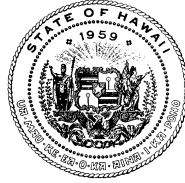


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CAROLINE CADIRAO
PSM MANAGER

BRUCE ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1025
Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR GIL KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 25, 2019
10:25 AM

Room Number: 211

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health, supports SB1025 relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program provided that its
3 enactment does not reduce or replace priorities within the Administration's executive biennium
4 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.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCL)

COMMITTEE WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2019

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 221
State Capitol

RE: SB 1025 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Melodie Aduja, Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i. Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1025. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1025, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.**

SB 1025 provides that the kupuna caregivers program shall award an allocation of funds, subject to the availability of funding and up to a maximum of \$350 per week, to cover costs for the following services that would otherwise be performed by the qualified caregiver for the care recipient: adult day care; assisted transportation; chores ; home-delivered meals; homemaker services; personal care; respite care; or transportation; that the allocated funds shall be issued directly to the service provider upon request and receipt of an invoice for services rendered.

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 expend the home care workforce, give kupuna and people with disability access to quality, affordable long-term care, services, and supports, and ensure that all 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 Ways and Means.

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



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 Ways and Means
Monday, February 25, 2019, 10:25 AM, conference room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 12:10:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Yurie Takishima-Lacasa	Testifying for Hawai'i Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports this measure which changes the kupuna caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to \$350 per week. The act would allow for continuation of appropriate funds for the implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.



Evelyn Hao
President

Rev. Won-Seok Yuh
Vice President-
Clergy

William Bekemeier
Vice President-
Laity

Jon Davidann
Treasurer

Deanna Espinas
Secretary

Christy MacPherson
Executive
Director

Soo San Schake
Organizing
Assistant

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, February 25, 2019

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

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

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.

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,

Evelyn Aczon Hao
President
Faith Action for Community Equity



CGPTA
Chinatown Gateway Plaza
Tenant Association
Since 2006

To: Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)
From: Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)
Date: Monday, February 25, 2019, 10:25 AM
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

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

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Steve Lohse, I'm a resident of Chinatown Gateway Plaza (CGP), a 200-unit, city-owned, affordable housing property in Chinatown. I'm also chair of the CGP Tenant Association (CGPTA), organized by CGP residents in 2006 to keep ourselves informed and engaged in matters of concern to our community. **On behalf of the CGPTA, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in Strong Support for SB1025.**

If you're like me, then you have seen kupuna in your family and your community grow old and in need of care. If your family shares these experiences, then you know that kupuna caregivers, especially in working families, need help to sustain this caregiving role.

How can we possibly justify not helping? Please, generously fund the Kupuna Caregivers Program. 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

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



February 25, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 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

Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, February 25, 2019
10:25 p.m.
Conference Room 211

To: Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,
RE: Testimony in Support of SB1025, RELATING TO KUPUNA CAREGIVERS

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jessica Wooley and I am the Advocacy Director for AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership-based organization of people age fifty and over with about 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care, access to affordable, quality health care for all generations and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports SB1025, which appropriates \$2,000,000 to Hawaii's Kupuna Caregivers program for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same for 2020-2021, to help Hawaii's working caregivers stay in the workforce. This is a landmark program that is helping vulnerable *kupuna* and the working caregivers who care for them (often working women, struggling to keep their jobs while caring for loved ones), providing significant benefits to the community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1025.



State of Hawaii Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Legislature
Monday, February 25, 2019 at 10:25 a.m.
Room 211

SB 1025 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

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

For core services such as Home Delivered Meals, Transportation, or Personal Assistance, we are concerned about capping these services to once per week. One meal a week would presumably not make a significant enough impact to allow a caregiver to remain in the workforce. Instead we propose allowing the Executive Office on Aging to create a plan to reach more people and to maximize the number of recipients served perhaps by **capping the dollar amount available to each household on a needs-based sliding scale or implementing different caps for each core service.**

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, seeking to provide relief to working caregivers who are supporting their kupuna in aging in-place. Working caregivers will continue to provide revenue to the State of Hawaii in taxes related to their work productivity and keeping kupuna at home potentially helps reduce costs to the State by delaying the time when the kupuna would draw on Medicaid.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Rona Yagi Fukumoto
President & CEO, Lanakila Pacific


Lori Lau
Director, Lanakila Meals on Wheels

Lanakila Pacific Board
Scott Nahme, *Chair*
Carl Hinson, *Vice Chair*
Kristi O'Heron, *Secretary*
Dwayne Takeno, *Treasurer*
Bob Toyofuku
Suzanne Kaulukukui

JoAnn Yosemite
Savan Patel
Tom Hutton
Maria Borje-Bonkowski
Sherri Yim
Dawn Hirano
Paige Choy
Frank Ho

Foundation Board
Ryan Yamamoto, *Chair*
Cleo Brown, *Vice Chair*
Alton Murakami,
Treasurer/Secretary
Bill Kern
Ed Sugimoto

Jackson Nakasone
Jodi Endo Chai
Scott Kavanaugh
Mike Robinson
Bryan Kapeckas
Emmit Kane

President and CEO
Rona Yagi Fukumoto



SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 7:38:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

Re: SB1025 Relating to Kupuna Care

February 25, 2019 10:25 a.m. Room 211.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and committee members.

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

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

Please fund this program at \$2M to continue to serve caregivers and their Kupuna.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony.

Barbara J. Service MSW (ret.)

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 8:38:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 7:05:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jun Shin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 9:55:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:

Kupuna and their caregivers need this help! This help should be flexible and considerate of the caregiver, the care recipient and the service provider. Please retain the change to \$350.00 weekly. Thanks for considering my testimony.

Jim Cisler, kupuna, caregiver, elder advocate

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2019
TIME: 10:25 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211

Re: SB 1025, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Position: Support

Dear Senators Dela Cruz and Keith-Agaran, 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.

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:41:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Phyllis Ida
Kaneohe, Hawaii
phyllis.ida@gmail.com

Kathy Jaycox
559 Pauku Street
Kailua, HI 96734
United States

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

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, February 25, 2019

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

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

My name is Phyllis Ida, 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 to fund this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, February 25, 2019

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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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.

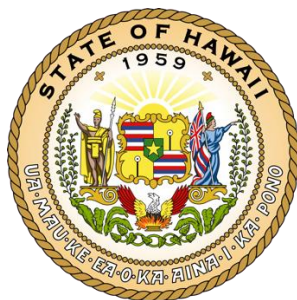
This bill will provide the needed \$2 million in funding, which will help cover those people who are still on the waiting list. It will also change the statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per week (the same as \$70 per day for 5 days a week)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

I am writing to you, as a caregiver for my mom who suffers from dementia at the age of 96. While I am at work, full time, 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 as long as possible. She is most comfortable living with me and dependent on the care I give her. The Kupuna Caregivers Program has given our family tremendous support financially and emotionally. As the primary caregiver, I can sleep at night and continue to care for my mom at home, allowing me to focus on caregiving while keeping my full-time job. If I have to limit the hours I work, I will lose my medical and dental insurance benefits, as well as social security contributions. Not capping services to once a week, also helps me delay the process of applying for Medicaid for my mother and placing her in a nursing home facility or foster care.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Alison Hayama
45-656 Apapane Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744



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 WAM

In Support of SB1025
Monday, February 25, 2018 at 10:25 a.m. in Room 211

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women **supports** 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 The quiet heroism of unpaid women caregivers alone cannot be the primary countervailing factor to our caregiving crisis.

An ethic of care should be funded and normalized into Hawai'i's economic plan. Accordingly, the Commission asks the Committee to pass 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>.



THE SENATE

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

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

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Monday, February 25, 2019; 10:25 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 Kupuna Caregivers Program was established in the 2017 session as the first of its kind in the nation. Starting with an appropriation of \$600,000, increased to \$1.2 million in 2018, funding is used to assist family caregivers with support services for their loved ones in order to allow caregivers to retain their own employment. While services are provided to the kupuna, **the “client” effectively is the employed family caregiver, who needs assistance to remain in the workforce.** With assistance to care for a loved one, the caregiver can work to protect his or her own financial security now and into the future. Another beneficiary of this program is the caregiver’s employer, who is spared the upheaval of absenteeism and premature retirement or resignation due to an employee’s caregiving responsibilities.

Although a range of services are available, adult day care has been determined the most cost-effective. Kupuna can receive services at an adult day care facility from professional staff who provide meals and a safe and healthful environment but also facilitate opportunities for socialization during the day while the caregiver is at work. This is good for the kupuna but affords the caregiver peace of mind that the kupuna is well cared for and allows the caregiver to retain his or her own employment.

The relatively nominal cost of adult day care allows kupuna to remain in their own homes, which they prefer to do, and keeps them out of costly institutional care, which can run more than \$11,000 a month and usually requires kupuna to apply for Medicaid, half of which is funded by the State and taxpayers.

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. But \$2 million is a beginning step toward addressing this growing problem.

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

We believe that more, not less, needs to be provided for programs such as Kupuna Caregivers. The problem of an aging population continues to grow and efforts must be made to address them NOW. The Kupuna Caregiver Program aids not one but three populations: kupuna, caregivers, and employers.

We have, however, two concerns. One is that not enough **publicity** is being given to this program. Too few know about it. Program officials may be hesitant to publicize the program, for fear of fueling expectations that cannot be met. But we believe that the State needs to know the full extent of the demand in order to better respond to it. Sticking your head in the sand will not make the problem go away. If the program is publicized widely, the Executive Office on Aging and the Legislature will then have **better data** on the scope of the problem and how to address it.

The second concern is about **prioritization for services**. Currently, services are provided on a “first come, first served” basis. If you know about the program and apply early when money is still available, you are likely to receive services—even if someone else with far less means may be deemed “more needy” and will, without these services, lose their job and face a financially bleak future. Some methodology for determining financial impact should be considered.

In any case, the Kupuna Caregivers Program is one that is well worth funding. The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 1025. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 8:38:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Ewan	Testifying for Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha State Association of the Deaf strongly supports this bill. There are many kupuna that have hearing loss. They will need more support with legislation's financial support for the program. Mahalo.

Darlene Ewan

President

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 11:02:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

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

Comments:



Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members,

We strongly support this measure to begin adequate minimum funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program. Women and our families are in dire need of this support.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair Hawaii Women's Coalition

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:15:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Stone-Walls	Testifying for Maui County Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:16:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a kupuna and for the reasons stated in SB1025, I fully support this bill, especially to help those with limited resources with additional resources to cover a variety of support services, such as adult day care, assisted transportation, homemaker services, etc.

LATE

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, February 25, 2019
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

To: Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,
RE: Testimony in Support of SB1024 RE:HB467 HD1, 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.

Thousands of calls have flooded the Executive Office on Aging to enroll in the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Additional funds will be needed to provide services to the families on this wait list. Providing \$2 Million in funding for the 2019-2020 fiscal year will help serve all who are currently on the waitlist.

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. Caregivers should not have to choose between staying fully employed or providing adequate care for their loved one. The program funds up to \$70 a day in services that working family caregivers need in order to stay active in the workforce while caring for their kupuna at home.

I am also in support of the additional language to be added to statute to allow more flexibility for the counties to use the funds up to \$350 a week rather than \$70 a day.

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 to 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, and may have to rely on Medicaid, which also involve State funding.

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.

LATE

THE SENATE

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

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

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Monday, February 25, 2019

TIME: 10:25 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha. My name is Meagan Kimsel and I am a student at The University of Hawaii at Manoa currently in the Social Work Program. I am also an intern at Faith Action, formerly known as F.A.C.E (Faith Action for Community Equity). I am writing this testimony for SB1025 Relating To The Kupuna Caregivers Program. I strongly support this bill which 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.

I am in favor of continuing to provide better resources for our caregivers who support our kupuna. The caregivers, who are usually family members, are having to stretch their already tight budget to care for kupuna. Financial support will help them to better care for kupuna while also

being able to care for themselves. I took care of my grandfather and I know first hand how difficult it was to support an extra person financially, especially an elderly person.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimony in regards to SB1025 Relating To The Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Meagan Kimsel

kimselmj@hawaii.edu

LATE

**TESTIMONEY FOR SB 1025
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

RE: Support for SB 1025, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 25, 2019, 10:25 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anna Filler and I am submitting testimony in support of SB 1025, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

SB 1025 that provides funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. 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 other health care needs. I hope you will continue to fund this critical program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1025.

Anna Filler
Email: afiller@twc.com
Kaka'ako, District 12

February 25, 2019

LATE

To : Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

RE: SB1025, Relating to Kupuna Care Givers Program

Hearing: February 25, 2019 – 10:25am, Conference Room 211

Most Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

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

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

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

I am in full support of this bill.

Please continue your support of this measure.

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah
Honolulu Resident**

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:14:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Ishikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support SB1025 Kupuna Caregiver wich will enable those who care for their kupuna can receive one, two, three, four or five days \$70.00/day to continue to remain in the work place. I feel that those who are in a higher income bracket should not avail themselves of the \$70/day and care must be assured that during the application process this will not occur as this bill is intended those who are need be given priority. Thank you for your cosnideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ishikawa, A Concerned/Resident of Hawai'i nei

LATE

SB-1025

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:20:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:25:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannette Kojane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz

Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Monday, February 25, 2019

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

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

My name is Jeannette Kojane 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 know that support for caregivers is a crucial need right now in our community. So many of us know first hand the burden that our friends, neighbors, colleagues and family have to care for loved ones with serious illness. This crisis needs to be addressed immediately as it is already at a critical stage.

This bill provides 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. Just having one day a week of support doesn't really help working people who need care 5 days a week.

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Jeannette Kojane

PO Box 62223, Honolulu, HI 96839