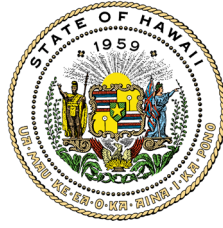


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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



CAROLINE CADIRAO
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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 HD1
Relating to Services for Kupuna**

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
REPRESENTATIVE AARON LING JOHANSON, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 12, 2021
2 p.m.

Room Number: 329
Via Videoconference

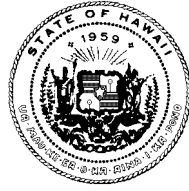
1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the Department
2 of Health (DOH), is in strong support of House Bill 988 HD1, Relating to Services for Kupuna
3 and **offer two amendments.** This measure: 1) amends the work eligibility requirement during a
4 Governor proclaimed 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 two amendments as it
9 relates to “unemployed caregiver”. EOA proposes **to delete "or be unemployed" on page 3**
10 **line 9 and delete “or is unemployed” on page 6 lines 12 and 13** to retain the original intent of
11 the bill to support working caregivers.
12 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 11, 2021

TO: The Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB0988 HD1 – RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.**

Hearing: February 12, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure. The Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness made technical amendments and deferred the effective date.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill amends the definitions "coach" and "person-centered support plan" under kupuna care and caregiver support services laws. Allows for qualified caregivers to continue providing services even if they work less than thirty hours a week or are unemployed during a declared state of emergency. Adds traditional services and kupuna caregiver-directed services to the kupuna caregivers program. Allows funds allocated to qualified caregivers under the program to be issued directly to a financial management service provider. Effective 07/01/2060. (HD1)

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 of 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 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 comments on this measure.

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 7:08:16 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
HMS APCS (Lisa Amador)	DHS APCS	Support	No

Comments:

DHS stands on our written testimony in support.



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facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Friday, February 12, 2021
2:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Aaron Johanson, Chair

RE: H.B. 988, HD1 Relating to Services for Kūpuna

Aloha Chair Johanson 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, HD1 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, HD1.

Sincerely,

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

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i
State Director

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:10:25 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Younghi Overly	AAUW of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Members of AAUW of Hawaii are grateful for this opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 988 HD1, which would allow and fund for qualified caregivers to continue providing services during this declared state of emergency. Hawaii made history as the first state to support family care providers for our kupuna. Not only does this program allow our workforce working (and therefore our economy stable), it reflects the caring culture of Hawaii.

Please pass this important measure and mahalo.

Younghee Overly, Public Policy Chair of AAUW of Hawaii

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is a state-wide organization made up of six branches (Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu), and over 3800 members and supporters statewide. As advocates for gender equity, AAUW of Hawaii promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons.

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:43:15 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Bilyk	Breastfeeding Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Breastfeeding Hawaii stands in SUPPORT of HB988 Kukuna Caregiver Program

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

February 12, 2021

Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson
Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329, 2:00 P.M.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB988 HD1 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.

Dear Chair Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association **supports** House Bill 988 HD1 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 of this legislation.

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

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:48:31 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

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 6, lines 12-13) from HB 988 HD1.

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. 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.



Young Progressives Demanding Action
P.O. Box 11105
Honolulu, HI 96828

February 11, 2021

TO: COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
RE: Testimony in Support of HB988 HD1

Dear Representatives,

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA) **supports HB988** and expansion of the Kupuna Caregivers Program. As an organization driven by the values of young people, we feel it is our duty to speak on the importance of 'ohana and of respect and care for our elders.

Hawai'i is a state that is aging. There are 300,000 people living here over the age of 65. The Baby Boomer generation, which has been the bulwark of our workforce for so long, is finally entering retirement. Combined with rising income inequality and cost-of-living pressure that is driving working age young adults out of the state, this means our state has a smaller pool of workers than is necessary to keep our society and our economy running smoothly. Perhaps nowhere is this workforce shortage more obvious than when it directly connects to our growing kupuna population, as is the case in the professional caregiving sector.

In Hawai'i, professional caregiving only accounts for 30 percent of current elder care in the state. The load placed on unpaid family caregivers is, therefore, becoming a heavier and heavier burden. The pressure on family caregivers increases along with the demand for them. And although family caregivers are some of the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community, this is ultimately an unsustainable model.

We support expanding the Kupuna Caregivers Program to allow qualified caregivers to continue providing services even if they work less than 30 hours a week or are unemployed during a declared state of emergency. We also support adding traditional services and kupuna caregiver-directed services to the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

This important program protects working family caregivers who are struggling to remain employed while caregiving for a frail or elderly family member. It is critical that this program remain fully-funded during this pandemic-recession in which working families are being squeezed to the breaking point. Government spending in general must continue or increase to keep our economy from crashing, and this legislature should pass tax fairness measures to ensure that programs like the Kupuna Caregivers Program continue going strong.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is a prevention program, assisting families before crisis strikes. Studies have shown that people who age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and Emergency Room visits. As a result, programs like this one end up saving taxpayers the cost of expensive medical procedures or institutionalization that could have been prevented with adequate care.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is also about preventing burnout. Family caregivers play a crucial role in the state's healthcare system by providing long-term care to the elderly, without pay or compensation. It is critical that caregivers be able to take care of themselves and have the necessary support and services to sustain their own health as well as the health of the family member for whom they are caring.

Hawai'i's economy is better for supporting family caregivers and keeping them in the labor force. This program gives family caregivers the ability to stay involved in the economy and pay taxes while balancing the difficult work of family caregiving.

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 Kupuna Caregivers Program will allow family members in the workforce to care for their loved ones and continue working. This improves the economic security for caregivers and also stabilizes the workforce for business owners.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program also helps employers improve workforce attendance and productivity. The program also helps to retain valued employees and reduces the cost of hiring and training employee replacements.

During our lifetimes, most people will either become a care recipient or a family caregiver. Across the United States, there are about 4 million home care workers and caregivers that are providing elder care in the United States and about 52 million family caregivers—people who are providing up to 20 hours a week of care for their family members on top of full-time jobs. This is a huge number of people dealing with the pressures of working and holding down a job and supporting family through earning a living and also taking care of loved ones. Managing that pressure is one of the main pain-points that working families in this country are dealing with today.

At the same time, YPDA is especially sensitive to another phenomenon we are seeing where millennials are entering their 30s and having children while also having to care for their aging parents. There are 4 million babies being born every year with almost no childcare infrastructure in place to support families. The result is a “sandwiching effect” on the millennial generation, where working age adults are being pressured from both sides by the demands of childcare and elder care with no infrastructure or support.

Supporting working family caregivers ethically and economically is therefore both the right thing to do and the smart 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.

There is an opportunity here. The ability to live longer also means the ability to connect with family longer, to work longer, to learn, to contribute, to love. If we have the right support in place to actually take care of people and to make sure they have what they need to live healthy lives, we can leverage the lengthening of our kupuna years into a huge resource for wisdom and knowledge.

Our vision is to one day realize a Universal Family Care program in which every single working age adult in this country would have access to a fund to help them afford childcare, elder care and paid family leave. This new type of social insurance, like social security or Medicare, would be available to everyone; we would all contribute to it and then all benefit from it. It would prevent the kind of economic disasters that can happen when a family member is diagnosed with a serious illness like Alzheimer’s and needs care, or the kind of disaster that happens when somebody has an accident and develops a disability and is unable to work.

There are all kinds of disasters that—when families are already working paycheck to paycheck—can completely derail the trajectory of their lives, leading to outcomes like homelessness. Universal Family Care would support people in being able to both take care of their families and work at the same time, which is what we need in the 21st century.

For now, however, please continue to support, fund and expand the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Will Caron
Board President & Secretary
action@ypdahawaii.org

Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)
An Affiliate of Alliance for Retired Americans
c/o Hawaii Education Association
1953 Beretania Street, #5C
Honolulu, HI 96826

**Statement of the Hawaii Alliance For Retired Americans (HARA)
on HB988, Relating to Services for Kupuna**

Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2021, 2021; 2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 349
(via video conference)

House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Representative Aaron Joahhanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) **supports the intent** of HB988 which allows for flexibility in implementing the Kupuna Caregiver Program to relax the 30-hour employment requirement for qualified caregivers during a declared state of emergency, to allow the Kupuna Caregiver Program to be delivered through traditional and kupuna caregiver-directed services, and to allow funds to be issued to a financial management service provider acting on behalf of a care recipient.

HARA is an organization of senior organizations that represent some 21,000 retirees in Hawaii. HARA's affiliates include retirees of HGEA, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, AFT, IAM, Kokua Council, and the Hawaii Caregivers Coalition.

Although HARA fully supports the Kupuna Caregivers Program since its establishment in 2017, our less-than-full support for these bills is due to several concerns about the proposed changes to the program. First, **kupuna caregiver-directed services** in lieu of traditional service delivery from contracted service providers may allow for “flexibility” but may also diminish accountability. Would this allow family members (like a family caregiver who is laid off) and unlicensed individuals to be paid for these services? Or is this because fewer contracted service providers are now available? Second, limited program funds should preclude **unemployed caregivers** to be eligible. There are undoubtedly many caregivers working 30 hours or more who could benefit from services paid with the funds. Third, why is a “**coach**” needed if the care recipient has a family caregiver? How would the coach be paid? Who monitors their work? Fourth, would the use of a **financial management service provider** be needed if caregiver-directed services are not allowed? The Executive Office on Aging must pay for these financial management service providers; is funding available in the EOA budget? What is the cost of such services?

The Kupuna Caregivers Program offers a valuable service to working caregivers for their family member to receive services that will allow the caregiver to retain employment. But with limited funding, very few employed caregivers even now can benefit from the program. As such, perhaps the Legislature should consider requiring rules (administrative or in statute) to ensure

that caregivers most in need of support (i.e., low-wage caregivers, who do not have the benefit of paid leave or job flexibility) be given priority for funding.

In addition, efforts could be made to publicize the program more widely about the availability of Kupuna Caregiver and Kupuna Care services in order to solicit more diverse applicants. Publicity could target bus posters and provide information in multiple languages at ethnic churches and health clinics frequented by QUEST/Medicaid patients. With limited funding, outreach may be seen as giving false hope to those needing services, but the data collected will help to identify and quantify unmet needs. Data is crucial to helping lawmakers make policy and prioritize funding. Furthermore, informing as much of the public as possible about programs available to everyone is always good to do.

HARA urges passage of HB988 for further discussion and consideration of the questions and concerns raised above. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these measures.

Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA)
An Affiliate of Alliance for Retired Americans
c/o Hawaii Education Association
1953 Beretania Street, #5C
Honolulu, HI 96826

**Statement of the Hawaii Alliance For Retired Americans
on H.B. 988, HD1, Relating to Services for Kupuna**

Hearing: Friday, February 12, 2021, 2021; 2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
(via video conference)

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) **supports the intent** of H.B. 988, HD1, which amends the Kupuna Caregivers Program by adding caregiver-directed services and financial management service providers and including additional duties for a coach. The measure also allows for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours a week or be unemployed during a declared state of emergency.

HARA is an organization of senior organizations that represent some 21,000 retirees in Hawaii. HARA's affiliates include retirees of HGEA, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, AFT, IAM, Kokua Council, and the Hawaii Caregivers Coalition.

Although HARA has supported the Kupuna Caregivers Program since its establishment in 2017, our less-than-full support for H.B. 988, HD1 is due to several concerns about the proposed changes to the program.

First, limited program funds should preclude eligibility for **unemployed caregivers**. There are no doubt many other working caregivers who could benefit from the program. Second, **kupuna caregiver-directed services**, in lieu of traditional service delivery from contracted service providers, may allow for “flexibility” but may also diminish accountability. Would this allow family members (like a family caregiver who becomes unemployed) and unlicensed individuals to be paid for these services? Third, why is “**coach**” needed if the care recipient has a family caregiver? Where would funds to pay the coach come from? Who monitors their work? Fourth, would the use of a **financial management service provider** be needed if caregiver-directed services are not allowed? While the Executive Office on Aging may pay for these financial management service providers, is funding available for this service in the EOA budget?

The Kupuna Caregivers Program offers services to care recipients to allow their employed family caregivers to retain their jobs. But with limited funding, very few employed caregivers even now can benefit from the program. As such, perhaps the Legislature should consider

requiring rules (administrative or in statute) to ensure that **caregivers most in need** (i.e., low-wage caregivers) be **given priority** for funding.

In addition, efforts could be made to publicize availability of Kupuna Caregivers and Kupuna Care services more widely in order to solicit more diverse applicants. Publicity could include bus posters and provide information in multiple languages at ethnic churches and health clinics frequented by QUEST/Medicaid patients. With limited funding, outreach may be seen as giving false hope to those needing services, but the data collected will help to identify and quantify unmet needs. Data is crucial to helping lawmakers make policy and prioritize funding. Furthermore, informing as much of the public as possible about programs available to everyone is always good to do.

HARA urges passage of H.B. 988, HD1 for further discussion and consideration of the questions and concerns raised above. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:53:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goljuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB988.

To: Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair & Committeemembers
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

From: Teresa Bill

Re: **HB988 HD1**, Relating to Services for Kupuna
Date: Fri, Feb 12, 2021 2:00pm Conf. Room 329 & Video
Position: **Support**

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

I **support** passage of HB988, HD1 to allow the Executive Office on Aging to relax the 30-hour employment requirement for qualified caregivers under the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

Please note that the Kupuna CAREGIVERS Program focuses on the “caregiver” and helping them maintain employment. It is separate from “Kupuna Care.” 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. We know that when women leave paid employment to care for their elders, it has a long-term impact on their own re-hire, employment and retirement.

Please **support HB988, HD1**.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Teresa Bill
Honolulu, HI. 96816

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 2:25:31 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Aaron Ling Johanson 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.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or 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

Mahalo,

LJ Duenas - Honolulu 96822

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 2:57:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tonya Tullis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Services Coordinator position would help Hawaii to become dementia capable by coordinating efforts to adopt the recommendations and strategies of Hawaii 2025: State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias. Specifically, this position will provide benefits for those with dementia /Alzheimer's who may be overlooked due to their lack of family support. Further, the Alzheimer's Coordinator will provide advocacy, resources and other programs important to this unique population.

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:23:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Spencer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I haven't met many women like Charlotte . She's been a caregiver for her husband with Alzheimer's disease for the past ten years of their forty year marriage. He is reaching the later stages of the disease now, he can't speak sentences, and plastic covers all the furniture in their house due to his incontinence. Taking care of him at home has become more difficult, she hasn't had respite in years, but she is not one to complain. She reflects on the brilliant man her husband used to be, working for Maui County for twenty years, a wonderful father to four children and says even when the disease takes him, "he will always be with me." Caregivers are inspiring people, but knowing Charlotte has changed my perspective on what love is. I couldn't believe more in the importance of advancing initiatives that support caregivers like her and I hope you will consider passing this bill.

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:55:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Humberto Blanco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Aaron Ling Johanson 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.

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,

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:22:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB988. The amendments and additions are good (and much needed) ones.

HB-988-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:59:57 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/12/2021 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Aaron Ling Johanson and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB988 HD1, 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 simply to 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