perspective, \$600K would, under our expensive procurement code, air condition just six DOE classrooms. An appropriation of \$2 million for Kupuna Caregivers, would air condition just 20 classrooms.)

STATEWIDE STATISTICS: As of December 2018, last year's funding of \$600,000 served 110 caregivers, or 112 clients. This is broken down by county:

Hawaii: 11 caregivers/ 11 clients;

Kauai: 8/8;

Maui: 22/23; and

Honolulu: 71/68.

TYPE OF SERVICES: For the State: there were:

Adult Day Care: 104;

Home Delivered Meals: 1;

Personal Care: 15;

In-Home Respite 3;

Homemaker: 4;

Chore: 1; and

Assisted Transportation: 2.

One reason for the preference for Adult Day Care is that the limit of \$70 per day corresponds more closely with receiving day-long adult day care, and conversely, other services, charging by the hour, are more expensive. On Oahu, there are eleven (11) providers of Adult Day Care at twelve sites.

CHALLENGES

- **No administrative support is funded, imposing more tasks on ADRC staff who are already busy implementing other Kupuna Care programs.**
- **Early premature promotion of the program without adequate public education led to a surge of interest and demand well before the program could begin, and well beyond its funding capacity.**
- **Late arrival of State guidelines and funds meant some ADRCs only had five months to implement the program.**
- **No ability to use family income and other supports to determine priorities.**
- **There are some federal guidelines that inhibit flexibility in crafting some ADRC programs. Thus, even though ACT 102 funds are all state money, when other programs are also accessed, this complicates the process.**
- **Overlap with other Kupuna Care services that are free.**
- **Caregiving is not always provided by just one working caregiver; thus, the assumed model may be too one-dimensional to take into account multiple support networks.**
- **No ideal profile of the age or status of a caregiver has been developed to assist ADRCs to identify priority clients for the limited**

funds.

- It is not completely clear which EOA program “guidelines” are hard wired to provisions of the law, and which are internal agency decisions. Suggestions to change some aspects of the program may or may not require legislative action.
- ACT 102 says until EOA adopts administrative rules for ACT 102, the rules for Kupuna Care can be guides – however there are no administrative rules yet for Kupuna Care.
- Public skepticism of legislators, including attempts to restrict funding to one client to \$70 a week undercuts the effectiveness of the program. No provider believes \$70 a week will be enough incentive to keep a caregiver in the workforce.

Top Five Kokua Council Priorities for 2019

1. Funding, structure, and implementation of the **Kupuna Caregivers Law**.
2. **More funds to serve more seniors** in other programs: Kupuna Care, ADRCs, etc.
3. **Less bureaucracy and timely payments** for vendors delivering Kupuna services.
4. **Condo legal and financial protections** for low income, vulnerable senior residents.
5. **Greater transparency and collaboration** in legislating, designing, and implementing policies, programs and practices impacting seniors & their families.

*To Contact Kokua Council, send emails to Jim Shon, President:
jshon@hawaii.edu.*

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 4:37:31 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I am Gary Simon, member 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 wholeheartedly supports SB1025.

Changing the Kupuna Caregivers Program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week allows the Area Agencies on Aging more flexibility in using the funds to meet the needs of the working family caregivers and their care recipients.

Funding for the Kupuna Caregiver Program protects working caregivers who are struggling to remain employed while providing caregiving services for a frail or elderly family member. Without this funding, eligible working caregivers can lose income and their employment.

We urge you to support SB 1025 and to recommend its passage.

We thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Chairperson, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:23:42 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Testifying for Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

We support SB1025. Caregivers need additional funds to appropriately care for themselves and our Kupuna.



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003
WEBSITE: www.hawaii firefighters.org

**THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2019**

February 1, 2019

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

**Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO**

S. B. No. 877 RELATING TO HEALTH CPH, WAM

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO represents approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State with more than 338 HFFA members serving in the County of Hawaii Fire Department – the only fire-based emergency medical service (EMS) among the four County Fire Departments and State Airport Rescue Fire Fighters.

HFFA **supports S. B. 877** as Hawai'i Island has experienced a number of factors that justifiably warrants the need for the additional EMS units, including the increase in EMS call volume; population growth; and the sheer land mass of the island.

Access to primary and acute medical care within the Puna and Makalei districts Hawaii Island has been chronically challenging as services are currently as much as 30 miles away for many residents. The volume of EMS calls have slowly increased each year without a correlated increase in EMS services to the areas and with the projected population growth, this will no doubt continue to impact the ability to deliver high quality EMS services to our Hawai'i Island residents.

The request presented in S.B. 877 would aid not only our first responders in meeting the ever-increasing demands and needs for emergency medical services on Hawai'i Island, but it would also better serve our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and HFFA respectfully requests favorable consideration of this measure.

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

1130 N. Nimitz Highway Suite A-265, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

LATE

February 1, 2019

Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB1025 RELATING TO HEALTH

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

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, I am pleased to extend our **support** for Senate Bill 1025, which provides funding for a Kupuna Caregivers Program and changes the program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week. Through this program, caregivers, including those who provide care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, are awarded a voucher to cover costs for services such as transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, etc.

Although the Alzheimer's Association provides numerous services to family caregivers, there are still many services that are needed beyond what we provide. And despite the growing number of individuals affected by the disease (28,000 individuals with the disease and the 66,000 caregivers of someone with the disease) in the state of Hawaii, there is still a substantial lack of support and resources for these families. According to the results of the Hawaii 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey, more than 40% of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers provide at least 20 hours of care per week. 74.5% of those individuals manage household care such as cleaning or cooking and 72% manage personal care such as feeding or bathing. Furthermore, the level of intense care that is provided has also lead to numerous negative effects on the caregiver. Results of the Hawaii 2015 BRFSS indicated that the impact of Alzheimer's and dementia caregiving lead to 8.5% of those caregivers having frequent poor physical health and 12.7% of those caregivers reported a history of depression.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program helps alleviate such issues by providing much needed services and support to families affected by the disease. Respite and assistance with daily living activities is critical to the long term success of caregiving for someone with Alzheimer's or a related dementia. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this legislation and applaud your leadership in bringing it forward.

With best regards,

Ian Ross
Public Policy and Advocacy Manager

LATE

**Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Stanley Chair Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is David Nakamaejo, and I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition to express our support for **Senate Bill 1025**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. The continued funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program is a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. We all know the cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families are struggling caring for a loved one and still 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 health insurance coverage.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, assisting families before crisis strikes. 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 on the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

We hope this year you will once again continue funding the program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**David Nakamaejo
Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition
2630 Oahu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96822**

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, Members, Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

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

Hearing: February 1, 2019, 9:30 am, CR 229

Thank you for hearing **Senate Bill 1025**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers will receive the support that they need to help keep kupuna safe at home and their family stress level from becoming unmanageable.

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

By providing a care benefit of \$350 per week, Kupuna Caregivers establishes a revised level of funding per family that ensures working families have access to resources to provide care at home and so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of SB 1025**. Please contact me at trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Stanley Chair Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Marcie Saquing and I am the Executive Director for Hawaii Island Adult Care in Hilo. We are the largest adult day center in the state and licensed to serve up to 105 kupuna on a daily basis. We currently have 140 enrolled in our program and serve on the average of 65-72 kupuna per day. We have seen our applications to attend day care jump 200% in the last month. I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 this critical need for our communities.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Marcie Saquing, Executive Director
Hawaii Island Adult Care, Inc.
561 Kupuna Place
Hilo, HI 96720



January 29, 2019

Chairperson Senator Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chairperson Senator Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Hearing Date: Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Calvin Hara and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. As the legislature and Governor recognized in the year 2017, family caregivers continuously provide care in the home setting of kupuna. Annually, there will be more kupuna in need of care at home. While we know that there are senior care facilities which provide the continuum of care, the ohana in our state, to the best of their ability, take of loved ones at home until it may be time to consider congregate care. As the kupuna age, various illnesses further cause more so the need for caregivers. Dementia and Alzheimers often involve around the clock care in the home setting.

Family caregivers suffer financial consequences at times when caring for kupuna. It is with appreciation to the Hawaii State Senate that SB 1025 will continue to support and recognize the needs of kupuna. Together with the Executive Office on Aging, the State of Hawaii can address the needs of kupuna and their caregivers.

Your consideration on the merits of SB 1025 will be greatly appreciated. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Calvin M. Hara
Executive Director and Administrator

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Stanley Chair Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Yuya Matsuoka, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 this critical need for our communities.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Yuya Matsuoka, Program Director
Sakura House Adult Day Care
1666 Mott-Smith Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Kathleen Wyatt, President of Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i and Director of an adult day care center in Aiea. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB1025 which provides \$2 million in funding for the Kupuna Caregiver Program. Our adult day care center is one of the contracted Kupuna Caregiver Program providers with the City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division, and we currently have 14 elders whose family caregivers benefit from this program.

The intent of the Kupuna Caregiver Program is to keep caregivers in the workforce by providing services that will care for their elderly loved ones while they are earning a living. On Oahu, the Kupuna Caregiver Program funds are being utilized for Adult Day Care, which provides 8-10 hours of care during the day and includes meals, exercise and active socialization which are vital for the kupuna while their caregivers continue to work.

To date, 112 elders are benefiting statewide from this program, with \$1.2 million being allocated for the program in this current fiscal year. The average age of the care recipient in the Kupuna Caregiver Program is 88 years old, needing help with an average of 4 Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) such as bathing or showering, dressing, and grooming and 7 Instruments of Activities of Daily Living (IADLS), such as preparing meals, shopping, and managing finances, etc (according to the Executive Office on Aging). The typical client has some form of dementia or physical disabilities that make them unable to safely stay at home alone and unsupervised. These recipients are eligible for nursing home level of care, but they remain at home with family caregivers. The average age of the caregiver is 59 years old, at the peak of their careers and earning potential, and not at the point of retirement. Many have school or college age children and wrestle with their responsibilities between their family and their kupuna which can be financially, emotionally and physically challenging. Keeping them in the workforce is vital for their own financial security, and having their elderly family member cared for during the day alleviates their worries and gives them peace of mind of their safety and well being.

While there are some county resources for Hawaii's older adults, none are earmarked specifically to assist caregivers such as the Kupuna Caregivers Program which is considered a ground breaking program nationwide. The adult day care service covered by the Kupuna Caregivers Program is one of the most cost effective home and community based services. With a benefit of \$70 a day, this service provides 8 – 10 hours of supervised care. In comparison, having in-home care services, which costs an average of \$35 per hour, would only get 2 hours of assistance, a day which would be nearly impossible for a caregiver to be fully employed.

The Kupuna Caregiver Program helps caregivers remain in the workforce by providing additional resources to care for their kupuna. For this particular group of caregivers, this program is a lifeline for them as they remain committed to caring for their elders as well as their family households. Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.



CGPTA
Chinatown Gateway Plaza
Tenant Association
Since 2006

To: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health (CPH)

From: Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)

Date: Friday, February 1, 2019, 9:30 AM

Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol, 415 Beretania St.

Re: Strong Support for SB1025, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Aloha e Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Steve Lohse, I'm a resident of Chinatown Gateway Plaza (CGP) and chair of the CGP Tenant Association (CGPTA). CGP is a 200-unit, city-owned, affordable housing property in Chinatown. Residents organized the CGPTA 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 testimony in Strong Support for SB1025.**

If you are like me, then you have seen kupuna in your family grow old and in need of care. I am better with property than with caregiving, myself, but I always admired family members who unselfishly devoted themselves to care for our elders when the time came

If your family shares these experiences, then you know that kupuna caregivers need help to sustain this precious role. How can we possibly justify not helping? Please, generously fund Kupuna Caregivers. Let's have no regrets when our turn comes to need this care!

Please, do the right thing, and fund Kupuna Caregivers. Thank you!

Aloha no,
Steve Lohse, Chair
Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)
CGP.Tenant.Association@gmail.com



Testimony of Church of the Crossroads
Supporting SB 1025
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
February 1, 2019 at 9:30 in Conference Room 229

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

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 proposed increase to \$2 million per year will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful number of employed caregivers.

For the foregoing reasons the Church of the Crossroads supports the bill and urges the committee to pass it.

Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair
February 1, 2019
Conference Room 229
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FOR S.B. 1025
RELATING TO KŪPUNA CAREGIVER PROGRAM

SUBMITTED BY:

Lynn Wong, Director
Live Well At Iwilei by Kāhala Nui

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of S.B.1025 Relating to Kūpuna Caregiver Program. My name is Lynn Wong, Director of Live Well at Iwilei. We are a licensed adult day care center located on the outskirts of downtown Honolulu in the Iwilei district. Live Well has 68 members whom many have caregivers who work nearby and rely on our services to care for their elders during the day.

Three of our families are currently in the Kūpuna Caregiver program and grateful for its assistance which enable them to continue working. One program recipient is a 68 year old male who has Alzheimer's Disease, and retired on a modest fixed income. His wife is now the sole breadwinner as well as the primary caregiver since their only child lives on the mainland with her own young family. The spouse works full time as a housekeeper and pays their monthly rent, food and household expenses. The additional cost of her husband's care is an unexpected financial burden on their household income. The Kūpuna Caregiver program has been a god-send for this family which allows the caregiver to earn a living while her husband has the necessary care and supervision to remain healthy and safe at home. They don't have to rely on Medicaid to pay for his care, or be prematurely placed in a residential care or nursing home where they will be living apart.

This family situation is a common story shared by countless caregivers in Hawaii who are struggling to care for their elderly family members while supporting their own household. The Kūpuna Caregiver Program is one of the cost effective solutions that addresses and supports the needs of this aging population. Home and community based services are far less expensive than institutional long term care facilities which can cost up to \$14,000+ a month. Using adult day care and other in-home services help keep the family intact and respects the wishes of our kūpuna who want to remain at home as long as possible.

Thank you again for the opportunity to support SB 1025.



CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

February 1, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 607 1025 RELATING TO KUPUNA CAREGIVERS

My name is Pedro Haro, and I wish to testify on behalf of Caring Across Generations in strong support of Senate Bill 1025.

Caring Across Generations is a national movement of families, caregivers, people with disabilities and aging Americans working to transform the way we care in this country, calling for policy solutions that enable all of us to live and age with dignity and independence. Caring Across Generations has worked with partners in Hawai'i for years in support of legislation that will help make quality long-term care accessible to everyone, and we believe that this bill is an important step toward that goal.

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.

Senate Bill 1025 will continue the funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program and will provide the needed respite care that our kūpuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. Study after study shows that the value of unpaid, and often under-recognized, family care is astronomical, and when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security. No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long term care. **Our own research showed that 1 in 5 people indicated that**

they or someone in the household has had to leave a job or the workforce to help care for an aging loved one.

The benefit offered in this legislation will help ensure that aging adults in Hawaii will have access to the care they need, in a setting where they are already comfortable. And, importantly, family members in the workforce will be able to continue working, which improves their economic security and also stabilizes the workforce for business owners.

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



LATE

Evelyn Hao
President

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Stanley Chair Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Rev. Won-Seok Yuh
Vice President-
Clergy

Friday, February 1, 2019

William Bekemeier
Vice President-
Laity

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

Jon Davidann
Treasurer

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

Deanna Espinas
Secretary

My name is Evelyn Hao and I am the President of Faith Action for Community Equity (formerly FACE). I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, 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.

Christy MacPherson
Executive
Director

By now we know that the need 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.

Soo San Schake
Organizing
Assistant

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. It will also change the statue so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 cotni

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Aczon Hao
President
Faith Action for Community Equity



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCL)

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2019

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

RE: SB 1025 Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program

Aloha mai kakou Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1025 relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program.**

SB 1025 changes the kupuna caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week and appropriates funds for implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

Hawai`i faces a long-term care crisis that prevents too many kupuna and people with disabilities from being able to live with dignity at home or in their communities. The vast majority of kupuna who are aging or living with a disability want to do so at home, but face challenges finding and affording the support they need to do so. Programs that emphasize independence rather than institutionalization must be better structured to support them. DPH will take steps to strengthen and expand the home care workforce, give kupuna and people with disability access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensure that all of these resources are readily available at home or in the community. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 12, ln. 44-50.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., to give kupuna quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, OCCLP supports SB 1025 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja
Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities
of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i
Ph. (808) 258-8889
Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019

THE SENATE

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Friday, February 1, 2019; 9:30 a.m.

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

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** S.B. 1025, which would appropriate \$2 million for the Kupuna Caregivers Program in fiscal year 2019-2020 and changes the allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week.

The first of its kind in the nation, the Kupuna Caregivers Program was established in the 2017 session with an appropriation of \$600,000 (increased to \$1.2 million in 2018) to be 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 “client” effectively is the employed family caregiver, who needs assistance to remain in the workforce.

Although a range of services are available, adult day care has been determined the most cost-effective. For \$70 a day, kupuna needing care can receive services at an adult day care facility in the care of 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.

Too many caregivers, lacking financial resources for this type of respite care, have been forced to lose work hours and income or resign or retire far earlier than desired. In most, if not all, cases, fewer work hours or early retirement has resulted in financial sacrifice for the caregiver in the form of reduced income security in later years. Likewise, employers have suffered economic hardship when employees must take paid or unpaid leave to care for a kupuna or must leave the workforce prematurely, requiring employers to hire and train replacement workers. With Hawaii’s unemployment rate among the lowest in the nation, employers cannot afford to lose qualified and experienced employees

Institutionalization is a final resort but extremely costly. For those who qualify for Medicaid, the burden of the cost rests with taxpayers themselves. Half of Medicaid dollars comes from the federal government and the other half from the State. For those unable to qualify for Medicaid, the cost must be borne by the families themselves, which, at minimum, is \$10,000 a month.

S.B. 1025 calls for a modest increase in the yearly appropriation to \$2 million. Even with this increase, the number served will be small. The Executive Office on Aging has reported that thus far a little more than 100 have been served statewide (with almost \$2 million) while the need is at least 10 times greater.

S.B. 1025 will also allow for flexibility in payments to assist these frail and vulnerable elderly who need care. Instead of \$70 a day, the amount will be capped at \$350 a week.

Encouraging kupuna and caregivers to use funds for services other than day care, like chore and bathing services, home-delivered meals, and assisted transportation, will also allow appropriated funds to go farther.

The Kupuna Caregiver Program needs to be expanded to allow more kupuna and their caregivers to benefit from it. That will, of course, mean more funding must be appropriated, which the Legislature may not be inclined to do. However, a coordinated campaign to publicize the program may identify the true demand for these services and the scope of the problem. Rather than serving only the few who are aware about the program--and who can fulfill the paperwork requirements--the ADRC's, which field the calls for Kupuna Caregiver services, may find there are many more who need help for respite services to allow them to remain in the workforce. Data is needed for the Legislature to enact informed and appropriate legislation.

Another suggestion is a means test to help prioritize those who will access these limited program funds and ensure that the caregivers who receive funding for services are the most needy. These "most needy" are likely to be those working for small businesses at low-wage jobs who lack flexibility in their jobs to provide or pay for appropriate kupuna care.

While amendments as we have suggested above may be needed, the ILWU urges passage of S.B. 1025. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
In SUPPORT of SB 1025 – Relating to the Kūpuna Caregivers Program
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Friday, February 1, 2019, 9:30 AM, conference room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of **SB 1025**, which would change the Kūpuna Caregivers Program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week as well as appropriate \$2 million per year for two fiscal years for implementation of the program.

According to a MetLife survey, the cost of home health aide and homemaker services are significantly higher in Hawai'i than the national average. Ninety percent of people over age 65 say they would prefer to remain stay in their homes as long as possible. Our extended 'ohana are often loving caregivers, but providing that care can often create financial and emotional stress.

When the caregiver is working full-time, adding care duties adds significant personal strain for the caregiver. As a result, many caregivers make the difficult decision to leave their job or reduce their work hours to care for an aging family member.

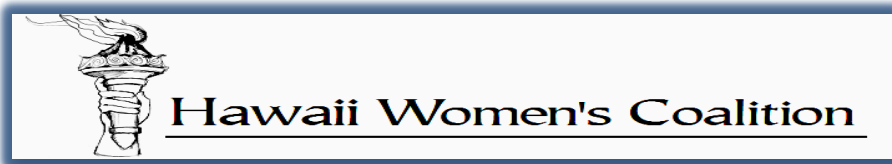
We commend you for creating the Kūpuna Caregivers Program, the first of its kind in the nation. This groundbreaking program is a crucial way to both provide a safety net for Hawai'i's family caregivers and invest in our paid care workforce.

It is essential that the program continue to be funded adequately in order to help many of our working families, who are in desperate need of the financial support that the program can provide.

Supporting home caregiving means Hawai'i can honor the wishes of our seniors, improve their health outcomes, and reduce the cost of long-term care for both family caregivers and the state.

Please pass SB 1025. We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.



COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2019
TIME: 9:30am
PLACE: Conference Room 229

LATE

Strong Support for SB 1025.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members,

The Hawaii Women's Coalition is in **Strong Support** of Senate Bill 1025, 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.

This is very much a women's issue as over 57% of caregivers in Hawaii are women, many of whom are working and must keep their jobs in order for their families to survive. The need is urgent and the predicted aging tsunami is upon us.

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. 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 groups not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare with the costs. Too many of these are barely making it, and risk losing their jobs or having to reduce hours because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the earning power of the caregivers, including their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer to poverty.

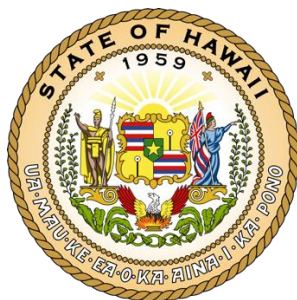
The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have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

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Please pass this bill out of committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed
Co-Chair, Hawaii Women's Coalition



LATE

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women
Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director

Prepared for the S. Cmtee. on CPH

In Support of SB1025
Friday, February 1, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women wishes to mahalo you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB1025, which would appropriate funds for the kupuna caregivers program.

More seniors in Hawai'i live past the age of 65 compared to anywhere else in the United States. Women over 65 and older are much more likely to be poor than men, regardless of race, educational background, and marital status. Thus, women face greater financial pressure to rely on friends and family care as they age. The soaring demand for affordable or free caregiving is predominantly met by women, who do not have the basic supports to allow them to take care of their families while they work. The value of the informal care that women in the United States provide ranges from \$148 billion to \$188 billion annually.¹

A care agenda should be funded and normalized into Hawai'i's economic plan. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1025.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

¹ Family Caregiver Alliance, *Women and Caregiving: Facts and Figures*, 2003, <https://www.caregiver.org/women-and-caregiving-facts-and-figures>.

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Alison Hayama, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

I am writing to you, as a caregiver for my mom who suffers from dementia at the age of 96. While I go to work 35 or more hours a week, I depend on Maluhia Adult Day Health Center to care for my mom. My goal is to keep my mom at home as long as possible so she can live a quality life till the end. Since she doesn't qualify for Medicaid, the Kupuna Caregivers Program has given tremendous support to me financially and emotionally. Now I can sleep at night and continue to care for my mom at home, allowing me to focus on caregiving and not how I was going to pay for daycare.

Please support **SB 1025** so I can continue to give quality care for my mom while keeping my full-time job.

Sincerely,

Alison Hayama
45-656 Apapane Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

m

Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee (CHP)

Rosalyn Baker (Chair)

Stanley Chang (Vice Chair)

Jarrett Keohokalole

Sharon Moriwaki

Clarence Nishihara

Russell Ruderman

Laura Thielen

Kurt Fevella

Re: SB1025

Hearing: February 1, 2019

9:30 am

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania St.

Re: SB 1025 Kupuna Caregivers Bill

Dear Honorable Sen. Rosalyn Baker (chairman) and Members of Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I know of many caregivers who burn out emotionally and financially taking care of a senior. These caregivers endanger their jobs and careers by taking care of their loved one. These caregivers need support so that they can continue to take care of their loved one at home and not put them into institutions. Working caregivers need extra help financially to pay for services like adult care giving them much needed respite and rest. We should support these caregivers because it saves the taxpayers money. Home care is cheaper than programs supported by public funds like Medicaid. It is much more expensive institutionalizing seniors than having caregivers take care of them at home. Most seniors do not want to be institutionalized.

Please pass SB1025 which provides full funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Thank you.

.

Sylvia Ching phone no. 523-1798

1611 Miller St., #304

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

m

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Avery K. Fukunaga, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 cotni

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Avery Fukunaga
2734 Bruchez Parkway #105
Westminster, CO 80234
Mother lives on Oahu

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 9:35:52 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB1025 to continue and to expand the Kupuna Caregivers program. This enables qualified caregivers to receive a modest amount of money to obtain help so that can continue their their own careers and not have to sacrifice their own retirement and Social Security.

Amending the amount from \$70 per day to \$350 per week will provide flexibility in procuring identified services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Barbara J. Service

Senator: Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator: Stanley Change, Vice Chair

Senator Donovan m. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator: Gilbert S.C. Keith - Agaran, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health & Ways and Means

Candace Young

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

2127 Maha Pl. Honolulu Hawaii

96819/ 808-349-2007

February 1, 2019 (Friday)

Support for SB No. 1025, Relating to the Kupuna Caregiver Program

Aloha,

My name is Candace Young, I am currently attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. I give my full support to SB No.1025, after reading the proposed bill I wholeheartedly give my full support to the proposed bill. As a social work student with a specialization in Gerontology, it is no secret that there has been an increase in life expectancy and Hawaii is no exception. With an increase in seniors, there is an equal number of individuals needing care. Specifically, on Oahu there is an increase in informal “family caregivers”, this paired with a high cost of living spells out disaster for many residents. As you are aware, many Hawaii residents are living paycheck to paycheck and are on the brink of homelessness. Depending on the need of the elder who needs care, working and being a full-time caregiver is nearly impossible. Services for at home nurses or hired caregivers do not come cheap. As a former informal caregiver for my grandfather with Alzheimer's and a professional caregiver with an agency, I have been exposed to both ends of the spectrum. This proposed bill will provide aid to the many informal caregivers who are waitlisted for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. With more funding allocated to this program, it will allow the program to assist more individuals and positively affect more lives. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Candace Young

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:12:45 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Takamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge your support for SB1025 in order to maintain and fully fund this important program that is aimed at helping dedicated caregivers to continue to care for their kupuna and maintain their employment. Caregiving is a difficult job and it is vital to the financial and emotional health of caregivers to be able to continue to be able to work while providing care.

From: [Cheryl Ho](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:08:36 PM

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

My name is Cheryl Ho, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 continuing this important program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Cheryl O. Ho
2933 Pahoehoe Place, Nu'uauu
Honolulu, HI 96817

January 30, 2019

SB1025 – Hearing Date: - February 1, 2019

TO: Honorable Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker and
Vice Chair Senator Stanley Chang

TO: Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and
Health

RE: SB 1025 - RELATING to: Kupuna Caregiving Programs

Most Honorable Senator Baker and Honorable Senator Stanley Chang and
members of the Committee:

- I fully support SB 1025 and ask you to vote in favor of this bill.
- To keep the economy healthy, caregivers need support services available for their loved ones from time to time.
- The caregiver's program - SB 1025 - requests an expansion of the allowable cap from \$70/day to \$350/week, as a working caregiver needs to provide a consistent amount of care while they maintain their job 'on the outside.'
- **Please support the caregivers of Hawaii.**
- **Please give full support for the funding of SB 1025.**

Respectfully submitted,

C. Olah

Honolulu Resident and Citizen

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair – Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair - Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2019
TIME: 9:30 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Re: SB 1025, Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program

Position: Support

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Chang and Committee Members,

I am writing to support SB 1025 to continue 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. This bill provides additional flexibility for the program to get the services to those who 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.

From: [David Contreras](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 9:56:13 AM

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

My name is David A. Contreras, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 continuing this important program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
David A. Contreras
PO Box 2237
Volcano, HI 96785]

Testimony Supporting SB 1025
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
February 1, 2019 at 9:30 in Conference Room 229

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.

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 9:08:33 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 11:24:12 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

I worked as a home hospice nurse in Hawaii for over 25 years, so I have first hand experience of working with family caregivers. They are some of the hardest working people in Hawaii. And they can so easily burn out. Any support that we can provide to them is so necessary and helpful..

The Kupuna Caregivers 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. The proposed increase to \$2 million per year will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful numbers of employed caregivers.

In my exoerience, most people want to remain in their homes. And families want to allow them to do this. This program can help them to do this. And may keep them out of nursing homes later, which are so much more expensive.

I totally support this bill and urge the committee to pass it. Thank you.

**Testimony of Ellen Godbey Carson
In SUPPORT OF SB 1025**

To the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
February 1, 2019 at 9:30am, Conference Room 229

I write in SUPPORT of this bill, to assist Hawaii's caregivers for our Kupuna. Many of our Kupuna need of long-term care in one form or another. Most people cannot afford the cost of institutional care and 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. 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, to help support this vital program that allows our Kupuna to be cared for in their own homes.

Ellen Godbey Carson
1080 S. Beretania St.,
Honolulu, Hawaii.

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 1:56:21 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chairperson, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

I support SB1025 relating to Kupuna Caregiving.

Many of our caregivers of our Kupuna must often sacrifice work time and, in certain case, their careers, to tend to the needs of their loved ones. On many occasions, caregivers must leave their jobs just for a few hours to make sure that their loved ones are fed, bathed, supervised, transported to their doctor or for any other activities of daily living.

Kupuna Caregiving affords our working caregivers the ability to continue to work and not jeopardize their jobs and careers by allowing them to hire qualified and trained persons to tend to their particular needs. It also relieves them of the worry for their loved ones who would be taken care of with the stipend provided by Kupuna Caregiving.

To be sure, to provide truly effective assistance to these caregivers, the law should allow enough flexibility to allow them to provide this needed care for more than one single stipend a week, as some legislative efforts appear to be leading. Often, the need fulfilled by the daily stipend reoccurs every day of the week or, at least, more frequently than once a week. Restricting access to the stipend to only once a week does not meet the true needs of caregivers and their loved ones, and may not do enough for the caregiver to continue their employment, which is the professed purpose of the law.

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Haley S Fukunaga, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 cotni

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Haley S. Fukunaga
2734 Bruchez Parkway #105
Westminster, CO 80234
Grandmother lives on Oahu

From: [Russ Painter](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 7:34:42 AM

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

My name is Hiroko Inami, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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. By now we know that the need 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 care=giving 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 continuing this important program. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Hiroko Inami
haleioluke@yahoo.com
HONOKAA

1050 Lunalilo St., #806

Honolulu, HI 96822

Feb. 1, 2019

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

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

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

I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, 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.

I work for an agency that provides support services to the frail elderly but I have also been a caregiver for both my parents and my in-laws. I understand the pressures of trying to keep family members at home, as well as working a full-time job.

Professional caregiving costs are rising and some families are unable to afford the costs of someone else to take care of their loved ones and remain fully employed. Because some families just do not have enough money for these services, they have taken the option of crossing their fingers and hoping everything goes well at home with their parent(s) while they go to their much needed job to earn money to support their own family – not a good option at all, but they have no choice.

Kupuna Care has helped the group who are not eligible for VA, Medicaid or other services with the costs. This way, caregivers can continue to be fully employed and have a way for their loved one to get the care they need and be safe in their home. This program is a plus for both the caregiver, as well as their family member, and helps lessen the chance of this family be in crisis mode. 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 the cost 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 on the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 this needed program.

Sincerely,
Jeri Takamiya

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 8:54:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Stanley Chair Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Jo-An Goss, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill would provide the needed \$2 million in funding and allow for a more flexible funding of services for caregivers up to \$350 on a weekly basis, instead of \$70 per day. It would also facilitate the contracting of more vendors.

Additionally, the Kupuna Caregivers Program attempts to minimize costs by addressing the health concerns of seniors. It is a prevention program that encourages providing care before there is a major crisis. People who are able to age at home with their family tend to have better health outcomes and thereby lessen the need for hospitalization and emergency visits.

I am grateful that the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership by promoting the continuation of funding of the Kupuna Caregivers Program. I strongly request that you will continue to do so!

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Jo-An Goss
21 Craigsid Place #4E
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: [Joanne Bacani](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1025, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM for the hearing on February 1, 2019, at 9:30 A.M., Room 229.
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 9:45:26 PM

Chair Rosalyn Baker

Vice Stanley Chair Chang

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Joanne Bacani. I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. I strongly believe this bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program. As a participant in the program, I am greatly appreciative of the assistance the program gives.

I was one of the many who called the Executive Office on Aging when I heard about the program. The program is a blessing. I work full-time and cannot afford to be a 24/7 caregiver and cover a mortgage and expenses. By being fully employed, I am able to maintain medical and drug insurance for both of us. With all the doctors my husband visits and the extensive list of medications, having a company plan is a life saver.

It takes a special person to be a caregiver. I know I am not able to give the kind of care a professional caregiver does and to do it day after day and year after year.

The Kupuna Caregivers program allows the family to do more things for the kupuna. It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for medicaid.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statue so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown foresight on this issue by creating and continuing

to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again see the necessity of the program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Joanne Bacani

4351 Halupa Street

Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Jonathan Boyne](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 1:58:37 PM

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

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 continuing this important program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Boyne
96822

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:04:00 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth G. K. Hoo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This program is so important to allow caregivers the ability to continue working while having a loved one under their care. I support this bill.

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Kirsten M.O. Tsuda

91-1133 Kamaaha Loop #1B

Kapolei, HI 96707

Friday, February 1, 2019

Support for Senate Bill 1025 (2019), relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

I strongly support Senate Bill 1025, which would change the kupuna caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week and appropriate additional funding to the program itself for the 3rd and 4th years.

I am a lifelong resident and active voter in the State of Hawaii on Oahu. I am also a student enrolled in the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. My internship and practicum site with the Elderly Affairs Division, which puts me in direct contact with the population who will benefit from the passing of this bill. This program has helped many of Hawaii's informal caregivers remain in the workforce while continuing to provide care to their aging loved one. However, this program has not helped nearly enough of the caregivers and families who seek its support. Due to the program's full capacity, many people are still in dire need.

My father was forced to leave his career of more than 30 years when my grandmother's dementia progressed, and she was no longer safe to be left alone. She later became bedbound and incapable of performing any of her ADLs or IADLs, but those extra years in the workforce would have helped my dad's retirement fund provide more comfort for later life and in the present. Many other families are burdened with this same predicament, some are in less fortunate situations due to the high rent and cost of living here. We need to take care of the those who take care of Hawaii's kupuna. Again, I fully support Senate Bill 1025 and Thank You for this opportunity to testify.

From: [Laura Robinson](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 8:30:02 AM

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

My name is Laura Robinson, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

I want to ask all of you: have you ever been, or know someone who has been, a caregiver for an elderly ohana member?

There's a quote by Rosalyn Carter that I'd like to share:

“There are only four kinds of people in the world. Those who have been caregivers. Those who are currently caregivers. Those who will be caregivers, and those who will need a caregiver.”

As a former caregiver for my grandmother who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease, I know first hand the financial, emotional, and physical burdens that caregivers experience. In total, I was the primary caregiver for my grandmother, Annie Camacho, for over ten years-- the last four of which took an enormous amount of sacrifice, and countless hours of time. My husband and I endured the balancing act of caregiving, working, and raising three children during this time. Due to the demands of caregiving, I worked part-time. To say the financial and emotional strain nearly broke me is an understatement. I felt helpless and alone. I sought help, but kept hitting dead ends.

Thankfully, my husband had a decent job that helped keep us financially stable, but we could not afford the extra cost to hire a private caregiver to provide us respite care. With my husband working 50-60 hour weeks, much of the domestic life was on me. I could go into immense detail of the day-to-day life of being a full-time caregiver of someone with Alzheimer's, but will spare you the time it would take to read through so many words.

My grandmother passed away at the age of 94, just five months after I was contacted by the Kupuna Caregivers Program to start receiving services. By that time, Hawaii Care Choices was already involved.

I took care of my grandma until her last breath-- a promise I made to her while she was still well. A promise many make to their loved ones.

I had so much I wanted to say, and now that I sit here and type, words seem to elude me.

I'll just leave you with this quote by Tia Walker:

"It is an honor to care for those who once cared for us."

That honor should be celebrated and supported, and Bill 1025 is a great start.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Laura Robinson
PO Box 1904
Hilo, HI, 96721

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 8:26:49 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB1025. Families struggle to work and care for their own children while also caring for our Kupuna. It is important that we recognize this as work and provide funds for caretakers to utilize in order to help off set some of the respite that caretakes require for their own well being. If they are not well they are not able to continue to care for our Kupuna; we want quality care for our Kupuna.

Lourdes Scheibert
920 Ward Ave #6D, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

January 31, 2019

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members Senators: Jarrett Keohokalole, Clarence Nishihara, Russell Ruderman,
Laura Thielen and Kurt Fevella.

Support for SB1025

First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige accepted our invitation to speak at Kokua Council. She shared her concerns for helping the elderly.

What I learned from Mrs. Ige is that we share the same kind of childhood growing up in a plantation community. Back in the day, we share memories when life was simple and Kupuna care-giving was shared with family members within the home. Sometimes within the neighborhood community, families would help each other, too. The families were larger with more members able to help care for their Grandma, Papa, Tutu, Apo. This was a natural way of life for plantation families. It was time to help their Kupuna to rest. Mrs Ige brought back fond memories and appreciation for growing up in a community helping each other.

Today, life is not the same with families living from pay check to pay check in the hustle to pay rent and buy groceries. The Kupuna Caregivers Program help the families to stay in the workforce while helping to aid in taking care of their loved ones with services provided. If you think about it, the Kupuna Caregivers Program is like the plantation days of caring for your Kupuna. Just a little different. We all share a community, neighborhoods and families.

Please fund the Kupuna Caregivers Program \$350.00 per week. We all have a mom and dad. One day we too will be glad that the Kupuna Caregivers Program was supported today and the future.

Thank-you,
Lourdes Scheibert
Condominium Owner

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 2:57:17 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for your support of this kupuna bill which will provide much needed assistance for those who must sacrifice their wages in order to care for their kupuna.

Sincerely,

Ann Renick

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Marissa Adachi, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

By now we know that the need is real and present. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the Kupuna Caregivers Program first launched. Families called because so many across the state are faced with the reality that the cost of professional caregiving continues to rise. Our families, like my mom, 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 otherwise eligible for support from Medicaid or Medicare. These are the folks who are still barely making it and at times, they are at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because of the responsibilities that come with caregiving at home. The stress from caregiving for our kupuna reduces the income earning power of these selfless caregivers and in turn, their social security benefits. Other challenges they face include risking their eligibility for insurance coverage if they aren't able to work. In the end, the continued financial strain is placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping our families before crisis strikes. 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 who are able to age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits. In the end, better health outcomes protects our state from expensive medical procedures that would have otherwise been prevented with adequate care.

This bill will provide the \$2 million in funding that is so desperately needed. Not only will it help cover the families who are still on the waiting list, it will also change the statute for the better. Instead of providing \$70 per day in services, families would be provided an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day, for 5 days a week). Big picture: the Executive Office on Aging will be able to negotiate more freely with vendors and provide the caregiving families of Hawaii with more services and the financial help they need.

Each year, the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope that this year, you will once again step up and continue helping families across the state, so they may remain employed while caring for our aging loved ones.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Marissa Adachi
45-159 Kokokahi Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Marjorie Erway](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB1025
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 7:38:06 PM

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health!

This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, which, obviously, is a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers. Since it is a prevention program, it helps reduce costs to the State by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid.

SB1025 provides the needed \$2 millin in funding which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It also allows the Executive Office on Aging to be able to negotiate easier with vendors.

I hope I can count on this Committee to fully support SB1025.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Marjorie Erway
PO Box 2807
Kailua Kona, HI 96745
324-4624

TESTIMONY OF
MARLENE Q. F. YOUNG, J.D.
STUDENT, MYRON B. THOMPSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH,
AND WAYS AND MEANS.

February 1, 2019

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

MEASURE: S. B. No. 1025

TITLE: RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION: CHANGES THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM ALLOCATION CAP FROM \$70 PER DAY TO \$350 PER WEEK. APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM.

POSITION:

As a Masters in Social Work student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and as a private citizen, and kupuna caregiver, I am in support of this measure and offer the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

I am in support of this measure, primarily as a kupuna caregiver. As a Masters in Social Work student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, University of Hawai'i at Manoa,

I also serve, along with my spouse, as a live-in caregiver for my father of ninety-seven (97) years.

I respectfully recommend the passage of this bill in order to provide deserving caregivers of kupuna the ability to work while engaging the help of experienced workers to assist in caring for their kupuna. The “job” of caregiving for kupuna has long been overlooked, although it plays a critical role in our society in Hawai‘i. The appropriation will serve to provide much needed funding to qualified workers for kupuna, thus enabling caregivers to earn money to support their families.

According to United States Census estimates, the population of people aged sixty-five (65)+ is the fastest growing in the nation. By the State of Hawai‘i’s Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism records, this particular population (65+) has grown from 14.3 per cent in 2010 to 17.1 per cent in 2016. Given the aging of baby boomers (born 1946-1964), this “silver tsunami” will only grow much larger in the next few decades. Based on the foregoing, the need for this long-term appropriation is urgent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the measure.

SB1025

Testimony for CPH on 1/30/19.

From: [Peter Oh- Gmail](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB1025 (Kapuna Caregiver Program)
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:14:03 PM

Peter Oh
801 Ala Nioi Place
Honolulu, HI 96818

January 30, 2019

House District 32
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 426
phone: 808-586-6220
fax: 808-586-6221

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

I am writing to you in regards to Senate Bill 1025 relating to Kapuna Caregiver Program that help family caregivers who work at least 30 hours/week outside the home by providing a \$70/day benefit in services that make caring for aging family members who are 60 and over more affordable and accessible. It can help pay for things like

- Home health care workers
- Extra help preparing meals
- Adult day care costs
- Transportation

My elderly mother and father are 89 years of age. They emigrated from Korea to Hawaii in 1976. At their younger years, they were hardworking and healthy. Now my father and mother are very frail with many medical conditions. Especially my mother whose health has deteriorated over the years hindering her from an active lifestyle. Now, she is house-ridden and requires constant reliance on her daughter for trips to the supermarket, church, doctor's office, etc.

Few days ago, my sister who is a primary caregiver was terminated from her employment because she missed too many days of work due taking time off work to care for my mother. The employer felt that she was "unreliable" and missed too many days of work.

Today, I spoke to a Kapuna Caregiver Program representative and was informed there is a long wait list due to limited funding and great public demand for caregiver assistance.

In Hawaii, I am certain there are many that are in the same circumstances as my sister. I urge you to improve and expand the Kapuna Caregiver program perhaps increasing the funding or resources so that people like my sister can work and care for their elderly parents.

Regards,
Peter Oh

From: [Phyllis Hanson](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025, for the hearing on February 1, 2019
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:51:16 PM

The Kupuna Caregiver Program was a great idea and should be continued (and improved.)

These programs, while ostensibly costing 'something,' usually end up saving the state (or county) money.

Our seniors should be able to age at home...

I support **Senate Bill 1025**

Phyllis Hanson
78-7230 Puupele Road
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: [Rich](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 1025
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 3:20:40 PM

To: Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee

Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025,
to be heard on 2/1/2019 @ 9:30 AM in room 229.

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

Respectfully, I support the change of reimbursement from \$70/day to \$350/week in order to provide more flexibility in the delivery of necessary services, and in support of Kupuna and Caregiver needs.

Mahalo,
Richard Goldman
67-1220 Halalena Place
Kamuela, HI 96743
rsgold@gmail.com

From: [Stephen T Berkson](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 7:31:38 PM

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

My name is ___Stephen Berkson___, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 continuing this important program.

~ As a former caregiver molokai ne I think any and all funding,energy,effort,should be given the the cared-for,organizations,and caregivers themselves that work with our kupuna.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Stephen T Berkson
PO Box 1722 K'kai,HI. 96748

Sent from my iPhone

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Stanley Chair Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Friday, February 1, 2019

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

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

My name is Tracie Kam Romualdo, and I am writing to express my support for **Senate Bill 1025**, 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.

We must act now. 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 provide adequate care for 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, may also place their insurance coverage at risk, and moves 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 who age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, experience less hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could be prevented with adequate care.

This bill provides the needed \$2 million in funding and help extend coverage to those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute from providing \$70 per day in services per week to an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to offer more services.

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 blaze the trail for our kupuna and their families – because it is the right thing to do.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Tracie Kam Romualdo, MSW, LSW
1375 Ala Hoku Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

From: [Troy Siruno](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025, for the hearing on February 1,
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 9:18:18 PM

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Friday, February 1, 2019

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

My name is Troy Siruno and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 continuing this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Troy Siruno
tsiruno@gmail.com
Honolulu, Hawaii

From: [Wade Hayama](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1025, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 5:30:39 AM

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Friday, February 1, 2019
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1025, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS

PROGRAM

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee,
My name is Wade Hayama, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

This support relieves Financial and Emotional stress on our family since my mother does not qualify for Medicaid.

Without this support my mother is able to attend needed day care to allow my wife to be able to continue to work as a school teacher.

And allows my mother to reside at home with her loved one.

Thank you for considering my testimony and supporting this Bill.



Wade Hayama
45-656 Apapane Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

On Wed, Jan 30, 2019 at 8:46 PM Wade Hayama <whayama@gmail.com> wrote:

Chair Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair Stanley Chang
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Friday, February 1, 2019
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1025, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA
CAREGIVERS

PROGRAM

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee,
My name is Wade Hayama, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

This support relieves Financial and Emotional stress on our family since my mother does not qualify for Medicaid.

Without this support my mother is able to attend needed day care to allow my wife to be able to continue to work as a school teacher.

And allows my mother to reside at home with her loved one.

Thank you for considering my testimony and supporting this Bill.

Wade Hayama
45-656 Apapane Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Whitney Kim](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 8:29:53 AM

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

My name is Whitney Kim, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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.

By now we know that the need 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.

This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 continuing this important program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Whitney Kim
1532 Pensacola St
Honolulu, HI 96822

Lourdes Scheibert
920 Ward Ave #6D, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

January 31, 2019

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members Senators: Jarrett Keohokalole, Clarence Nishihara, Russell Ruderman,
Laura Thielen and Kurt Fevella.

Support for SB1025

First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige accepted our invitation to speak at Kokua Council. She shared her concerns for helping the elderly.

What I learned from Mrs. Ige is that we share the same kind of childhood growing up in a plantation community. Back in the day, we share memories when life was simple and Kupuna care-giving was shared with family members within the home. Sometimes within the neighborhood community, families would help each other, too. The families were larger with more members able to help care for their Grandma, Papa, Tutu, Apo. This was a natural way of life for plantation families. It was time to help their Kupuna to rest. Mrs Ige brought back fond memories and appreciation for growing up in a community helping each other.

Today, life is not the same with families living from pay check to pay check in the hustle to pay rent and buy groceries. The Kupuna Caregivers Program help the families to stay in the workforce while helping to aid in taking care of their loved ones with services provided. If you think about it, the Kupuna Caregivers Program is like the plantation days of caring for your Kupuna. Just a little different. We all share a community, neighborhoods and families.

Please fund the Kupuna Caregivers Program \$350.00 per week. We all have a mom and dad. One day we too will be glad that the Kupuna Caregivers Program was supported today and the future.

Thank-you,
Lourdes Scheibert
Condominium Owner

SB1025_ Kupuna Caregivers Program_CPH_Testimony_01-31-19

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker , Senator Stanley Chang

Chairs: Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

I support the intent and content of SB1025 which would increase funding for the Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program to \$2,000,000.

While not a family caregiver or personally needing the program's assistance at this point in time, I have seen the stress for friends involved in family caregiving as they try to balance its economic and time demands in their lives.

I support added funding for this cost-effective program for targeted assistance with the cost of critical in-home care and services outside the home while family caregivers are at work during the week, they need to continue to work, but they cannot afford the full cost of the services that may be needed.

Most people want to live at home with family members as long as possible, the numbers of those who are over 65 years are increasing, and many need either adult day care while their caregiving family member is at work or at least some help with everyday activities such as meals or transportation. Often their family caregivers need help with respite care for themselves. The cost of nursing home care is jaw-dropping; reportedly it now averages over \$130,000 per year in Hawaii.

Established two years ago, the Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program appears to be a well-designed, popular and cost-effective way to keep elder family members at home longer and to reduce the time needed in a nursing home and the cost of caring for them there. But the need for some level of financial assistance for family home-based care is much greater than the level of funding provided last year. Unpaid family care-givers are not only an important part of Hawaii's healthcare safety net but also Hawaii's spirit of aloha. They deserve appreciation from all of us.

I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for considering my views.

Janet Gillmar
3035 La-i Road
Honolulu

From: [Robert H Stiver](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 11:09:57 AM

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

I write in support for Senate Bill 1025, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance 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.

By now we know that the need is there (here!). 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 Assistance 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 -- funding that will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services.

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 continuing this important program.

I have personal, traumatic experience with caregiving -- in a progressing trajectory over more than 30 years until my beloved wife passed on August 19, 2016. I had no choice: such were my marriage vows and my love for Masako. I could have used some occasional respite. I believe that the Kupuna Caregivers Assistance Act, signed into law by Governor Ige in mid-2017, began admirably to address this need. Please keep the respite movement alive and active, to include the provision of \$2 million as outlined above -- for the sake of caregivers and their needy kupuna.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely, with Aloha,

Robert H. Stiver
Pearl City
455-9823

From: [Samuel L Domingo](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB 1025
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019 3:02:26 PM

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee, My name is Samuel L. Domingo, a leader of Faith Action for Community Equity, and I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1025, 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. By now we know that the need 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. Our family understands this great challenge as we were caring for my father in law, who was in hospice home care for more than 2 years. 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. This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still in the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week) so that the Executive Office on Aging is able to negotiate more freely with vendors and be able to provide more services. 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 continuing this important program. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Rev. Samuel L Domingo
204 Kuuhua Place
Kailua, HI 96734

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Samuel L Domingo

Representative Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Representative Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair
Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Kimberly Gamalog
91-107 Haiea Pl.
Ewa Beach, HI. 96706



Friday February 1, 2019

Testimony in support of SB1025 Relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chair Representative Rosalyn H. Baker, and Vice Chair Representative Stanley Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kimberly Gamalog, and I am a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing this testimony in support of SB1025 relating to the Kupuna Careviers Program.

I stand in support of the Kupuna Caregivers program, because I myself have had the experience of caring for a kupuna and know the hardships that may occur. As a home health aide I provide long-term and respite care for families of kupuna who are a part of the busy working class. My mother is also an adult foster care home operator, and provides care to the kupuna around the clock. From observing the quality of care that my mother provides to her clients, and for caring for clients myself, I understand how difficult it is to care for the kupuna and how vital respite is. Caring for the kupuna is not a job, but it is a lifestyle because so much time is dedicated to their safety, wellbeing and comfort.

Because we live in Hawaii and the cost of living is exponentially high, it is nearly impossible for a working caregiver to continue working and care for their kupuna without burning out. Although there are private insurance companies who do provide long-term services such as home health aides and nurses, the cost of these services may be out of reach and unattainable to some families. With the Kupuna Caregivers program it will alleviate some of the stress that working caregivers may experience. For example, the Kupuna Caregivers program will help to provide additional assistance to the working caregiver. It will alleviate the stress of finding respite care for working caregivers who may need to remain active in the workplace. Thank you for considering my testimony.

To: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbery S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair



Rebecca Petit
3075 Ala Poha Pl unit 705
Honolulu, HI 96818

Wednesday January 30, 2019

From: Rebecca Petit, Student at UH Manoa

Dear Senate representatives,

I write to you in support of Senate Bill 1025 relating to Kupuna Care, which will continue to provide funding for a wide range of programs such as transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, chores and homemaking services; that support the kupuna and their family caregivers.

Living in Hawaii, we are fortunate to be in a melting pot of cultures. A common value that is within our community is having a collectivistic mindset towards our family and friends around us.

When a loved one ages they may need living assistance and in our community it is common that a family member or close friend will take the role as a family caregiver for the kupuna. According to AARP there are approximately 154,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii. Given the increasing population of kupuna living longer, there will likely be an increase of family caregivers also.

Unfortunately statistics have shown the negative side effects of caregiving which can contribute to depression and stress, neglecting their own health care appointments, and eating a poor-quality diet (Schulz, 2008).

Family caregivers contribute to society by allowing kupuna to live at home, instead of a nursing home. Especially for kupuna who have a physical illness,

Dr Jim Davie a consultant in medicine for older people stated that "Most people do not want to be admitted to hospital. Older people who have physical illness and/or confusion are often happier at home and often recover better in their own environment.

Letting Kupuna live at home allows them to have control over their lives, and providing services may assist the Kupuna in having a sense of independence.

If this bill passes, family systems will benefit across the state. SB 1025 is a long-term solution to help the Ohana of Hawaii take better care of Kupuna on both ends of the caregiver and person needing assistance. I know that one day if this bill passes it will contribute to the next generation because I will be in a position of being a family caregiver for my parents.

I have witnessed the challenges of being a family caregiver, which oftentimes requires a lot of sacrifice. I had a friend whose ex-husband's parents were older and required assistance in everyday living while being at home. The ex-husband was in jail and the elderly couple's daughter was incapable of being their caregiver since there was emotional and physical abuse involved when she was. My friend chose to drop out of her PhD program and take on the responsibilities of taking care of her ex-husband's parents and also her mother. Fortunately my friend was financially stable which helped ease some stress of being a family caregiver, but I saw that her life consisted of bathing the Kupuna on a daily basis, grocery shopping, helping with their bills, organizing medication, taking them to the doctors, providing meals, and above all being a support system to them. I know that the elderly couple and her mother are forever grateful for the care she has invested in them so that they can still live comfortably at home.

Overall, I support SB 1025 relating to Kupuna Care because it will allow our kupuna to continue live at home and ease the stresses on family caregivers.

Schulz, R., & Sherwood, P. R. (2008). Physical and Mental Health Effects of Family Caregiving. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 108(9 Suppl), 23–27. <http://doi.org/10.1097/01.NAJ.0000336406.45248.4c>

Wilson, C. (2013, April 3). Elderly patients recover better at home. Retrieved February 11, 2017, from http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/13098845.Elderly_patients_recover_better_at_home/

To: Senate [Committee On Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health](#)
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

LATE

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2019

RE: SB1025, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1025 Relating to The Kupuna Caregivers Program. My name is Linda Dorset and I am a concerned aging resident and live in the Wailuku area.

I believe that the Kupuna Caregivers Program helps maintain strong communities by lowering barriers facing family caregivers working outside the home as they balance work with caregiving. Providing that care can often create financial and emotional stress. In 2016, the cost home health care in Hawai'i was almost \$10,000 higher than the national average. The annual cost of hiring a home health aide was nearly \$60,000 in 2016 and is expected to increase to more than \$75,000 over the next decade.

By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i. That means that most of us will either be caregivers or need care. Working caregivers need to keep their jobs; not just to support their families now, but also to protect retirement security because leaving their jobs to provide care will reduce their Social Security credits.

The passage of this bill is important to me because my husband, who has lung cancer, is going to need a caregiver when he undergoes radiation treatment. I might need leave my job to make sure that he is fed, bathed, supervised, transported to his doctor or for any other activities of daily living. This appropriation would allow me to get services to help with these activities so I could continue to work to support us. I am concerned, not just with salary, but if I need to drop below full time work, I will lose my employer sponsored health insurance plan which covers both of us. I know there are many others with the same concern.

Please allow this bill to move forward out of committee and to expand, not restrict, access to *Kupuna* Caregiving to realistically help working caregivers keep working.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 5:54:21 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Bond	Testifying for AARP	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Sen. Rosalyn Baker, and Members of Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

My name is Janice Bond and I am Vice President of the Kauai Elderly Affairs Advisory Council as well as an AARP legislative advocate. I strongly support SB 1025 to support the *Kupuna* Caregiving Program. Some caregivers of our *kupun*asacrifice their careers to tend to the needs of their loved ones. Caregivers must sometimes leave their jobs to make sure that their loved ones are fed, bathed, supervised, transported to their doctor or for any other activities of daily living.

*The Kupuna*Caregiving program affords our working caregivers the ability to continue to work and not jeopardize their jobs and careers by providing day care or other needed services. Currently Kauai has provided eight caregivers services for their loved ones: five daughters/daughter-in-law, one son/son-in-law, one granddaughter and one other relative. There are several caregivers on a waiting list.

I urge the legislature to pass SB 1025 and to expand, not restrict, access to *Kupuna* Caregiving to realistically help working caregivers keep working while addressing the needs of their loved ones in need of care.

Mahalo for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Janice S. Bond

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 12:39:16 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gil A Penaranda	Testifying for AARP	Support	No

Comments:

I am proud to submit support for the continued funding for SB1025 relating to Kupuna Caregiving program.

The Kupuna Caregiving program affords our working caregivers the ability to continue to work and not jeopardize their jobs and careers by providing day care or other needed services to the kupunas for whom these same caregivers are lovingly caring.

LATE

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1025
RELATING TO KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

RE: SB 1025 Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 1, 2019, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of SB 1025 relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program so our seniors in need can receive basic care. My name is Anna Filler and I retired four years ago at the age of 75. I urge the Legislature to pass SB 1025 and to help working caregivers to keep working while assisting the needs of their loved ones in need of care.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a cost effective way for caregivers to continue to work and prevent the majority of seniors from being placed in a nursing home and allows them to age in place at home with their loved ones.

I urge the Legislature to pass SB 1025 and expand, not restrict, access to Kupuna Caregiving for Hawaii's growing senior population.

Thank you very much for your consideration in support of SB 1025

Anna Filler
Email: afiller@twc.com
Kakaako/Senate District 12

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 4:45:44 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/1/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Chun-Urma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB1025 regarding the Kupuna Caregiving Program. It will help seniors get services that they need, and help caregivers stay in the workforce.

I was a teacher at Wahiawa Middle, and retired in December 2016. I had only 28 years of service with the State (15 years as a teacher), and took the early retirement penalty. My father was at risk of falling and needed help in walking, and later, with personal care. My mother (a stroke survivor in her late 80s, and less than 100 pounds) was not able to assist him in walking. After Dad passed away in July 2018, I decided not to return to work because Mom needs some help with fetching the newspaper and mail, buying her groceries and supplies, doing her banking, and other chores. She doesn't need much help, but she likes having someone around in case she needs help.

If this program had been available to me, I might have been able to keep working. I know of several other teachers who have retired or are considering leaving due to parental care issues. Please vote for SB 1025 and expand access to Kupuna Caregiving so that caregivers can continue to work and Kupuna can get the care they need.