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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Committee on Health
Thursday, February 6, 2020
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

To: Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Re: H.B.1867 Relating to Kūpuna Caregivers Program

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Chair Mizuno, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawai'i 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.

H.B.1867 appropriates funds to the Kūpuna Caregivers program to assist family members who are providing care for elders to stay in the workforce. In addition, this bill amends the definition of a "qualified caregiver" by reducing the hours per week (from 30 hours to 20) that an individual needs to be employed in order to be a qualified caregiver under this program. This will assist more working caregivers to care for their loved ones in their own homes.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports H.B.1867. This program supports our working caregivers who struggle to care for their loved ones while holding down their jobs and other personal responsibilities. The program provides a care benefit which allows families to obtain services such as home care or adult day care that will safely supervise a family member at home or in a community setting. This is less expensive than a nursing home which costs \$160,000 annually. (2019 American Council on Aging- Annual Private Room Rate)

AARP fully supports this program which will assist Hawaii's 154,000 caregivers, whom many are currently still in the workforce, and continue to care for our kūpuna in their homes and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B.1867.



The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
Committee on Health
Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Thursday, February 6, 2020; 8:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 1867
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.B. 1867, which amends the total amount of hours per week an individual must be employed to be a qualified caregiver under the Kupuna Caregivers Program from thirty to twenty and appropriates for the proper implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

The extremely high cost of institutionalization is prohibitive for most people needing long-term services and supports, but many prefer to avoid nursing and care homes because they want to remain at home with the support of family caregivers.

But many family caregivers are still employed and cannot afford to take time off from work to provide care for their loved ones. The Kupuna Caregivers Program was specifically designed to help these caregivers by providing their care recipients with services that will allow the family caregiver to remain in the workforce without having to worry about how their loved ones are doing during the day. In many cases, adult day care offers the best type of services where the care recipient receives meals and support throughout the day provided by trained professionals.

Of course, since the program's funding is limited, only a relatively small number of family caregivers may be supported. Although the Legislature would like more people to be served, the cost of services and the amount of funding unfortunately limit the number who are served.

Clearly, more funding is needed if more caregivers and care recipients are to be served. Also, the Executive Office on Aging should seriously consider prioritizing the lowest paid caregivers before others in order to maximize services and serve those with greatest need. Low-paid caregivers are the most in need of Kupuna Caregivers Program services because they are the least likely to have vacation leave to care for loved ones who need long-term care. They are also the most likely to be disadvantaged by missing work to be a caregiver, not only because of lost wages but possibly termination for excessive absenteeism and reduced income at retirement.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program should also consider more education and outreach to ensure that targeted caregivers know about the program and will apply. Education should consider language and cultural diversity. Outreach is also imperative to be sure that those with greatest need have access to the program.

The ILWU believes that the Kupuna Caregivers Program is a program that has the potential to provide needed services to support family caregivers, but more funding is needed to reach those with the greatest need. We urge passage of H.B. 1867 and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
House Committee on Health
February 6, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 329

SUPPORTING HB 1867

The Church of the Crossroads, founded in 1922, is Hawaii's first intentionally multicultural church and is committed to a mission of peace, justice, and environmental preservation.

The Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the Hawaii Legislature in 2017, and launched in 2018, to support family caregivers. There are currently 150,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their frail elderly parents, spouse, or other relatives. As Hawaii's population ages, the number persons needing some assistance with everyday activities will continue 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 because their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families, as well as to assure that they themselves will have sufficient retirement benefits.

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. Elder persons needing assistance with at least two 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.

In the current fiscal year the program is funded at a level of \$1.2 million. This bill proposes a funding level of \$2 million. Much more is needed because the need is great, but this bill is a step in the right direction.

HB-1867

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 2:59:55 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Nelson	Faith Action for Community Equity	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Liz Nelson and I support this bill. I worked as a hospice nurse for 25 years and I saw so many times how exhausted and stressed family members were being a caregiver. Not only were they working, but then needed to be present for the care of their loved one, many times by themselves.

The financial assistance that this bill would provide can be so helpful to a caregiver. They could utilize day care, hire someone to stay with their loved one while they worked or took a much needed break. I have seen instances where the caregiver passed away before the patient, because the stress was just too much.

And I support the provision that they would be eligible for this assistance if they worked 20 hours/week instead of 30 hours/week.

Most elders want to stay in their homes, but are forced to go to care facilities because they have no one to care for them or cannot afford private hire help. This bill can be helpful in these situations.

Thank you.



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

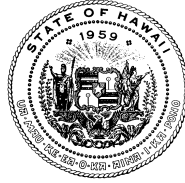
The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports HB1867 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**, which lowers the total hours per week a person must be employed for to be a qualified caregiver under the program.

Hawaii's population is aging rapidly, and the cost of personal home care is rising, having family caregivers is going to become more and more essential. These caregivers are doing physically and emotionally draining work, many doing it without pay and in addition to a traditional 30-40hr a week job. By lowering the hours, a person must work to qualify for this program, the State can lessen the load on these caregivers and help to support more families.

For all these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1867
Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
REPRESENTATIVE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE NADINE K. NAKAMURA, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 6, 2020
8:30 am

Room Number: 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health, provides comments on HB1867.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$2,000,000 for FY2021 for the Kupuna
- 4 Caregivers Program (KCGP) and amends the definition of "qualified caregiver" in Section 2,
- 5 349-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes by proposing to reduce the number of hours a caregiver has to
- 6 be employed to qualify for the Kupuna Caregivers Program, from 30 hours per week to 20 hours
- 7 per week. EOA notes that KCGP is a priority of the Governor's Administrative Package, where
- 8 the request is for \$1.5 million in SFY2021.
- 9 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to increase funding for the Kupuna
- 10 Caregivers Program and amend the definition of a qualified caregiver to serve more working

1 caregivers. Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, and caregiver assistance is critical to
2 support the caregivers' own health as well as the health of Hawaii's kupuna. In addition,
3 caregivers who are employed earn retirement benefits and provide support to the workforce by
4 helping businesses retain experienced workers.

5 Act 102, HSL2017 created the KCGP and appropriated \$600,000 for services in SFY2018. The
6 program launched in February 2018 and the appropriation was used to provide a full day of
7 Adult Day Care (ADC) services to the care recipients of 101 caregivers which allowed
8 caregivers to remain employed and limit the amount of the time they would need to leave their
9 work to provide caregiving. In SFY2019, the Legislature appropriated \$1.2 million for the KCGP
10 which allowed the EOA to continue providing services to care recipients for a full 12-month
11 period. We served 112 caregivers in SFY2019. In SFY2020, ACT 126 was passed by the
12 Legislature which increased the KCGP appropriation to \$1.5 million, amended the amount that
13 can be expended for services from \$70 per day to \$210 per week, and required the EOA to
14 develop a written plan to maximize the number of caregivers served. As of December 2019, we
15 served 125 caregivers statewide.

16 Regarding the amendment to change the number of hours a week for qualified caregivers, EOA
17 feels it is not necessary. In February 2017, an online survey commissioned by Caring Across
18 Generations and conducted by Ward Research Incorporated concluded the following:

- 19 • 57% of those surveyed were employed 30 hours or more per week.
- 20 • 1% were employed less than 30 hours because of the need to care for an elder part time;
- 21 • 9% were employed less than 30 hours by choice,
- 22 • 2% not employed due to full time caregiver responsibilities,

- 1 • 6% not employed by choice;
- 2 • and 25% were retired.

3 **Recommendation:** The Administration's budget includes \$1.5 million for the KCGP. EOA
4 feels that the focus should be on caregivers working 30 hours or more a week. In addition, we
5 were tasked with developing a plan to maximize the number of caregivers served. EOA is in the
6 process of implementing this plan and would prefer to keep the eligibility the same so that we
7 can evaluate the effectiveness of the plan over time.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1867

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:36:24 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Calvin M. Hara	Manoa Cottage	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1867

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:53:08 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2020 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill. We need to support those in our community who are helping take care of our Kupuna while they also hold down jobs. It's a heavy burden and even the limited funds in this bill can go a long way to help.

In the current fiscal year the program is funded at a level of \$1.2 million. This bill proposes a funding level of \$2 million. Much more is needed because the need is great, but this bill is a step in the right direction.

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. Elder persons needing assistance with at least two 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.

HB-1867

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:26:58 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Hart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write because I want to support HB1867.

It's my understanding that \$2 million is on the line for this.

As the population ages, and people are trying to take care of their family, the program is in greater and greater need. Please pass this important bill.

HB-1867

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 10:18:38 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Tillotson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Within a few weeks of the launch of the Kupuna Caregivers 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.

Thank you for considering my testimony and mahalo for your service.

Richard Tillotson

HB-1867

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:29:41 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill to encourage better options for elder care in our state.

**Chair Joy San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Nadine Nakamura
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness**

**Chair John Mizuno
Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
House Committee on Health**

Hearing: Thursday, February 6, 2020, 8:30am, Conference Room 329

Testimony In Support Of HB1867, Relating To The Kupuna Caregivers Program

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Nakamura and Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Linda Dorset, a Wailuku resident and member of AARP, and I am writing to express my support for HD1867, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and reduces the hours worked requirement from 30 to 20.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck. Studies have 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. The Kupuna Caregivers program allows family caregivers who provide care to loved ones and otherwise can't afford to hire outside help so they can continue working

The Kupuna Caregivers program helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid. Funding is needed to help avoid the risk of job loss or reduction of work hours below 20 because the duties at home are too great. Job cuts not only reduce the income earning power of the

caregivers, their social security benefits, but also risk their insurance coverage.

This bill will change the statute to provide services to those who work 20 hours per week or more, which is the threshold at which employers provide health insurance

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1867

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:10:37 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL AND INCREASE FUNDING FOR OUR KUPUNA CAREGIVERS.

MAHALO.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

I am writing in support of House Bill 1867. This bill lowers the total amount of hours per week a caregiver must work in order to qualify under the Kupuna Caregivers program from thirty to twenty and appropriates \$2 million for the program.

During our lives, most people will become either a care recipient or a family caregiver. Adequately funding the Kupuna Caregiver Program protects working family caregivers who are struggling to remain employed while caregiving for a frail or elderly family member.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. They also play a crucial role in the State's health care system by providing long-term care to the elderly, all unpaid. It is critical for caregivers to take care of themselves and have the necessary support and services to sustain their own health as well as the health of the family member for whom they are caring.

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease is an especially heavy burden for a caregiver. In 2018, 65,000 caregivers provided 74,000,000 hours of unpaid care to the 29,000 people with Alzheimer's disease across our state. These individuals often had to cut back work. Even worse, their healthcare costs were \$43,000,000 higher due to the stress and demands of being a caregiver.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Amy Truong

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Carole Shijo

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Emily Bustard

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Francesca Koethe

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

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Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease is an especially heavy burden for a caregiver. In 2018, 65,000 caregivers provided 74,000,000 hours of unpaid care to the 29,000 people with Alzheimer's disease across our state. These individuals often had to cut back on work, or often, leave the workforce altogether. Even worse, their healthcare costs were \$43,000,000 higher due to the stress and demands of being a caregiver.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

Regards,
Ivy Castellanos

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

I am writing in support of House Bill 1867. This bill lowers the total amount of hours per week a caregiver must work in order to qualify under the Kupuna Caregivers program from thirty to twenty and appropriates \$2 million for the program.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Katrina Sudweeks

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Mary Gadam

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Nancy Rose

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Rebecca Halloran

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Taylor Hall

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Tonya Tullis

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Ashley Curry

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Javier Mendez

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Jeanne Hemen

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Regards,
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Regards,
Jomel Duldulao

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Mark Mizuno

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Thomas Baldwin

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WARREN WONG

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

I am writing in support of House Bill 1867. This bill lowers the total amount of hours per week a caregiver must work in order to qualify under the Kupuna Caregivers program from thirty to twenty and appropriates \$2 million for the program. Honestly, \$2 Million seems to just scratch the surface!

During our lives, most people will become either a care recipient or a family caregiver. My wife, Sherrie and I have been caregivers for my Father and her Mother, over 11 years of our lives invested in ensuring our Kupuna were taken care of, at home, with the best care we could provide. Yes, our jobs suffered, as we were expected to maintain our 40 hour commitment to our employers. Adequately funding the Kupuna Caregiver Program protects working family caregivers who are struggling to remain employed while caregiving for a frail or elderly family member.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Chet Ferreira

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

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JACQUELINE DE LUZ

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Because my wife has Alzheimer's, I am a family caregiver who has fully retired. Although this bill will not affect me directly, it will benefit other family caregivers who are still employed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
Lawrence Enomoto

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Regards,
LINDA NULAND-AMES

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Regards,
TERRI CUMMINGS



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

February 5, 2020

To: Representative San Buenaventura, Chair
Representative Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Representative Mizuno, Chair
Representative Kobayashi, Vice Chair

LATE

Re: **HB 1876, Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
8:30AM, 2/6/2020

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Nakamura, Vice Chair Kobayashi and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1867**. HB 1867 would provide a \$2million appropriation for the program and lowers the threshold of hours that must be worked for eligibility, from 30 hours to 20 hours.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, assisting families before crisis strikes. Studies have shown that people who age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, and as a result, ends up saving our state the cost of expensive medical procedures or institutionalization that could have been prevented with adequate care.

As strong supporters of paid family leave for Hawaii, we believe that workers should be able to take care of their families without sacrificing their economic livelihood. The Kupuna Caregivers Program provides the opportunity for working caregivers to stay engaged in the workforce while ensuring their loved one receives quality care.

For these reasons, we request the committee pass HB 1867.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Research

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

1130 N. Nimitz Highway Suite A-265, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org

LATE

February 6, 2020

Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura
Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
House Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329, 8:30 A.M.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB1867 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Chair San Buenaventura, Dear Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, I am pleased to extend our **strong support** for House Bill 1867. This bill lowers the total amount of hours per week an individual must be employed to be a qualified caregiver under the Kupuna Caregivers program from thirty to twenty and appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers program by increasing it from \$1.5 million to \$2 million.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. Studies have shown that 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. Funding the Kupuna Caregivers program will enable family members in the workforce to care for their loved ones while continuing to work. This improves the economic security for caregivers while stabilizing the workforce for business owners.

Our growing number of kupuna in Hawaii increases the need for and pressure on family caregivers. Supporting working family caregivers ethically and economically is the right thing to do. Not only do we have a kuleana to support our kupuna, it also makes financial sense to keep family caregivers working, advancing their careers, and paying taxes.

Here in Hawaii, an estimated 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia. Respite services provide temporary, substitute care that gives the caregiver a break from his or her caregiving duties. State programs supporting family caregivers save the state significant future long-term care costs to programs such as Medicaid.

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

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this legislation and applaud your leadership in bringing it forward.

Ian Ross

Public Policy and Advocacy Manager

iaross@alz.org | Phone: (808) 591-2771 x1333

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Thursday, February 6, 2020
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329
State Capitol



TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1867
RELATING TO KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGAM

To: Chair Rep. Joy A. Buenaventura, Vice Chair Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura and
Members of the Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

Chair Rep. John M. Mizuno, Vice Chair Rep. Bernard Kobayashi and
Members of the Committee on Health

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **support** of **HB 1867**, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill amends the total amount of hours per week an individual must be employed to be a qualified caregiver under the Kupuna Caregivers Program from thirty to twenty, which is a critical part to help our kupuna and allow more caregivers who are only employed to work twenty hours pr week. This bill appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

I urge you to support Hawaii's growing senior population by supporting HB 1867.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Anna Filler
District 26, Downtown-Kakaako-McCully
Email: afiller@twc.com



LATE

House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
House Committee on Health
February 6, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol Room 329

SUPPORTING HB 1867

Faith Action for Community Equity is a coalition of religious and community organizations driven by a spiritual commitment to improve the quality of life for all of the people of Hawaii by addressing the root causes of social justice challenges.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care to frail elderly persons. There are currently 150,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their frail elderly parents, spouse, or other relatives. As Hawaii's population ages, the number persons needing some assistance with everyday activities will continue to increase.

The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce because they must earn money to support themselves and their families. 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.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the Hawaii Legislature in 2017, and launched in 2018, to support family caregivers. The 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. It offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, transportation, homemaker services, meals, and personal care services. Elder persons needing assistance with at least two activities of daily living may qualify for the program.

In the current fiscal year the program is funded at a level of \$1.2 million. This bill proposes a funding level of \$2 million. Much more funding is needed because the need is great, but this bill is a step in the right direction.

LATE

HB-1867

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:40:15 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Poki'i Balaz	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Dr. Poki'i Balaz and I am a one of the providers at KKV in geriatric care with focus on brain health, neurology, NHH, and la'au. The most important role I play is that I am a caregiver to my father who is in the end stage of Alz and I am in support of HB 1867.

As a family caregiver I understand the challenges that caregivers face. I returned to Hawai'i to become a caregiver to my father, but I had no idea what I was getting into nor was I prepared as a caregiver but also, I didn't understand how it would affect my professional career. Like many caregivers, I had to learn how to navigate these challenges. Many caregivers are working two to three jobs while others must leave the workforce to become full-time caregivers as being a caregiver is a 24/7, 7 day a week job that has no clock out. I, myself stopped working and when I returned home due to lack of resources and employers understanding what caregivers go through. Returning to the workforce was essential, not for financial resources but to have a career. There are caregivers who had a difficult time finding a job or could not get a job because the gap in their work history was too long or they are already in their 60's. Even when caregivers work, they are sometimes having to choose between paying medical bills and food.

When a caregiver leaves their home, this is some of the things they consider, I consider.

Who will be there to feed, turn, reposition, toilet, range of motion, or engagement activities with my father? A paid caregiver cost \$30/hour about 240 a day about 1200 a week to almost 5,000 a month with supplies easily passing 500/month. My phone is kept close in case of emergencies and if there is no one to care for him, I must stay home and when he has an appointment, it cost me a whole day of work and about \$300 in transportation. Running errands such as shopping or attend my health appointments it is dictated by his needs and schedule. I can't just leave like most people and run errands, it all must thought out and planned.

Lowering the hours and expanding to include respite would make a SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE in the lives of many caregivers. I myself was denied because at this time it is only open to those who can make it to adult day care and not in-home respite care. Many are struggling to carve out a profession while maintaining care for their loved one.

I am blessed to do this professionally and at home and I would do it again but there must be a change. This is happening now to many of us. As many of us are providing this unpaid carefree of charge, it is costing us more than anyone expected we need help not tomorrow but now. As caregivers are told to care for yourself before caring for someone else then I am asking you to help us so that we can continue to serve those we love and those we work for.

Mahalo for your time



House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
House Committee on Health
February 6, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol Room 329

LATE

SUPPORTING HB 1867

Faith Action for Community Equity is a coalition of religious and community organizations driven by a spiritual commitment to improve the quality of life for all of the people of Hawaii by addressing the root causes of social justice challenges.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care to frail elderly persons. There are currently 150,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their frail elderly parents, spouse, or other relatives. As Hawaii's population ages, the number persons needing some assistance with everyday activities will continue to increase.

The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce because they must earn money to support themselves and their families. 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.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the Hawaii Legislature in 2017, and launched in 2018, to support family caregivers. The 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. It offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, transportation, homemaker services, meals, and personal care services. Elder persons needing assistance with at least two activities of daily living may qualify for the program.

In the current fiscal year the program is funded at a level of \$1.2 million. This bill proposes a funding level of \$2 million. Much more funding is needed because the need is great, but this bill is a step in the right direction.