

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 26, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator, Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB1142 SD1 – RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.**

Hearing: March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill measure. The Committee on Human Services amended the measure by:

- 1) Removing unemployed qualified caregivers from inclusion in the kupuna care and caregivers support services work eligibility program, during a governor-proclaimed state of emergency;
- 2) Inserting an effective date of May 1, 2029; and
- 3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill adds kupuna caregiver-directed services to kupuna caregivers program. Includes financial management service provider and additional duties for the coach. Allows for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours a week during a declared state of emergency. Effective 5/1/2029. (SD1)

By adding the definition of a financial management service provider to existing laws, 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 through

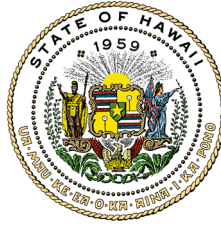
the kupuna caregivers program are invaluable in helping to ensure their safety and health during the current state of emergency.

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.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

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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 SB 1142 SD1
Relating to Services for Kupuna**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: March 2, 2021
9:30 a.m.

Room Number: 211
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 Senate Bill 1142 SD1, Relating to Services for Kupuna.
3 This measure: 1) relaxes the work eligibility requirement during a state declared state of
4 emergency; 2) adds Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an option in the Kupuna Caregivers
5 program; and 3) adds a financial management service provider who is responsible for financial
6 payments on behalf of participants enrolled in the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed program.
- 7 **Fiscal Implications:** The EOA is not requesting additional funds to implement and administer
8 the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed program.
- 9 **Purpose and Justification:** The EOA would like to propose a technical and non-substantive
10 amendment with regard to the definition of Person-Centered Support Plan or Support Plan on
11 page 4, line 19 thru 21 and page 5, lines 1 thru 7: "Person-centered support plan" or "support
12 plan" means a plan developed [by a] with the care recipient [~~with the assistance of a coach~~] and

1 the recipient's qualified caregiver that [allows] identifies the needs **and desired outcomes** of the
2 care recipient [to establish the goals, skills, and knowledge necessary to work toward the desired
3 outcomes and lays out practical steps toward the achievement of the goals; provided that family
4 members and friends may provide assistance in developing a care recipient's plan if the care
5 recipient chooses to include them.] and allows the caregiver to remain in the workforce.

6 This bill will provide an additional option for caregivers to support their loved ones. For
7 example, qualified caregivers are currently limited to only using service providers that are
8 contracted by the AAAs. This measure adds Kupuna Caregiver-directed services allowing
9 participants to direct their own services and address their needs with a monthly budgeted dollar
10 amount instead of receiving services through a contracted provider.

11 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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**The State Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
9:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

RE: S.B. 1142 SD 1 Relating to Services for Kūpuna

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz 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 S.B. 1142 SD 1 which allows 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 S.B. 1142 SD 1.

Sincerely,

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

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i

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

March 2, 2021

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room CR211, 9:30AM
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB1142 SD1 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association **supports** Senate Bill 1142 SD1 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 below 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 Senate Bill 1142 SD1.

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

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 12:00:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Yuan	Testifying for 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 SB1142 SD1, Relating to Services for Kupuna.

SB 1142 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 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. The limited service-delivery options during the pandemic have added a sense of urgency to this change. EOA has years of experience administering the participant-directed program because this is the service model of its Community Living Program and Veteran-Directed Choice Program. 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.

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 2:47:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christalynn Bonifacio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as it supports organizations and our Kupuna.

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:00:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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 Senate Bill 1142 SD 1.

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 SB 1142 SD 1.

We thank you for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

President

Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 6:24:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Donovan, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

I support SB1142 SD1 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 to receive the maximum \$210 a week stipend to provide care could not qualify due to loss of work time or unemployment due to the pandemic. SB1142 SD1 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 SB1142 SD1.

The State Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
9:30 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
RE: S.B. 1142 SD 1 Relating to Services for Kupuna


Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dolores Foley and I support this bill which allows qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours a week or be unemployed during a declared state of emergency, adds and adds traditional services and kupuna caregiver-directed services to the kupuna care program.

The Kupuna 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. 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 kuouna _ and their caregivers.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support S.B. 1142 SD 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dolores Foley".

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 1:31:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Donovan Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, 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. Passing SB1142 can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

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.

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 SB1142, 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.

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

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 2:27:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, 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. Passing SB1142 can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist 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 compared to 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.

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 3:42:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Approving this legislation will help to improve important care for our Kapunas.

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:29:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Wyatt	Testifying for Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

The Kupuna Caregiver Program has been a blessing for so many caregivers since its inception. Because the Covid pandemic has wreaked havoc in all areas of caregiving and loss of jobs or loss of hours on the job, this bill is needed in order support the caregivers that put many hours into caring for loved ones, yet still have to work. Giving the respite needed to caregivers that work less than 30 hours fills a huge need in our communities. Caregivers are the unsung heros and need all the help they can get.

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:50:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence M.G. Enomoto	Testifying for Aloha Chapter, Alzheimer's Association	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

Aloha

I am writing in support of this bill, 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. Passing SB1142 can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals, including my wife, 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. As a family caregiver for my wife, I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you move towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Mahalo nui loa,,

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:35:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill, 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. Passing SB1142 can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

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 move towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Thank you,

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:05:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Donovan Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, 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. Passing SB1142 can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

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 move towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Thank you,

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:18:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill since it supports Hawai'i's caregivers.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, March 2 2021

9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 211 & Video Conference
State Capitol

TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1142, SD1
RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **support** of **SB 1142, SD1**, relating to Services for Kupuna. 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 economic shutdown, many caregivers have either lost jobs or saw 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 as the kupuna caregiver directed services to allow the caregiver more choices of care. This bill appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

I urge you to support Hawaii's growing senior population by supporting SB 1142, SD1.

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

Anna Filler
District 12, Kakaako-McCully-Waikiki
Email: afiller@twc.com

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
March 2, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Re: S.B. 1142 S.D.1 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.

Aloha Chair. Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Dorset, as a citizen of Wailuku, Maui and a member of AARP. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding SB1142 S.D. I feel that amending the rules of the Kūpuna Caregiver program during this recent economic shutdown, which has caused many to lose their jobs and/or reduce their work hours, to enable them to work or search for employment, while still being able to provide the care needed for their loved ones.

Thank you for your attention

Linda Dorset

SB-1142-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 7:06:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxann Rowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Donovan Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, 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. Passing SB1142 can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

As a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner (GNP), I witness first hand the stress that families who are caregivers for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease go through-- physically, emotionally, and financially. 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 move towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Mahalo,

Roxann Rowe, APRN, GNP