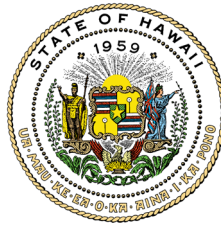


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 988
Relating to Services for Kupuna**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
REPRESENTATIVE RYAN YAMANE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN TAM, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 5, 2021
8:30 a.m.

Room Number: 329
Via Videoconference

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the Department
2 of Health (DOH), is in strong support of House Bill 988, Relating to Services for Kupuna and
3 **offers an amendment.** This measure: 1) amends the work eligibility requirement during a
4 Governor proclaimed state of emergency; 2) adds Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an
5 option in the Kupuna Caregivers program; and 3) adds a financial management service provider
6 who is responsible for financial payments on behalf of participants enrolled in the Kupuna
7 Caregiver-Directed program.

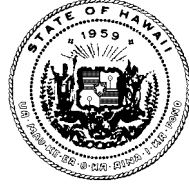
8 **Fiscal Implications:** The Kupuna Care and Kupuna Caregivers programs are currently state
9 funded and implemented by the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in each county. This measure
10 will provide the AAAs an additional option (Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services) offering more
11 flexibility to services and supports to kupuna and their caregivers. Current funds and other
12 supports will be used for these programs.

1 **Purpose and Justification:** The Kupuna Caregivers Program has been in existence since 2017.
2 The language being proposed improves the program and provides additional options for
3 caregivers to support their loved ones. For example, qualified caregivers are currently limited to
4 only using service providers that are contracted by the AAAs. This measure adds Kupuna
5 Caregiver-directed services that allows participants to direct their own services and address their
6 needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount instead of receiving services through a contracted
7 provider.

8 **Recommendation:** Since the language of the bill was written, we offer one amendment as it
9 relates to “unemployed caregiver”. EOA proposes **to delete "or is unemployed" (page 9 line 9**
10 **and 10)** to retain the original intent of the bill to support working caregivers.

11 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 3, 2021

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 988 – RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA**

Hearing: February 5, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to amend the work eligibility requirement during a declared state of emergency and to add kupuna caregiver-directed services as an option in the kupuna caregivers program.

In State Fiscal Year 2020, the Adult Protective and Community Services Branch (APCSB) investigated 806 reports of alleged abuse of vulnerable adults. Adult Protective Services assists vulnerable adults to stop and prevent further abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed additional stressors and increased isolation on vulnerable adults. Additionally, APCSB is noticing a trend in more reports involving possible financial exploitation.

This bill adds the definition of a financial management service provider to existing law so that a provider or a financial management service provider can be issued funds for the cost of services provided. By doing so, this should help prevent situations where vulnerable adults are at risk of being financially exploited. The services provided to caregivers and vulnerable adults

February 3, 2021

Page 2

through the kupuna caregivers program are invaluable in helping to ensure their safety and health during the current state of emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:12:30 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GARY SIMON	Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness:

I am Gary Simon, President of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC).

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

HFCC strongly supports House Bill 988.

The Kupuna Caregiver program is a vital resource for working family caregivers who need assistance in affording respite care for their kupuna so that they can continue to work. With the recent and continuing economic shutdown, many caregivers either have their lost jobs or have experienced a reduction in their work hours. To continue their eligibility as working caregivers, this bill provides program flexibility in reducing the minimum employment hours for caregivers to qualify for the program.

The bill also includes more options such the kupuna caregiver directed services to allow the caregiver more choices of care.

We urge you to support the Kupuna Caregivers Program and HB 988.

We thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

President

Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Friday, February 5, 2021
8:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair

RE: H.B. 988 Relating to Services for Kūpuna

Aloha Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

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

AARP Hawai'i supports H.B. 988 which amends Chapter 349, Part II, to allow for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours a week or be unemployed during a declared state of emergency, adds the definition of a financial management services providers; and adds traditional services and kūpuna caregiver-directed services to the kūpuna care program.

The Kūpuna Caregiver program is a vital resource for working caregivers to afford respite care for their older family members so that they continue to work and make a living. The recent economic shutdown has impacted Hawaii's workforce tremendously - forcing many to lose their jobs and/or reduce their work hours. Amending the kūpuna services rules will allow more flexibility to qualify working caregivers for these support services which will enable them to work or search for employment, while affording the care needed for their loved ones. The bill also provides more options of other respite services to serve Hawai'i's kūpuna and their caregivers.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support H.B. 988

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Lopez".

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i
State Director

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:48:39 AM
Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Yuan	Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)	Support	No

Comments:

The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), we do not speak on its behalf.

PABEA is in strong support of HB 988, Relating to Services for Kupuna. We also support EOA's proposed amendment in its testimony, relating to the deletion of "or is unemployed" (page 9, lines 9 and 10) from the bill.

HB 988 addresses work eligibility requirements and service options of the Kupuna Caregivers program. The amendment to work eligibility requirement during a Governor proclaimed state of emergency would allow *working caregivers* whose work hours have been reduced to less than 30, continue to receive needed caregiving support in times of uncertainty, as demonstrated during this pandemic. The bill extends this flexibility to unemployed caregivers, which PABEA *does not support* because it is not consistent with the Kupuna Caregiver program's intent.

The addition of Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an option in the Kupuna Caregivers program would allow the participants to direct their services and address their needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount, instead of receiving services through a contracted provider. A participant-directed service is an existing option for the *Kupuna Care* program, so the EOA and Area Agencies on Aging are experienced in implementing this service option. The limited service-delivery options during the pandemic have added a sense of urgency to this change. The bill also defines a financial management service provider, the person who is responsible for financial payments on behalf of participants in the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed service option.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

ALOHA CHAPTER

1670 Makaloa Street, Suite 204-316, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

February 4, 2021

Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room Via Teleconference, 8:30 A.M.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB988 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association **supports** House Bill 988 and is in strong support of allowing the Executive Office of Aging to relax the 30-hour employment requirement for qualified caregivers under the Kupuna Caregivers Program during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that caregiving will not be an impediment to getting back to work for those on this program during this pandemic and economic downturn. The Alzheimer's Association is concerned about individuals and families that require support from the Kupuna Caregivers program in order to work fulltime but now, due to no fault of their own, may dip before the 30-hour employment requirement in this economic downturn. They may find themselves caught in a predicament where they cannot accept fulltime work without support but cannot receive support until they are working fulltime.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. Studies have shown that when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security. No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long-term care.

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

Here in Hawaii, an estimated 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregivers program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

1670 Makaloa Street, Suite 204-316, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

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

Ian Ross
Public Policy and Advocacy Manager
iaross@alz.org | Phone: (808) 591-2771 x1333



SUPPORT FOR HB988: RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA

House of Representatives Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness (HHH)

Friday, February 5, 2021 | 8:30 am | via Video Conference

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee,

Faith Action for Community Equity is a grassroots, interfaith organization driven by our members' deep spiritual commitment to addressing the root causes of social justice issues facing our community. **Faith Action is in support of HB988**, which would add kupuna caregiver-directed services to the kupuna caregivers program, include financial management service provider and additional duties for the coach, and allows qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours a week or be unemployed during a declared state of emergency. Studies have shown that when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security.

It is an incredibly difficult task to take care of someone while working in Hawaii. Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care.

We should amend Kupuna Caregivers to make sure that caregiving is not an impediment to getting back to work. We can do that by allowing the Executive Office of Aging to relax the 30-hour employment requirement for qualified caregivers under the Kupuna Caregivers Program during a state-declared state of emergency. Counties can use the money carried over from previous fiscal years as well as CARES money to continue to fund the program in the short term. This funding may last through December 2021.

No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long-term care.

Mahalo for considering our testimony in support of HB988.

If you have any questions, please contact Faith Action Executive Director Ashleigh Loa (808-746-2741, aloa@faithactionhawaii.org).

THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



Friday, February 5, 2021
House Bill 988
Testifying in Strong Support

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and Members of the Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness:

The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii stands in strong support of HB 988 as it amends Chapter 349, Part II, entitled kupuna care and caregiver support services, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours a week or be unemployed during a declared state of emergency, add the definition of a financial management service provider, and add traditional services and kupuna caregiver directed services to the kupuna care program.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i (Party) has adopted at its State Convention in 2018, clear safeguards for our family caregivers on page 6 of the Party Platform:

“Our work and family policies must also help family caregivers. We will ensure that family caregivers have the support, respite care, and training they need to support their loved ones. We will create a strong stable paid caregiving workforce to help meet families’ needs, by raising wages, improving access to training, and giving workers the opportunity to come together to make their voices heard in support of a stronger system.”

The Kupuna Caucus strongly supports HB 988. However, we encourage the Committee to review the requirements for permanent impairments. While these impairments are related to long term or impairment health issues, in the age of COVID-19 perhaps we should look at temporary impairments due to the pandemic. One could be significantly impaired for activities of daily living (ADL) as well as instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) during times of recovery for the disease. Perhaps we should allow the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) enact emergency criteria for this situation. The current law states:

"(5) Has impairments of at least: (A) Two activities of daily living; (B) Two instrumental activities of daily living; (C) One activity of daily living and one instrumental activity of daily living; or (D) Substantive cognitive impairment requiring substantial supervision because the individual behaves in a manner that poses a serious health or safety hazard to the individual or another person."

For these reasons, we urge you to pass this bill as amends Chapter 349, Part II, entitled kupuna care and caregiver support services, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours a week or be unemployed during a declared state of emergency, add the definition of a financial management service provider, and add traditional services and kupuna caregiver directed services to the kupuna care program, all of which are consistent with the Party Platform.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,
/s/ Melodie Aduja
Melodie Aduja
Vice-Chair, Kupuna Caucus, Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 8:13:27 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Esther Ueda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB988 relating to Services for Kupuna.

The Kupna Caregiver program is an important resource for working family caregivers who need assistance in getting respite care for their kupuna. With the recent economic situation where so many persons who are caregivers have lost jobs or had a reduction in work hours, these proposed

amendments are needed to continue their eligibility as working caregivers. The bill provides

flexibility in reducing minimum employment hours to qualify and also includes options to allow the caregiver more choices of care.

Thank you for supporting HB988.

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:08:08 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

and Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

From: Margaret A. Perkinson, PhD, Gerontology Research Scientist

Friday, February 5, 2021

Support for HB 988, Relating to Services for Kupuna

I am voicing my strong support of HB 988 as a private citizen and gerontologist who has actively engaged in research on family caregiving of older adults for over 30 years.

Due to the current pandemic, many family caregivers of older adults have lost their jobs. In addition, contracted service providers have either closed or decreased their services. These developments impose significant burden to the already demanding role of family caregiving and potentially disqualify now unemployed family caregivers from Hawaii's kupuna caregivers program. HB 988 allows for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours a week or be unemployed during a declared state of emergency. It also adds kupuna caregiver-directed services to the kupuna caregivers program, introducing a welcome option. I voice my strong support of HB 988, because it provides the flexibility necessary for the kupuna caregivers program to continue to address the needs of caregivers during these extreme times.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of HB 988.

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 8:35:22 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Jim Shon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support HB 988. However, encourage the Committee to review the requirements for permanent pairments. While these impairments related to long term or permanemen health issues, in the age of COVID-19 perhaps we should look at temporary impairments due to the pandemic. One could be significantly impaired for ADLs as well as IADLs dring times of recovery for the disease. Perhaps we should allow the EOA to enact emergency criteria for this situation.

"(5) Has impairments of at least: 11 (A) Two activities of daily living; 12 (B) Two instrumental activities of daily living; 13 (C) One activity of daily living and one 14 instrumental activity of daily living; or 15 (D) Substantive cognitive impairment requiring 16 substantial supervision because the individual 17 behaves in a manner that poses a serious health 18 or safety hazard to the individual or another 19 person."

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 10:33:11 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Jaycox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Given the impact of CoVid on so many working people in Hawaii, this bill would allow the Executive Office on Aging to be more lenient in its requirements to help working people who are also caregivers for their kupuna. Its passage should be a "no-brainer."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:33:27 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicolas K. Los Banos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

Working with the aging population for over ten years, as well as being a caregiver for my 96 year-old grandmother who is living with dementia, I have come to understand the immense energy and spirit given by caregivers each and every day. Your support of HB988 will help develop State-wide efforts to grow the supports and services available to address the needs and challenges that families like mine face every single day. The increasing number of kupuna in Hawai'i highlights the need for your support of HB988, which is crucial to ensuring that caregivers have as much support as possible to maintain their capacity to care for and honor their loved ones.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Nicolas K. Los Baños

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:05:44 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

My father lived with some form of dementia for 10-15 years before passing away in 2016. He was cared for at home by his wife, and she never even sought respite care or help, partly for her own personal reasons but also because this level of care is SO DIFFICULT to find.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session.

Thank you,

Nancy Rose

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 2:42:27 PM
Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LJ Duenas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice-Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementia. The Kupuna Caregivers program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state’s economy this legislative session.

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 3:46:15 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ivy Castellanos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

During these challenging and unprecedented times, we must safeguard the resources and supports that family caregivers rely on. As a caregiver for my late grandmother who suffered from dementia for 11 years and as a professional who currently serves families affected by dementia, I can attest to the inherent challenge of balancing work and caregiving. With the additional weight and complexity of maintaining this balance during an ongoing global pandemic, these resources and supports become lifelines for family caregivers who are exhausted, depleted, and trying their best to care for their loved ones and simply get through the day.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. As you work hard towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state’s economy this legislative session, I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.

Ivy Castellanos

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 4:02:09 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Truong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

My 59-year-old father still works while also caregiving for my mother who is has younger-onset Alzheimer's. She is in her 60s but needs help doing everything such as bathing, feeding, dressing, and she is slowly losing the ability to walk. This caregiving program is vital to my family because we face many challenges financially and emotionally caring for my mother.

I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session.

With warmest aloha,

Amy Truong

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:11:59 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

My wife's grandmother recently turned 94 years old and is suffering with dementia. Her primary caregivers are my wife's 96-year-old grandfather and my wife's aunt who works as a nurse and lives in the same housing development to be available to care for both of them when she is not working. There are many times where my wife's grandparents are alone to take care of themselves and as they continue to get older it will be essential that they always have someone with them. About 18 months ago, my wife's grandmother was having pain in her stomach area which led to more severe pains and was rushed to the emergency room where it was determined that she had to have her appendix removed immediately. While she was fortunate that her family was available in that instance to get her to the hospital, without the passing of HB988 this may not be the case the next time there is a medical emergency.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. As you work hard towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session, I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving.

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 5:47:01 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon Takaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the 34 hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this ongoing crisis.

My father passed away after struggling with the Alzheimer's Disease. Many of his siblings have since passed due to the disease. The disease have now claimed the lives of next generation, my cousins. In the process many of my relatives have served as caregivers resulting in major burden and expenses.

In Hawaii 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for elederly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care.

As you work hard towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this Legislative session, I ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving.

Thank you.

Gordon Takaki

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 7:52:42 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Curry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session.

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 7:59:03 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francis Nakamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House of Representatives

Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness

Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

To: Chair Ryan Yamane and Members of the Committee

I support HB988 which would amend the Kupuna Caregiver law to allow for more flexibility to allow caregivers and care recipients to continue to age in place during the emergency conditions of the Covid19 pandemic.

Under the current law, which was successfully permitting working caregivers to provide care to their loved ones prior to the pandemic. However, many caregivers who were required to work at least 30 hours a week to qualify for Kupuna Caregiver and could not qualify due to loss of work time or unemployment due to the pandemic. HB988 will allow these qualified caregivers to continue to care for their loved ones during the Covid19 emergency despite working less than 30 hours a week.

HB988 also gives caregivers more flexibility to choose the types of caregiver services that can be provided under pandemic conditions and afford them help in financial and budgetary advice to overcome the difficulties imposed by the pandemic. Due to legally imposed virus mitigation restrictions, many services previously available are limited or non-existent. The bill will allow for alternatives previously not permitted.

Please support HB988.

Respectfully,

Francis M Nakamoto

1829 Ala Noe Place

Honolulu, HI 96819

LATE

February 4, 2021

Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **HB988 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I support HB988 because this bill calls for the Executive Office on Aging to strengthen the Kupuna Caregivers program by relaxing the thirty-hour employment requirement during a state declared state of emergency. Passage of this bill eases the decision making of caregivers whether to care for their loved one or go to work.

Hawaii's kupuna population continues to rise each year. Many seniors have dementia and often Alzheimer's disease. Statewide, there are over 29,000 people with Alzheimer's, cared for by 29,000 caregivers. Seniors and their caregivers are impacted financially, socially and physically every day. There are no breaks from being a caregiver.

My late mother had various care needs, from cardiac to dementia. As a caregiver, providing as much as comfort, happy moments when possible, and the quality of life deserved to a woman who devoted herself to family and community.

Kupuna and caregivers need assistance during this pandemic. I encourage you to support HB88.

Sincerely,



Calvin M. Hara

email: cmhara@comcast.net

phone/mobile: 916-812-5524

LATE

HB-988

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 9:54:27 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/5/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Hokama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

I have a history of dementia on both sides of my family, and I remember the truly unforgiving, demanding, relentless nature of this disease, how it can take down the patient, the caregiver, and any loved one who is determined to dig in and really support them. Dementia can take down a family. But the people who have reached out for help from the Kupuna Caregiver program because they have limited resources really need your help. I cannot imagine being in a situation where covid economic and employment impact now is also a threat to government help you depended on to help you take care of your loved one. Furthermore, sometimes symptom management like controlling wandering or making a dementia loved one more cooperative for taking medicine or just taking a shower depends on routines or rituals like going out for a walk or going to the store. With covid restrictions, solutions that once worked may no longer be available to them. There may be any number of logistical reasons why a caregiver would be required to spend more time with their dementia loved one. Please help them and protect them!

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session.

Thank you for your time!

Naomi

LATE

Dear Chair Ryan I. Yamane, Vice Chair Adrian K. Tam, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. As you work hard towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session, I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving.