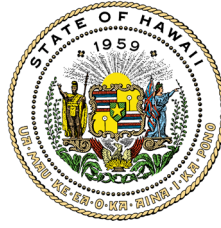


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

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, SD2
Relating to Services for Kupuna**

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

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

Hearing Date: March 16, 2021
9:30 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 Senate Bill 1142 SD2, Relating to Services for Kupuna
3 and request a non-substantive amendment. This measure: 1) relaxes the work eligibility
4 requirement during a state declared state of emergency; 2) adds Kupuna Caregiver-Directed
5 services as an option in the Kupuna Caregivers program; and 3) adds a financial management
6 service provider who is responsible for financial payments on behalf of participants enrolled in
7 the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed program.

8 **Fiscal Implications:** The EOA is not requesting additional funds to implement and administer
9 the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed program.

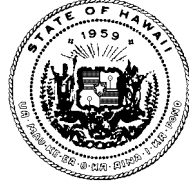
10 **Purpose and Justification:** The Kupuna Caregivers Program has been in existence since 2017.
11 The language being proposed improves the program by providing additional options for
12 caregivers to support their loved ones. For example, qualified caregivers are currently limited to

1 only using service providers that are contracted by the AAAs. This measure adds Kupuna
2 Caregiver-directed services allowing participants to direct their own services and address their
3 needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount instead of receiving services through a contracted
4 provider.

5 On page 4 line 16 and page 9 line 2, we respectfully request to change "chore performance" to
6 "chore" to be consistent with services listed in the Older Americans Act.

7 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

March 13, 2021

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1142 SD2 – RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.**

Hearing: March 16, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

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

The Senate 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.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means further defected the date and made technical amendments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill adds kupuna caregiver-directed services to the kupuna caregivers program. Includes financial management service provider and additional duties for the coach. Allows for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours per week during a declared state of emergency. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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.



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
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
9:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Ryan Yamane, Chair

RE: S.B. 1142 SD 2 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 S.B. 1142 SD 2 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 2.

Sincerely,

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

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i

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
S.B. 1142, SD1 and S.B. 838, SD2 -- Relating to Services for Kupuna**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 16, 2021; 9:30 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
(via video conference)

TO: House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) **supports the intent** of S.B. 1142, SD 2 and S.B. 838, SD 2, which include kupuna-directed services, financial management service providers, and additional duties for the coach in the Kupuna Caregivers Program and allow for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours per week during a declared state of emergency.

HARA is an organization of senior organizations that represents 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** established in 2017, our less-than-full support for S.B. 1142, SD 2 and S.B. 838, SD 1 is due to several concerns. 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 service providers under this proposal be unlicensed individuals and organizations? Would this allow for family caregivers to be paid to care for their own family members? Second, why is a “**coach**” needed if the care recipient has a family caregiver? Who pays the coach? Who monitors the coach? Third, would the use of a **financial management service provider** be needed if caregiver-directed services are not allowed? The Executive Office on Aging may pay for these financial management service providers and coaches but is funding available for these services in the EOA budget? What kind of oversight is EOA providing to Acumen, the entity contracted to provide financial management and coach services?

The Kupuna Caregivers Program offers a valuable service to allow working caregivers to remain in the workforce while their care recipients receive needed services. But with **limited funding** available for the program, very few care recipients and their employed caregivers can benefit from the program. Since the Legislature is currently unable to increase funding for the program,

rules (administrative or in statute) should be considered 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) **are prioritized for services** with Kupuna Caregiver funding.

In addition, the **Kupuna Caregiver and Kupuna Care services should be widely publicized to encourage more diverse participation**. Publicity could include bus posters and information in multiple languages at ethnic churches and health clinics frequented by QUEST/Medicaid patients. With limited funding, a concern may be that outreach would give false hope to those needing services, but the **data collected** on waitlists will help to identify and quantify unmet needs and would be **crucial to helping lawmakers make good policy and prioritize funding**. Furthermore, information about government-funded programs should be widely available to the public, especially to those who have clear need but lack resources to access the programs.

HARA urges passage of S.B. 1142, SD 2 and S.B. 838, SD 1 with consideration of the questions and concerns raised above. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this measure.

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 1:23:06 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 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 Senate Bill 1142 SD 2.

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 2.

We thank you for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

President

Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 3:12:13 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 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 SB1142 SD2, Relating to Services for Kupuna.

SB1142 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.

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 16, 2021

Honorable Representative Ryan Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol, House conference room 329, 9:30 A.M.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB1142 SD1 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.

Dear Chair Ryan Yamane and members of the Committee:

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

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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 this opportunity to testify in support Senate Bill 1142.

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

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2021 11:12:04 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB1142, SD2 since it supports those who care for our kupuna.

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 11:40:02 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is very important legislation for our Kupuna and their family members who provide them the support to continue to live at home. The Pandemic has severely impacted the employment status of many of our Kapuna Caregivers. This Bill will help enable these caring family members to continue to either stay employed or to seek new job opportunities if unemployed. Please continue to support this critical legislation which is cost effective and ultimately supports us all.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &
HOMELESSNESS**

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 9:30AM

Re: SB1142 - RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.

And

SB838 - RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA

Aloha Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee,

My name is Linda Dorset, a citizen of Wailuku, Maui, and a member of AARP. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the above referenced legislation.

SB1142 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 work less than 30 hours, would enable them to either work or search for employment, while still being able to provide the care needed for their loved ones.

It also provides for adding a financial management service provider that can be issued funds for the cost of services provided, which could help prevent situations where vulnerable adults are at risk of being financially exploited.

SB838 adds Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an option in the Kupuna Caregivers program. Allowing the participants to direct their services to meet their needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount, instead of receiving services through a contracted provider is important because service-delivery options have been cut back during the pandemic.

Both bills would make it possible for family caregivers to care for their loved ones and themselves. 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.

Neither bill is requesting an increase in funding.

Thank you for your attention

Linda Dorset

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 9:17:10 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1142, SD2.

Our state was very enlightened when it created the Kupuna Caregivers Act. I fear we had no idea at the time, though, that by 2020 we would be engulfed in an economic and health catastrophe. The proposals in SB 1142, SD2, take into account some of the needs unforeseen when the Act was created. I hope you will pass this bill.

Mahalo --

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 10:13:19 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan Yamane 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 this bill can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

In Hawaii, 51,000 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.

Please help our caregivers!

Thank you,

Naomi Hokama

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, Via Video Conference
State Capitol

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1142
RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA**

To: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair; Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair; and Members of the
Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong **support** of **SB 1142** 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.

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

~~Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Ty Cullen
House Committee on Finance
Monday, March 15, 2021~~

~~Thursday, February 21, 2019~~

COMMENTS ON SB 838, and SB1142 HB 467, HD1, RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

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

~~Our names are: Fredrich J. Burian, and Chalintorn N. Burian. We are supporting the bills SB838, and SB1142: RMy name is _____, and I am writing to express my comments for **House Bill 467, HD1, relating to Services for the Kupuna Caregivers program.**~~

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~~SB838 allows the executive office of aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for qualified caregivers under the Kupuna Caregivers Program during a state-declared state of emergency. Adds the option of kupuna caregiver-directed services to the Kupuna caregivers program. Includes assisting the care recipient and caregiver with the enrollment process as the duty of a coach. Allows funds under the Kupuna Caregivers Program to be issued to the care recipient's financial management service provider. It's very important to provide caregivers with flexibilities during a state-declared state of emergency.~~

~~SB1142 includes in the kupuna caregivers program kupuna caregiver-directed services. Includes financial management service provider and additional duties for the coach. Allows for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours per week during a declared state of emergency. Effective 7/1/2050. We support the flexibility for qualified caregivers to work less than 30 hours.~~

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

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

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

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

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

Fredrich J. Burian & Chalintorn N. Burian, Ph.D.
44-4766 Waikaalulu Road, Paauilo, HI 96776
Phone: (808)775-1064

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 2:38:14 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan Yamane 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 this bill can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

In Hawaii, 51,000 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,

LJ Duenas

96822

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 5:44:31 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan Yamane 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 this bill can give caregivers the support they need to not be left out of Hawaii's economic recovery.

In Hawaii, 51,000 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-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:54:27 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support for SB1142 SD2, Relating to Services for Kupuna

I am voicing my strong support of SB1142 SD2 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. SB1142 SD2 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 SB1142 SD2, 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 SB1142 SD2.

SB-1142-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:34:18 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/16/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

How are you going to cut the hours of caregivers during a state of emergency? Those are the times that kupuna need caregivers the most.