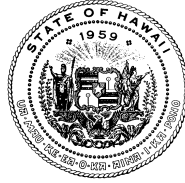


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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 HB0467 HD1**  
**Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program**

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

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

Hearing Date: February 21, 2019  
11:00 am

Room Number: 308

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department  
2 of Health, supports this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities  
3 within the Administration's base budget.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates an unspecified amount in FY2020 and in  
5 FY2021 for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Governor Ige's budget request maintains a total  
6 base budget of \$1.2 million from SFY2019 through SFY2021.
- 7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to provide assistance to caregivers to  
8 allow them to remain in the workforce while their loved ones are provided with necessary  
9 support services. Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, and caregiver assistance is  
10 critical to supporting caregivers' own health as well as the health of Hawaii's kupuna. Act 102,  
11 HSL2017 appropriated \$600,000 for kupuna caregiver support services in SFY2018. In  
12 SFY2019, the Legislature appropriated \$1.2 million which will only maintain funding for those

1 being served. The Kupuna Caregiver Program is in its infancy as this month marks the one-year  
2 anniversary of the program serving caregivers. The program served 110 caregivers statewide as  
3 of the end of December 2018.

4 The current language for the Kupuna Caregivers Program Statute, HRS 349-18, specifies a  
5 maximum amount of \$70 a day for services which limits the number of individuals who received  
6 Kupuna Caregiver services. If the language was amended to a weekly amount such as \$350 per  
7 week, this would give the Area Agencies on Aging more flexibility on how the funds are used.

8 EOA is very concerned over the suggested language on page 6, line 2 to limit the benefit to one  
9 day a week as it would not support working caregivers to maintain employment. We recommend  
10 that the benefit for each qualified recipient is limited on a weekly basis at \$350 a week. We  
11 agree that we need to strengthen the program. We support the recommendation to develop a plan  
12 to maximize the number of participants served by the program. We suggest that the plan include  
13 developing procedures to target those with greatest economic needs.

14 The bill also includes preparation of an annual evaluation report on EOA elder programs for the  
15 Governor and Legislature, which shall include a section detailing outcomes of Kupuna  
16 Caregivers Program, including but not limited to evaluation metrics, a cost breakdown and  
17 analysis of individuals served by county and type of service received, consolidated data of the  
18 existing waiting list broken down by county, and recommendations to support the  
19 implementation and execution of the program.

20 **Recommendations:** The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a part of the Administration's base  
21 budget request. 1) We support advancing this measure provided that its enactment does not  
22 reduce or replace priorities in the Administration's base budget. 2) We recommend continued

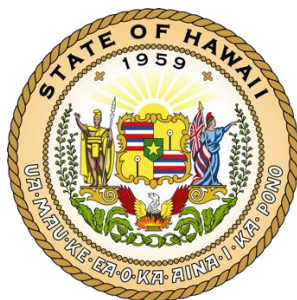
1 discussions with stakeholders interested in this pilot program and need more time to gather and  
2 analyze the data from the first year of implementation. 3) We support the idea of a plan to work  
3 on assisting more working caregivers. We will need to continue funding this program so the  
4 current caregivers who are receiving services are not abandoned. The plan could include a  
5 process to target those who are economically needy, and we will be able to keep them employed  
6 so they will not end up on Medicaid. 4) We recommend a weekly amount of \$350 to provide  
7 flexibility in addressing the caregivers' needs.

8 In addition, EOA has some language amendments to the bill:

9 Page 5, line 14 delete "(1) activities of daily living" as this is not a service. ADLs is a term used  
10 to refer to people's self-care activities and EOA uses the measurement of these deficits as criteria  
11 for eligibility.

12

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

Prepared for the H. Cmtee. on Finance

Comments re: HB467 HD1  
Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women wishes to mahalo you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB467 HD1, 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.<sup>1</sup> The quiet heroism of unpaid women caregivers alone cannot be the primary countervailing factor to our caregiving crisis.

A care agenda should be funded and normalized into Hawai'i's economic plan. Accordingly, the Commission requests that the Committees pass HB467 HD1 if an amendment is made to remove the once per week limit on services.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus

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



MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE  
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Housing & Human Concerns

LORI TSUHAKO  
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**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS  
**MAUI COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING**  
*AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING*

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95 MAHALANI STREET, ROOM 20  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair

**HB 467 HD1 (HSCR677), RELATING TO KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Testimony of Deborah Stone-Walls  
Executive on Aging, Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA)

**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Room Number: Conf. Room 308**

**MCOA's Position:** Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA) is in **support** of **HB 467 HD1 (HSCR677) Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program** with the exception of page 6, lines 2-3 that state, "provided that the daily benefit for each qualified recipient is limited to once per week;..." MCOA requests an amendment to these lines of the bill.

**Purpose and Justification:** The State of Hawaii has long demonstrated commitment to supporting caregivers and recognizing the critical ways family and informal caregivers contribute to allowing those most frail and vulnerable to remain living in the community as long as is desired and possible.

A past Director of the State of Hawaii Executive Office on Aging (EOA), Jeanette Takamura, PhD, served as the second Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Administration on Aging within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As Assistant Secretary, Dr. Takamura built upon Hawaii's cultural values of Ohana and

respect for Kupuna to lead the effort to establish the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). Established in 2000 in the Older Americans Act (OAA) during Dr. Takamura's tenure as Assistant Secretary, the NFCSP provides funding for a range of supports that assist family and informal caregivers to care for their loved ones at home for as long as possible. *(Note: Authorizing legislation is Section 371 of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, Title III E)*

Since that time, the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) throughout the state have served family and informal caregivers with the following five types of services:

- Information to caregivers about available services and community resources
- Assistance to caregivers in accessing those services
- Counseling, Support Groups, and Caregiver Training
- Respite Care that can include services such as Adult Day Care, Personal Care, Homemaker; and
- Supplemental services that can include home modifications, assistive technology, emergency alarm response systems, consumable supplies, or any service or service option as defined by EOA

In addition to the services listed above, the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended in 2016 allows caregivers that meet eligibility requirements to receive a home delivered meal. Funding provided for caregiver services through the OAA has been limited; therefore, MCOA employees have worked diligently to ensure that assistance is provided to those caregivers **most in need and most at risk** for burnout. Our goal has been to support caregivers in such a way that helps them avoid burnout so that they can function longer in the caregiver role in order to **help delay or mitigate the need for costly institutional care**. Please see the chart below for estimated monthly costs of institutional care in Maui.

Monthly Costs: Kahului Area <sup>1</sup> , HI (2017) <sup>2</sup>			
Home Health Care	Adult Day Health Care <sup>1</sup>	Assisted Living Facility <sup>2</sup>	Nursing Home Care
<b>Homemaker Services<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Adult Day Health Care<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Assisted Living Facility<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Semi-Private Room<sup>1</sup></b>
2017 Cost	2017 Cost	2017 Cost	2017 Cost
<b>\$5,148</b>	<b>\$1,300</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$10,266</b>
<b>Home Health Aide<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>Private Room<sup>1</sup></b>
2017 Cost			2017 Cost
<b>\$5,148</b>			<b>\$10,874</b>
<small>Genworth 2017 Cost of Care Survey, conducted by CareScout®, June 2017                      1 Based on annual rate divided by 12 months                      2 As reported, private, one bedroom</small>			<a href="#">Key findings and methodology</a>

The Kupuna Caregivers Program (KCG) has allowed MCOA to provide an additional level of support that not only helps caregivers reduce the daily stress of providing care but also helps caregivers to **remain employed**. The caregivers enrolled in KCG have demonstrated the need for such assistance.

In considering the full continuum of care available through current service delivery options, KCG meets a critical need. The AAAs offer a spectrum of services to caregivers including:

- Level One\*—Newsletters, informational publications, outreach events, and information and referral
- Level Two\*—Support Groups, caregiver training, options counseling
- Level Three\*—Counseling, Case Management, Caregiver Meals
- Level Four\*—In-Home Respite, Adult Day Care Respite, Personal Care, Homemaker

***\*\*These are NOT formal levels; they are labeled as such in this testimony to demonstrate a progressive continuum. Caregivers may receive services from any or all levels simultaneously as they need.***

Funding for these services has allowed MCOA to provide relief from the daily burden of caregiving for MOST caregivers. There remained, however, a group of caregivers that needed an added level of support that was not feasible with the available level of funding.

Services provided to caregivers could be compared to general categories of hospital services. MCOA provides “outpatient services” through levels One and Two above and “acute care” through levels Three and Four above. However, prior to the implementation of Kupuna Caregivers Program, MCOA had no service option that would resemble the Intensive Care Unit of a hospital. This is the level of care at which intervention is critical and more costly per person. It is also the unit of the hospital that has the fewest beds because the level of care needs of most individuals simply do not rise to this level of need. It therefore, makes sense that Kupuna Caregivers serves fewer individuals at a higher cost. The level of service to help caregivers in danger of losing employment is higher than the level required by 95% of our caregivers who are not facing the loss of employment due to caregiving responsibilities.

***Caregivers enrolled in Kupuna Caregivers Program accounted for only 5% of MCOA’s total number of caregivers served in FY18. 95% of all caregivers received an adequate level of services through less intense service provision levels.***

If we limit the scope of service provision of Kupuna Caregivers Program to only one day per week, we will be, in effect, denying assistance to those caregivers who truly require this higher level of help. By providing assistance that substantiates a caregiver’s ability to remain in the workforce, we still remain able to meet the needs of the other 95% of caregivers.

MCOA therefore suggests to eliminate lines 2-3 that state, “provided that the daily benefit for each qualified recipient is limited to once per week;...” The elimination of this restriction allows the AAAs to provide varying levels of service according to verified individual caregiver needs as determined by standardized assessment tools, targeting criteria, and documentation of caregiver burden. As is evidenced by service delivery patterns throughout the initial calendar year of the Kupuna Caregiver pilot demonstration, on average caregivers received an average of **three days per week**.

Please note that this level of service occurred without an external restriction that limited the number of days of service available.

In FY2018 MCOA provided a wide service array to **537** unduplicated caregivers. Of those, **410** caregivers received direct services such as caregiver meals, counseling, and respite. Another **23** caregivers received a substantially higher level of assistance through the KCG Program. (Please see the charts below.)

Services Provided to **410** Unduplicated Caregivers **Not** Enrolled in Kupuna Caregivers Program:

<b>Service</b>	<b># of Caregivers Served</b>	<b>FY18 Total Units</b>	<b>Average per year</b>	<b>Average Investment/year/ Caregiver</b>
Home Delivered Meals	226	29,202 meals	130 meals (2.5 per week)	\$910
Family Caregiver Counseling	60	135.75 hours	2.25 hours	\$90
Adult Day Care Respite	109	1518 days	14 days	\$700
In-Home Respite	89	3,667 hours	41 hours	\$1,025
<b>Average Investment per year per Caregiver</b>			<b>\$915</b>	
<b>Approximate MCOA Caregiver Expenditures</b>			<b>\$375,150</b>	

Services Provided to **23** Caregivers Enrolled in the Kupuna Caregivers Program (KCG):

**Note:** Services indicated occurred in the calendar year of 2018 during the first full year of the program. Calendar year totals were chosen rather than fiscal year totals as in the table above in order to have a full twelve months for comparison with the general caregiver services provided to those not enrolled in KCG.

<b>Service</b>	<b># of Caregivers Served</b>	<b>Calendar Year 2018 Total Units</b>	<b>Average per year</b>	<b>Average Investment/year/ Caregiver</b>
Home Delivered Meals	1*	313 meals	313 meals	\$4,930
Personal Care	8*	958 hours	120 hours	\$2,284
Adult Day Care Respite	23	3,124 days	135 days	\$6,750
In-Home Respite	3	159 hours	53 hours	\$1,325
<b>Average Investment per year per Caregiver</b>			<b>\$8,058**</b>	
<b>Approximate MCOA KCG Program Expenditures</b>			<b>\$185,334</b>	

Notes: \*The frail elder receives the meal and personal care as a respite function for the caregiver.

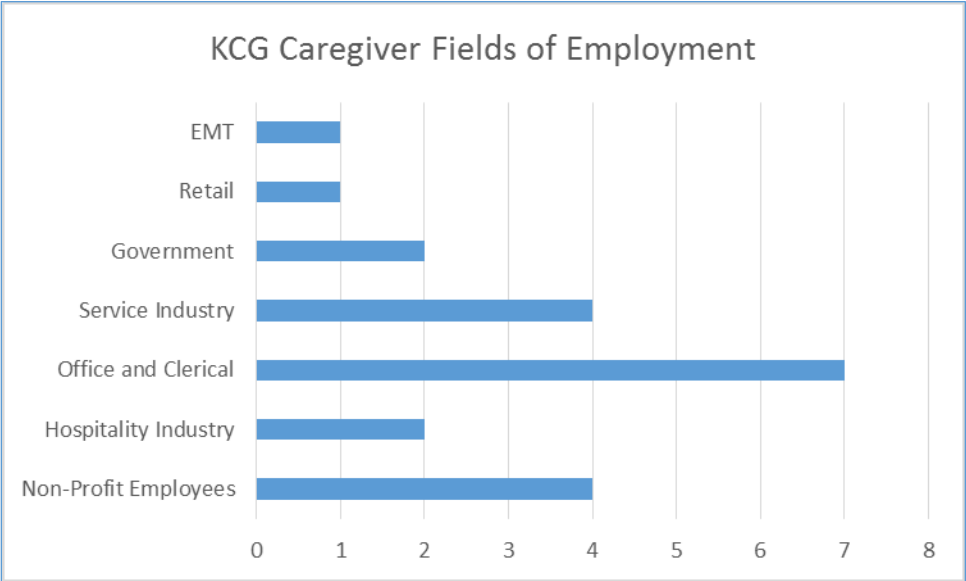
\*\*Average of three (3) days/week of service

So, while only a small number of caregivers are enrolled in the KCG Program, 95% of all caregivers served by MCOA are, nonetheless, receiving services. 226 of those caregivers received a meal on average 2.5 times each week.

While the MCOA provider contracts allow for all services to be accessed through KCG, most caregivers have chosen to access Adult Day Care Respite due to the \$70/day cap

currently on the service. Rather than choosing only 2.25 hours of In-Home Respite or Homemaker services, for example, the families chose to receive 8 hours of Adult Day Care.

MCOA consistently targets services to those most economically needy. In fact, this is the daily practice of MCOA. While KCG currently does not require verification of income of caregivers, the Employment Verification that occurs demonstrates, in fact, that caregivers participating in the KCG program largely represent lower income occupations. Please see the chart below as an illustration of this assertion.



It is likely that without a level of Kupuna Caregiver service delivery that is sufficient enough to assist caregivers to maintain employment, likely consequences will include that caregivers may need to either quit their jobs or place their loved ones in more costly institutional settings. As evidenced by the array of employment positions held by participating caregivers, the likelihood of subsequent enrollment into the Medicaid program to support institutional care is high. Caregivers will not only lose immediate income, but also are likely to suffer reduced retirement financial security thereby continuing a dependence on social assistance for themselves.

Potential loss of employment not only negatively impacts caregivers in the short- and long-terms, it also impacts consumer spending, State tax revenue, and total State costs of entitlement programs such as Medicaid.

MCOA supports the efforts of the legislature to ensure that this pilot program moves forward in such a manner that is transparent, accountable and effective. In order to ensure that current needs are met by KCG program, we request that \$2,000,000 be appropriated in the base budget for the biennium of FY20-21 and FY21-22. We also request that the number of days each caregiver receives would be determined by the comprehensive assessment measures rather than by the actual law itself. The fact that the average participant receives fewer than three days per week demonstrates that the ADRCs have authorized services according to assessment results and individual unmet need rather than according to a pre-set formula.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this matter.



**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 11:09:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am Gary Simon, Chairperson 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 HB 465 HD 1.

The Kāhuna Care Program is a core program for home- and community-based support services. We support EOA's funding request of \$9,000,00 per year for FY 2019 – 2020 and FY 2020 – 2021.

The requested funding will ensure the continuation of these critical services for our Kāhuna and their families.

We urge you to support HB 465 HD 1 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)



Testimony of Church of the Crossroads  
Supporting HB 467 HD1 with an amendment  
House Committee on Finance  
February 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room 308

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

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

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

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

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

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

The bill should be amended to appropriate \$2 million to the program, which will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful number of employed caregivers. With that amendment the Church of the Crossroads supports the bill and urges the committee to pass it.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members,  
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Pedro Haro, Advocacy Director, PHOCUSED

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB1020 SD1, RELATING TO  
RELATING TO RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Hearing: February 20, 2019 at 10:05 am  
Conference Room 211

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 1020, SD1 **with suggested amendments**. I am Pedro Haro, Advocacy Director for PHOCUSED.

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the safety for, visibility of, and investment in the children and adults in Hawaii who are marginalized, impoverished, and under-served. Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for our homeless populations since our formation, as the membership of PHOCUSED and our Board of Directors represent many of the major providers of human services across our state.

This bill will accomplish important inter-related solutions to reach a gap group within the homeless community that are not financially stable enough to retain housing.

PHOCUSED, as the former Administrator of the Families Coordinated Entry System, identified a gap group of homeless families; there are a large number of children and their families who are homeless due to economic reasons and do not need traditional case management (low-vulnerability, non-chronic). Coupled with the financial case management the program would provide, this program will be essential to homeless children and their families who are homeless simply because they are struggling economically. The pilot project will allow shallow, but long-term, rental subsidies meant to stabilize families that are not

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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facing issues such as drug abuse or mental health crisis. All family members, including children, will receive guidance from a financial case manager.

We also agree with the Senate Committees on Housing and Human Services that all families, not only those with children who are homeless as a result of domestic violence, can benefit from this program. Therefore, **we believe the program should be expanded to encompass all families with a priority placed on those families who are experiencing domestic violence.**

As we continue to see the tide changing in the amount of homeless individuals and families, we have the responsibility to identify and assist gap groups that are at risk of being left behind. The programs in this bill will assist those gap groups of homeless families that may otherwise fall through the cracks. We urge you to please consider and pass Senate Bill 1020, SD1.

PHOCUSED is a membership and advocacy organization for health and human services in Hawaii, which works together with community stakeholders to collectively impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our state. Our commitment to the people is reflected in our name – Protecting Hawaii's 'Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly, and Disabled. We are guided by the shared commitment of our members to protect the interests of Hawaii's people and the sector which seeks to provide them with quality programs and services.



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

**Hawaii State Legislature**  
**Thursday, February 21, 2019, 11:00 am**  
**Room 308**

**HB 467, HD1, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

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

**Lanakila Meals on Wheels is in support of HB 467, HD1 which funds and also establishes greater oversight for the Kupuna Caregivers program.** As Hawaii’s largest and only island-wide home delivered meal provider to kupuna, we see the great need in the kupuna community and the increased demand on working caregivers. The Kupuna Caregivers program provides needed support to caregivers and kupuna and we are pleased HB 467, HD1 seeks to ensure all core services, including Home Delivered Meals, are utilized under Kupuna Caregivers so caregivers and kupuna have all available options to meet their family’s needs.

**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 HD 467, HD1 and ensuring the core services it seeks to provide will serve those most in need.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rona Yagi Fukumoto  
President & CEO, Lanakila Pacific

Lori Lau  
Director, Lanakila Meals on Wheels

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Emmit Kane

**President and CEO**  
Rona Fukumoto



**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 6:19:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:



Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members,

We support this measure. Mahalo, Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair Hawaii Women's Coalition





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House  
Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 21, 2019  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 308

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
RE: Comments on HB467 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke 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 cannot support the revisions made in the subject matter committees and has comments to offer on the HD1 version of HB467.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports the previous version of the bill and full funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a nationally recognized service to help caregivers now for just over a year. AARP also supports funding being included in the base budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same for 2020-2021 – so working caregivers trying to take care of an elderly loved ones and keep their jobs have access to Kupuna Care (e.g., adult day care, assisted transportation, attendant care, house-keeping/homemaker, respite and home-delivered meals).

It is unfortunate those struggling to care for the most vulnerable among us are in need of this program. It is also unfortunate that many will have been deceived by the last version of HB467, as changes to the bill were made that were not revealed in the Committee Report and not identified in the bill itself that would take the existing program – the crumb provided to working caregivers -- and limit it to 1/5 of a crumb. The following words were added improperly to the latest version of the bill: “provided that the daily benefit for each qualified recipient is limited to once per week”.

A once per week limitation would defeat the purpose of the program and eliminate the ability of implementing agencies to help those in need. To qualify, caregivers of the most vulnerable *kupuna* must work 5 days a week, at work, and 7 days a week caregiving. If these caregivers are going to keep their jobs and care for a loved one who needs their help, they need help.

If there is a concern that the funding is limited and needs to be distributed more evenly over time to the maximum number of caregivers in need, then guidance or language can be provided to ensure there are application deadlines and all applicants are considered, for example. However, limiting funding to one time per week would do very little to address the working caregiver crisis and would undermine the purpose of the program itself.

In addition, if such a significant change in the program is envisioned, the public should be notified and language should not be hidden and omitted from the committee report and changes not underlined in the bill's proposed statutory revisions.

1/5 of a crumb for the most vulnerable is not enough. Please provide full funding for this critically-needed Kupuna Caregivers program, which is in its infancy, full of potential, can save the state money and benefits the most vulnerable.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on HB467.



Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

**COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

Our names are: Fredrich J. Burian, and Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I  
~~am~~-writing to express ~~our/my~~ comments for **House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program**. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Fredrich J. Burian & Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D. [Insert Name]  
44-4766 Waikaaalulu Road, Paauilo, HI 96776  
Phone: (808)775-1064 [Insert Address]

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 6:57:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gil A Penaranda	AARP	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Sylvia Luke

Vice Chair Ty Cullen

House Committee on Finance

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

My name is Gil Penaranda and I write to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program.

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

The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed. This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at the 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.

I know the difficulties and stress a family go through to care for their Kupunas.. My mother had Alzheimer and my father, my brother, my sister and I had to take turns taking care of my mother, often using all our vacation times to do so.

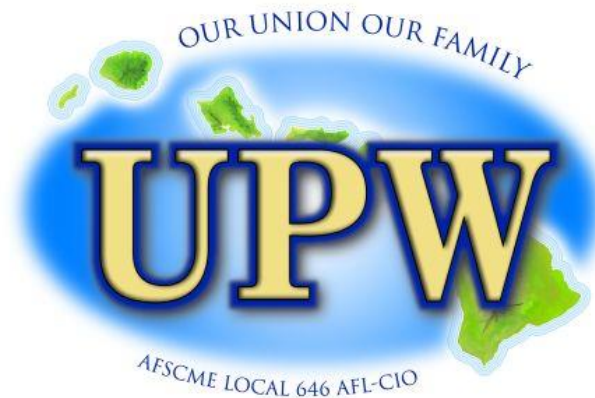
Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Gil Penaranda



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2019

Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

Date of Hearing: Thursday, February 21, 2019  
Time of Hearing: 11:00 a.m.  
Place of Hearing: Conference Room 308

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 467, HD1 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA  
CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,  
State Director of the United Public Workers,  
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and four counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members in the private sector.

HB467, HD1 requires the Executive Office on Aging to include details on outcomes of the Kupuna Caregivers Program in its annual report, create a plan to maximize the number of participants in the program, and change the caregivers program allocation cap from \$70 per day to an unspecified amount per week. The UPW **supports** this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**Testimony in Support by Zonta Club Of Hilo for Kupuna Caucus Bills (HB 465, HD 1; HB 466, HD1; HB 467, HD 1; HB 468, HD1**

Hearings Before the Finance Committee

**February 21, 2019; Thursday; 11:00 a.m; State Capitol Conference Room 308**

Representative Sylvia Luke, Representative Cullen Vice-Chair, and Committee Members

**The Zonta Club of Hilo supports** the requested appropriation to fund fully the Kupuna Care, Aging and Disability Resource Centers Network, Kupuna Caregivers without the daily cap, Healthy Aging, and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Coordinator. Zonta is an international organization of business and professional women whose mission is to advance the status of women and girls worldwide.

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

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

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

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

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



**CGPTA**  
**Chinatown Gateway Plaza**  
**Tenant Association**  
**Since 2006**

**To: Committee on Finance (FIN)**  
**From: Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)**  
Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019, 11:00 AM  
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol, 415 Beretania St.

**Re: Comments on HB467 HD1**, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

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

My name is Steve Lohse, I'm a resident of Chinatown Gateway Plaza (CGP) and chair of the CGP Tenant Association (CGPTA), organized by 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 **with Comments on HB467 HD1**.

While the CGPTA supports the Kupuna Caregiver Program and a plan to reach more people with Kupuna Caregiver funds, **we strongly disagree that caregiver services should be limited to only once per week**. This would severely limit the program's ability to meet both working caregiver needs and the daily needs of our kupuna.

Please also consider that the Kupuna Caregiver Program is barely one year old. Perhaps the Program will need modifying when we see how it runs, but doesn't it make sense to give it time to start running before we start modifying?

**Please, amend HB467 HD1 to remove the once per week limit on services.** Please, generously fund Kupuna Caregivers to help provide both the quality and quantity of care that our kupuna need. How can we justify less in Hawaii Nei? Thank you!

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

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 9:28:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ludvina K Takahashi	Agency on Elderly Affairs	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Kealoha Takahashi. Although I am in support of HB 467 to continue the needed funding for Kupuna Caregivers program, I strongly disagree that the services should be limited to only once per week.

Thank you for your consideration in meeting the needs of our Kupuna and their caregivers.





# The Caregiver Foundation

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February 20, 2019

**Chair Sylvia Luke**  
**Vice Chair Ty Cullen**  
**House Committee on Finance**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019**

## COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Gary Powell and I am writing to express my comments for **House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program**. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Gary A. Powell – Executive Director**  
**1034 Kilani Ave. STE 104**  
**Wahiawa, HI 96786**

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 2:21:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

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

FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison

DATE: Thursday, February 21, 2019 (11:00 a.m., Room 308)

RE: **COMMENTS on HB 467, HD1 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

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

**CCH provides the following COMMENTS in regard to HB 467, HD1:**

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

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

- **PAGE 5**: Line 10 indicates a maximum **daily rate** of funding for Kupuna Caregiver services. **This daily restriction does not take into account the diverse needs of working caregivers.** For example:
  - A working caregiver who may be planning for surgery and unable to provide caregiving for an intensive but short period of time.
  - A working caregiver who may have an emergency, such as illness or death of a family member on the mainland, and may need a few days or weeks of intensive caregiving support while the caregiver is off island.
  - A working caregiver who may have a 4 day work week, working 10 hours per shift, who may want to have the kupuna go to adult day care 4 days a week but would need to pay for additional hours of care on those 4 days.

**By allowing more flexibility in how the funding may be used, the program can likely serve more working caregivers since some may need short term assistance rather than ongoing assistance.** Limiting the program to a daily rate is extremely restrictive and does not allow sufficient flexibility to meet the diverse needs of working caregivers.

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

- **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Consider having a **monthly** limit on authorized services per kupuna, consistent with the system already used by Kupuna Care's existing Participant Directed Services.
- Consider adding a core service of **Emergency Financial Assistance**, to address the needs of a working caregiver that may not be met within the existing network of contracted providers and who may need immediate assistance due to an unanticipated emergency in the working caregiver's situation.

For more information or questions, please feel free to email Diane Terada, Division Administrator, at [diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:diane.terada@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) or call her via phone at 527-4702.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 8:56:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James D Cisler	PABEA	Support	No

Comments:

As one of Hawaii's Kupuna, as a caregiver and as an advocate for all of Hawaii's elder population I support SB467. Other testimony has justified the need for additional funds. And, along with that, I support the sensibility of changing the program's \$70.00 daily funding reference to at *least* \$350.00 weekly. Thank you.

## Helping Hawai'i Live Well

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

From: Trisha Kajimura, Executive Director

**Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467 HD1 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**  
**Hearing: February 21 2019, 11:00 am, CR 308**

Thank you for hearing **House Bill 467 HD1**, which will provide funds to continue the Kupuna Caregivers program. Through the Kupuna Caregivers program, our dedicated family caregivers will receive the support that they need to help keep kupuna safe at home and their family stress level from becoming unmanageable.

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

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 can 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 77 years ago, that serves the community by promoting mental health through advocacy, education and service. Kupuna and caregivers are both at-risk for mental health issues due to aging and high levels of stress. The Kupuna Caregivers program supports the mental health of our working and caregiving families.

Thank you for considering my **testimony in support of HB 467 HD1**. Please contact me at [trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org](mailto:trisha.kajimura@mentalhealthhawaii.org) or (808)521-1846 if you have any questions.



**ACOG**  
The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

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

DATE: Thursday, February 21, 2019  
PLACE: House Conference Room 308

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

**RE: HB467\_HD1 – Relating to the Kūpuna Caregivers Program**  
**Position: COMMENTS**

The Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) supports the intent behind HB 467\_HD1, which would continue the needed funding for the Kūpuna Caregivers program, however we are not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed.

In 2017, the Hawai'i State Legislature honored our tradition in Hawai'i of caring for our kūpuna by establishing the Kūpuna Caregivers Program. Within just a few weeks of launch, the Executive Office on Aging documented over 500 requests for services. By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i.<sup>1</sup> Many of our diverse cultures in Hawai'i honor our elders who wish to age at home, but the burden on caregivers can be significant and can include financial and emotional stress. Much of that burden disproportionately falls on women. According to AARP, the average caregiver is a 62-year old married woman who cares for an elderly parent or husband while still working. Working women may neglect their own health while caring for their children and their parents. Many women may leave the workforce altogether, which can affect their insurance and access to health care.

Our organization calls for access to quality health care appropriate to every woman's needs throughout her life and for assuring that a full array of clinical services be available to women without costly delays or the imposition of cultural, geographic, financial or legal barriers.<sup>2</sup> Kūpuna Caregivers provides critical support to families so that caregivers do not have to choose between caring for a loved one and stable employment and healthcare access. HI ACOG is committed to both facilitating access to and supporting high quality women's health care, including for caregivers and our kūpuna.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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



February 19, 2019

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

Re: COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Hrg: February 21, 2019 11:00AM in House conference room 308

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

Regarding House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program, this bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

HPHA is supportive of the program, but not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling.

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Holly Kessler'.

Holly Kessler  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Public Health Association



**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 7:56:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Yurie Takishima-Lacasa	Hawai'i Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) supports this measure which would provide additional funding to expand the Kupuna Caregiver program. It would increase the number of recipients who would benefit from the Kupuna Caregiver program and also allow for program flexibility in the use of the funds to address the needs of the caregivers.



**Evelyn Hao**  
President

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

**Rev. Won-Seok Yuh**  
Vice President-  
Clergy

Thursday, February 21, 2019

**William Bekemeier**  
Vice President-  
Laity

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 467 HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

**Jon Davidann**  
Treasurer

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

**Deanna Espinas**  
Secretary

My name is Evelyn Aczon Hao and I am the President of Faith Action for Community Equity. Faith Action (*formerly known as FACE*) has been working on long-term care issues since 1996. As an organization that really pushed for the passage of the Kupuna Caregivers Program, we strongly SUPPORT House Bill 467. Continued funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program is critical if we are to address the needs of our kupuna and their caregivers.

**Christy MacPherson**  
Executive  
Director

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.

**Soo San Schake**  
Organizing  
Assistant

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program that 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 statute so instead of providing \$70 per day in services it would be an average of up to \$350 per 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 step up and continue funding this critical program.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Aczon Hao  
President  
Faith Action for Community Equity



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Comments of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
In reference to HB 467 HD1 – Relating to the Kūpuna Caregivers Program  
House Committees on Finance  
Thursday, February 21, 2019, 11:00 AM, conference room 308

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **COMMENTS** on **HB 467 HD1**, which would continue funding for the Kūpuna Caregivers Program and require the Executive Office on Aging to report on the outcomes of the program and create a plan to maximize the number of program participants.

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

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

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

It is essential that the program continue to be funded adequately, and the services not be limited to only once per week, in order to help many of our working families, who are in desperate need of the support that the program can provide.

Preserving the original intent of this program means Hawai'i can honor the wishes of our seniors, improve their health outcomes, and reduce the cost of long-term care for both family caregivers and the state.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments.

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*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.*

**Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019**

**COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

My name is Yuya Matsuoka, and I am writing to express my comments for **House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program**. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

**While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week.**

This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Yuya Matsuoka****[Insert Name]**  
**Program Director, Sakura House Adult Day Care**  
**1666 Mott Smith Drive**  
**Honolulu, HI 96822****[Insert Address]**

Testimony Supporting HB467 HD1  
House Committee on Finance  
February 21, 2019 at 11:00am in Conference Room 308

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 HB467 HD1 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 bill should be amended to appropriate \$2 million to the program, which will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful number of employed caregivers. With that appropriation I support the bill and urge the committee to pass it.



**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2019 5:50:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill with the amendment noted below.

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.

The bill should be amended to appropriate \$2 million to the program, which will allow the program to serve a more significant and meaningful number of employed caregivers.

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:11:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Reuben Ignacio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I agree with the purpose of the bill to help Care Givers provide support to our Kupuna. However, I feel the bill should be amended because it will fall short in two ways:

- 1) The amount of support of 1 day of service per week is not sufficient. As an employee of the county Office on Aging, we know first hand the amount of services required to meet minimum care standards.
- 2) The employment verification of 30 hours per week would heavily favor the island of Oahu leaving the other islands in Hawaii at a disadvantage.

My testimony is one of support with amendments.



**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 12:32:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Mariano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

1. name is James Mariano and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, which relates to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help caregivers of which many of you are and many exist in our state.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing caregivers to have greater flexibility in directing how best they can be helped. Why put restraints on those who are already performing at high levels of stress? Please consider this carefully and put yourselves in the shoes of the caregivers. They need help. We all need them to be able to work and care for their loved ones.

Thank you for hearing and allowing me to share my testimony.

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 1:18:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Harvey, MD	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I support the intent of HB 467 to fund the Kupuna Caregivers program, however I do not support capping services to once per week as this defeats the intent of the original program which was to help caregivers who are working outside of the home to stay employed. Please fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 2:31:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jan Shishido	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

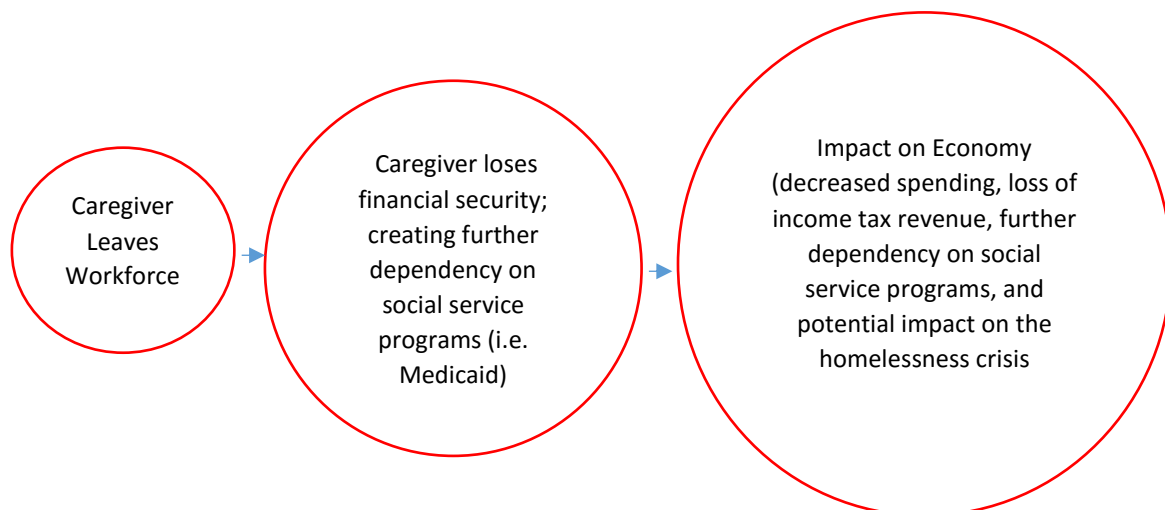
**HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Public Testimony of Kevin J. Dusenbury, Jr.

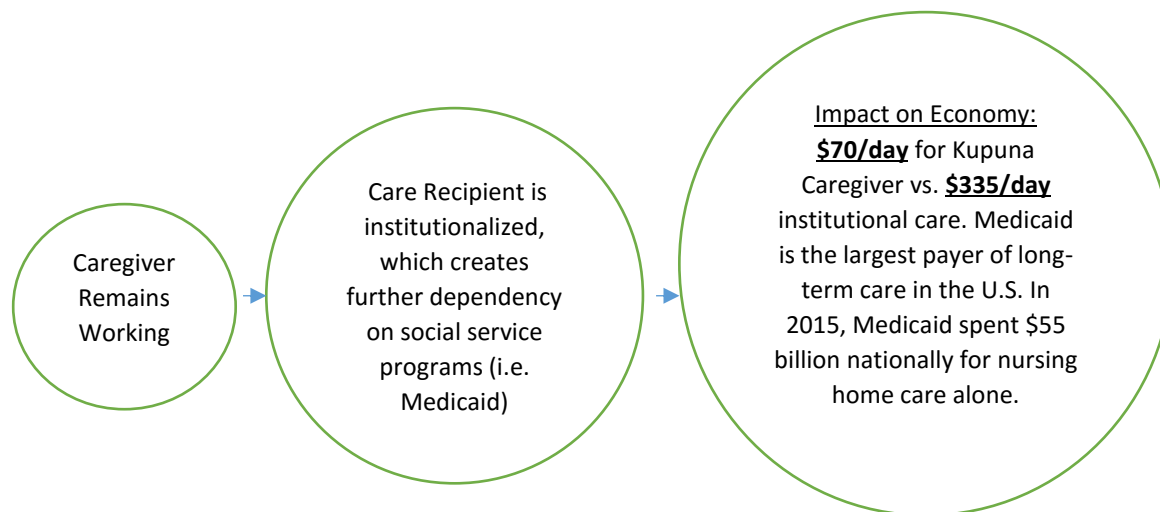
**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**Room Number: Conference Room 308**

Regarding HB 467 and the Kupuna Caregivers Program, I am in strong support of this proposed bill with the **exception** of the limitation of services to one day per week (page 6, lines 2-3). It is my understanding that the Kupuna Caregivers program was designed to help working caregivers maintain their current employment while also preventing unnecessary institutionalization for their loved ones. If services for the Kupuna Caregivers program are reduced to one day per week, I am concerned that working caregivers will be faced with very difficult decisions; such as leaving the workforce or placing their loved ones in long-term care facilities which may create undesired snowball effects for the caregiver, care recipient, and economy as a whole.

Exhibit 1 – Caregiver Leaves Workforce Snowball Effect



## Exhibit 2 – Caregiver Remains in Workforce Snowball Effect<sup>1</sup>



According to AARP, there are about 154,000 unpaid caregivers across Hawaii that provided **144 million hours of unpaid care** in 2013, which has an estimated value of **\$2.1 billion**.<sup>2</sup> In a 2014 AARP survey, more than 61 percent of caregivers reported that they work or have worked full or part-time while providing care to a loved one. Of the working caregivers, nearly three-quarters (72 percent) report that they have had to go into work early or late, or take time off to care for a loved one. Many working caregivers have also had to take a leave of absence (39 percent), work reduced hours (19 percent), or give up working entirely (21 percent) to provide care to an adult loved one.<sup>3</sup> If a caregiver must reduce their hours or stop working entirely, there may be financial burdens that may drastically affect the caregiver, the caregiver's family and eventually the entire economic system.

While it is important to help as many caregivers as possible, I believe that the Kupuna Caregiver Program should continue as a program that provides up to \$70 per day of caregiver support services for working caregivers, especially those with the highest caregiver burden scores and/or those at risk of losing employment due to their caregiving responsibilities. For those not requiring the high level care of the Kupuna Caregivers program, those caregivers may benefit greatly from the caregiver support services in traditional Kupuna Care.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding HB 467.

<sup>1</sup>"Medicaid's Role in Nursing Home Care." Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Website

(<https://www.kff.org/infographic/medicaids-role-in-nursing-home-care/>) Accessed February 19, 2019

<sup>2</sup>"Hawaii Caregivers Provide \$2.1 Billion in Unpaid Care." AARP Website (<http://states.aarp.org/hawaii-family-caregivers-provide-2-1-billion-in-unpaid-care-sc-hi-wp-advocacy/>) Accessed February 19, 2019

<sup>3</sup>"Hawaii Caregivers Provide \$2.1 Billion in Unpaid Care." AARP Website (<http://states.aarp.org/hawaii-family-caregivers-provide-2-1-billion-in-unpaid-care-sc-hi-wp-advocacy/>) Accessed February 19, 2019

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 4:44:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debra Mapel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Room 308, 11:00AM

RE: Support for H.B. No. 467 HD1, With Amendment

**RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

Allow me introduce myself, I am Debra Mapel, a 40 year resident of Molokai, recently selected to fill the Maui County Office on Aging, Molokai Specialist position. Along with the Maui County Office on Aging (MCOA), I **strongly support H.B. 467** intent to support our Kupuna requiring more services **but only with the removal which limits the daily benefit for each qualified recipient to once per week.** A policy that provides additional funding then limits the amount of days aide is provided does not adequately support the lives and health of the participant or their caregivers.

Even though the Kupuna Caregivers Program (KCG) supports family members and friends to remain employed, the limited employment opportunities on Molokai do not support individuals who must find a balance to meet the challenges between work, family and caregiving demands. Requiring a minimum of 30 hours a week employment to qualify for KCG only adds to the caregivers stress. After all, KCG is about reducing caregivers risk to job security and burnout.

I commend the goal to maximize the number of participants in the program and offer core services by appropriating funds to remove the kupuna caregiver program allocation

cap from \$70 per day to an unspecified amount per week, and urge this committee to remove the limitations which would prohibit such intent. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Debra Mapel

Submitted: Tuesday, February 19, 2019

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 5:54:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed.

Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched.

And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot afford to take care of a loved one and remain fully employed.

This program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great.

This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, helping people before crisis has struck.

It also helps reduce costs to the state by possibly delaying the time that a family may become eligible for Medicaid.



Studies have also shown that people that age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, which ends up saving our state of expensive medical procedures that could have been prevented with adequate care.

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

**February 19, 2019**

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

**RE: HB 467,HD1, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

**Hearing: February 21, 2019 – 11AM, Conference Room 308**

**Most Honorable Chair Luke and Vice-Chair Cullen and Members of the House Committee on Finance:**

**Please vote in SUPPORT of HB467,HD1, Hawaii's Kupuna Caregiver Program.**

- ✓ **Vote to support the funding request of \$2 Million for this fiscal year.**
- ✓ **Vote to change the language of the bill so that caregivers are not limited to the use of the funds for one day a week only. The language needs the flexibility of the use of the funds for the entire week.**

**This program serves the frailest kupuna who have many needs and have a need for daily home care. As caregivers need to be employed to qualify to participate in this program, the use of the funds should allow flexibility of use and should not be limited to one day a week only.**

**I wrote to you in support of this bill's initial inception, and appreciated your support then. The Kupuna Caregiver's Program (first in the nation) has been very well received, utilized and appreciated.**

**Please continue your support of this measure for the next fiscal year.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Olah  
Honolulu Resident**

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

DATE: Thursday, February 21, 2019

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. 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; 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.

While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week. The people needing care will need it every day of the week. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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 I am not eligible for Medicaid.

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

**HB-467-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 10:47:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara J. Service	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The goal of Kupuna Caregivers, to keep working caregivers in the workforce, has been successful, for those who have been able to benefit. Many more could benefit from the program. Please fund the program at least at the \$2M level.

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

February 20, 2019

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Comments on HB467 HD1, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

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

The Legislatures believed the Kupuna Caregivers program would make a difference in the life of a Kupuna and their support system of caregivers and their families. And it has. It was a great day when the program was implemented.

The Kupuna Caregivers program help those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare. This “gap” time is critical for the financial health of the entire family.

I am supportive of the program, however, I believe capping services to once per week falls short of helping these families to remain working the hours needed to earn an income and keep their medical benefits.

I know that caring for a Kupuna at home helps with special attention and care only their loved ones can give them.

The Kupuna caregivers program has proven to make a difference with one Kupuna at a time. The legislature might not be able to change the entire community but at least you can change a small part of it, for someone.

Thank-you,  
Lourdes Scheibert

## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** Robert Nehmad <rnehmad@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 7:48 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Robert Nehmad, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill maintains the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Robert Nehmad  
935 Kauku Place, Honolulu HI 96825

rnehmad@hawaii.rr.com

## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** Darlene Rodrigues <darlene.rodrigues@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 8:26 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Darlene Rodrigues, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Darlene Rodrigues  
94-338 Ulukoa St.



Mililani, HI 96789

United States

darlene.rodriques@gmail.com

## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** Tia Pearson <tia.pearson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 1:46 AM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Tia Pearson, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Tia Pearson  
P.O. box 861697

wahiawa, HI 96786  
United States

tia.pearson@gmail.com

**Chair Sylvia Luke**  
**Vice Chair Ty Cullen**  
**House Committee on Finance**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019**

**COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

My name is Iris Yafuso Toguchi, and I am writing to express my comments for **House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program**. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

**While I am supportive of the program, I am not supportive of capping services to once per week.**

This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

**Iris Yafuso Toguchi**  
**98-1674 Piki Street**  
**Aiea, HI 96701**

**Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance**

**Thursday, February 21, 2019**

**COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

My name is Tracie Kam Romualdo, Director of Seagull Schools Adult Day Center, and I am writing to express my comments for **House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program**. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

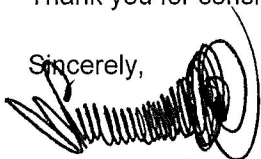
By now we know that the need is for the program is there. The Executive Office on Aging reported that thousands of new calls came into its lines when the program was first launched. And we know why they are calling. The cost of professional caregiving continues to rise and our families simply cannot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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



**Tracie Kam Romualdo, MSW, LSW  
Seagull Schools Adult Day Center  
91-531 Farrington Hwy.  
Kapolei Hawaii 96707**

## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** Gary Powell <gary@thecaregiverfoundation.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 10:09 AM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Gary Powell, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Gary Powell  
STE 104

Wahiawa, HI 96786  
United States

[gary@thecaregiverfoundation.org](mailto:gary@thecaregiverfoundation.org)

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

**COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

My name is Alison Hayama, and I am writing to express my comments for **House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers.

While I am supportive of the program, **I am not supportive of capping services to once per week**. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers like me who work over 40 hours a week or more to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging to create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

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.

**Please continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.**

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Alison Hayama  
45-656 Apapane Street  
Kaneohe, HI 96744



## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** Wade Hayama <whayama@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 9:37 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony/Comments regarding HB 467, HD1 for the FIN hearing on February 21, 2019 at 11 A.M., Room 308

Chair Sylvia Luke

Vice Chair Ty Cullen

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

### **COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

My name is Wade Hayama, and I am writing to express my comments for **House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our Kupuna and their caregivers.

While I am supportive of the program, **I am not supportive of capping services to once per week**. This defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers like me who work over 40 hours a week or more to stay employed. Instead, I support allowing the Executive Office on Aging to create a proposed plan to reach more people and allowing them the flexibility to create a plan that works best for families.

I am writing to you, as a caregiver for my mother-in-law 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 mother-in-law. Our goal is to keep my mother-in-law 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 mother-in-law 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.

**Please continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.**

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Wade Hayama

45-656 Apapane Street

Kaneohe, HI 96744

## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** R B <porthosjump@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 5:38 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

### COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is R B, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
R B  
Pob 10658

Hilo, HI 96721  
United States

porthosjump@gmail.com

## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** I jamie Jackson <jamie@jamiejacksondesign.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 5:45 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is I jamie Jackson, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
I jamie Jackson  
19 Makaweli street

Honolulu, HI 96825  
United States

[jamie@jamiejacksondesign.com](mailto:jamie@jamiejacksondesign.com)

**finance1 - Sean**

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**From:** hARLOW tODARO <harlowmaui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 6:57 PM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of HB 467

## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** Kathy Jaycox <jaycox@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 11:40 AM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

### COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Kathy Jaycox, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Jaycox  
559 Pauku St



Kailua, HI  
United States

jaycox@hawaii.edu

House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice-Chair  
Thursday, February 21, 2019, 11:00 a.m. Room 308

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

SUBMITTED FROM:  
Lynn Wong, Director  
Live Well At Iwilei by Kāhala Nui

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on **HB 467, HD1** 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.

While I am supportive of the Kupuna Caregiver program and the funding that is needed to continue this program, I **am not supportive** of capping services to once per week as described in this latest draft of HB 467. This cap defeats the intent of the original program to help caregivers who are working outside the home to stay employed. 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 the Alzheimer 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 while she is at work. Reducing the program benefits to only once a week as proposed in HB 467, HD1 may force this particular spouse to quit her job prematurely and/or rely on Medicaid to pay for his care. Either scenario would be costly to the State since we would potentially lose an employed wage earner who may end up on public assistance for both herself and her husband who has many health issues.

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 express my comments on HB 467, HD 1.

FIN-Jo

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From: Diane Ware <volcanogetaway@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 1:05 PM  
To: FINtestimony  
Subject: HB467 strongly oppose

Dear Chair Luke and committee members,

I do not support the bill in its current form because it would limit caregivers to receiving kupuna care assistance to only one time per week, eviscerating the program itself. The Committee Report, however, did not make it clear nor was it clear from the hearing.

I urge you to oppose this bill as amended and honor what has been passed to support our fragile Kupuna. In the long run money will be saved with fewer hospital stay a and emergency services. Kupuna will be healthier and happier.  
Respectfully,

Diane Ware  
808-967-8642  
P. O. Box 698  
99-7815 Kapoha  
Volcano HI 96785

FIN-Jo

---

From: Juanita Colon <anita3396@aol.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 4:09 PM  
To: FINtestimony  
Subject: Testimony in support of HB 467

My name is Juanita Colon,

Testimony in support of HB 467:

We retired Senior Citizen work all our life. I am 85 years old and the little things that are needed in life is very important to us. And prices of food, medicine, etc. get higher.

Please do not do this. Do not reduce the amount Kupuna is receiving. Let us live comfortably as we get older now because we are getting there. It's not human to let older people suffer when they deserve what they are getting now.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita R. Colon  
91-603 Kilipoe Street  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Feb. 10, 2019

FIN-Jo

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From: Stephen Berkson <sanchobverde@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 4:30 PM  
To: FINtestimony  
Subject: Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Stephen Berkson, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

Each year the Hawaii Legislature has shown leadership on this issue by creating and continuing to fund the program. We hope this year you will once again step up and continue to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service. --I would like to add that I was a caregiver for eight+ years Molokai and I (we caregivers) need all the help we can get. Please consider this. Thank You. --  
Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Berkson

PO Box 1722  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
United States

[sanchobverde@gmail.com](mailto:sanchobverde@gmail.com)

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019

Time: 11:00 A. M.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: Gary Simon, Chairperson  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

Re: HB 467 HD 1, Relating to the Kūpuna Caregivers Program

**LATE**

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

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

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

PABEA strongly supports the Kūpuna Caregivers Program.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Very sincerely,

*Gary Simon*

Gary Simon, Chairperson  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)  
Email [gsimon@stfrancishawaii.org](mailto:gsimon@stfrancishawaii.org)

From: "Clementina Ceria-Ulep" <clem@hawaii.edu>  
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 6:22 PM  
To: FINtestimony  
Subject: Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance



Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Clementina Ceria-Ulep, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical measure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

The Kupuna Caregivers program helps those in the gap group who are not eligible for Medicaid or Medicare to help with the costs, but are still barely making it, at times at risk of losing their jobs or having to reduce hours at work because the duties at home are too great. This reduces the income earning power of the caregivers, their social security benefits, at times risking their insurance coverage, and placing them closer and closer into poverty.

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

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

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





## finance1 - Sean

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**From:** Deanna Espinas <espihawaii@juno.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019 10:07 AM  
**To:** FINtestimony  
**Subject:** Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance



Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Deanna Espinas, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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

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

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

Our family has experienced caregiving challenges with a grandparent and our parents. While those elders were alive, we tried to do what was best, but often could not meet the fiscal obligations. Now, friends and associates are facing the same scenario and desperately need the support of the community.

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

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Deanna Espinas  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
espihawaii@juno.com

**LATE**

**TESTIMONEY FOR HB 467, HD1  
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

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

**RE:** Comments on HB 467, HD1, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019, 11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Anna Filler and I am submitting my comments for HB 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for HB 467, HD1, that provides funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. This measure should not be limited to once a week. 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.

Thank you very much for your consideration of HB 467, HD1, that needs the funding for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. I hope you will continue once again step up to fund this critical program without a cap on days of service.

Anna Filler  
Email: [afiller@twc.com](mailto:afiller@twc.com)  
Kaka'ako-McCully, District 26

The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2019

**LATE**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Thursday, February 21, 2019; 11:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 467, HD1  
RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports the intent** of H.B. 467, HD1, which requires the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to include details on outcomes of the Kupuna Caregivers Program in its annual report; requires the EOA to create a plan, submitted to the Legislature, to maximize the number of participants in the program and offer core services; changes the allocation cap from \$70 per day to an unspecified amount per week; and requires the EOA to create administrative rules to implement and administer the Kupuna Caregivers Program by 2022.

We applaud the Legislature for establishing the Kupuna Caregivers Program in 2017 as the first of its kind in the nation. While services are provided to the kupuna, the real “client” is the kupuna’s family caregiver, who, with services provided to a loved one, is able to retain his or her employment, thereby protecting the caregiver’s own financial security now and into the future. Another secondary beneficiary of this program is the caregiver’s employer, who is spared the dilemma of premature retirement or resignation due to an employee’s caregiving responsibilities.

The program currently allows for payment of up to \$70 a day for services like adult day care, which has been determined to be the most cost-effective, providing respite to the caregiver for the entire day to allow the caregiver to go to work. Other services are available but may not be promoted as much as adult day care.

H.B. 467, HD1 proposes to continue the Kupuna Caregiver Program but with some **significant changes**.

**First**, the benefit in the bill is currently an unspecified amount, which could be more or less than \$70 a day, and is limited to one benefit a week. Although we understand the Legislature’s intent to ensure that more people are served with the limited appropriation, **reducing the amount of money available to assist a kupuna will likely mean reducing the effectiveness of the funds**. Allowing a kupuna to go to adult day care only once a week may not be enough respite for a family caregiver to continue working at his/her job.

Adult day care is not the only Kupuna Care service that can help kupuna remain in their own homes. **These other services should be carefully discussed with the family by a case**

**manager.** For example, home-delivered meals may be a way for the kupuna to receive not only a meal each day but direct daily contact.

**Second**, H.B. 467, HD11 requires a report detailing outcomes of the Kupuna Caregiver Program with evaluation metrics, a cost breakdown and analysis of individuals served by county and type of service received, data on the existing waiting list by county, and recommendations to support the implementation and execution of the program. **We fully support the requirement for data, which we are fairly certain will demonstrate the need for even more appropriations to address the growing need.**

In our view, data should include **demographic information** (including caregiver's job and salary) and how the caregiver or kupuna learned about the program. The data may also include tracking what happened to those on the waitlist who were not served—e.g., did the kupuna pass away, did the applicant just give up trying to get services, was the paperwork requirement an impediment, did the kupuna end up in an institution.

Public service announcements in English and other languages will help to reach a wider audience to publicize the program. We should reach the most needy (e.g., working caregivers in low-wage jobs), not just those who already know about the program. **Right now, access to services is on a first-come, first-served basis but should be based on need.**

**Third**, the bill requires the Executive Office on Aging to develop a Kupuna Caregivers Program plan, which, we believe, should include the following basic information: (1) outreach to the “most needy” working caregivers; (2) implementation, if possible, of a means test to ensure that services are provided to those unable to pay for them; (3) a benefit that will result in meaningful respite to allow a working caregiver to retain employment; (4) counseling for caregivers about the range of Kupuna Care services available; (5) tracking of waitlisted clients to determine what happened to them; and (6) hands-on assistance and/or streamlining paperwork requirements to ensure that clients are not denied because paperwork could not be provided. We support development of a comprehensive plan to maximize the number being served.

**Finally**, the bill requires the Executive Office on Aging to create administrative rules by 2022 to implement and administer the Kupuna Caregivers Program. Although some may consider administrative rules as an impediment and restrictive, we believe **the administrative rules can allow for more transparency in the application and implementation process, which, in turn, will help to strengthen the program.**

The ILWU supports the Kupuna Caregivers Program and hope the committee will consider our comments. In particular, we respectfully request that the proposal to limit funding to one benefit a week be reconsidered. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

From: Laurie Leland <laurie\_leland@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 5:41 PM  
To: FINtestimony  
Subject: Comments for HB467, HD1; Hearing on 2/21/19 - 11am, Rm 308

Chair Sylvia Luke  
Vice Chair Ty Cullen  
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 21, 2019

COMMENTS ON HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

My name is Laurie Leland, and I am writing to express my comments for House Bill 467, HD1, relating to the Kupuna Caregivers program. This bill continues the needed funding for the Kupuna Caregivers program, a critical part of the infrastructure to help our kupuna and their caregivers, and it also mandates that the Executive Office on Aging create a report on the outcomes of the program and a plan as to how to reach more people.

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Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Leland  
872 Maluniu Avenue

Kailua, HI 96734  
United States

[laurie\\_eland@yahoo.com](mailto:laurie_eland@yahoo.com)