

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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



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DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 838
Relating to Services for Kupuna**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR LES IHARA, Jr., VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 11, 2021
3p.m.

Room Number: 225
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 838, Relating to Services for Kupuna. This
3 measure: 1) relax the work eligibility requirement during a state declared state of emergency; 2)
4 adds Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an option in the Kupuna Caregivers program; and 3)
5 adds a financial management service provider who is responsible for financial payments on
6 behalf of participants enrolled in the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed program.

7 **Fiscal Implications:** The Kupuna Care and Kupuna Caregivers programs are currently state
8 funded and implemented by the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in each county. This measure
9 will provide the AAAs an additional option (Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services) offering more
10 flexibility to services and supports to kupuna and their caregivers. Current funds and other
11 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 EOA strongly supports Senate Bill 838.
- 9 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:14:53 PM

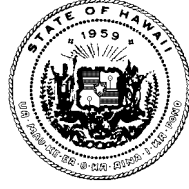
Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cristina Valenzuela | Testifying for Executive Office on Aging | Support | No |

Comments:

I am available for comments

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 9, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 838 – RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA**

Hearing: February 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure. DHS defers to the Executive Office on Aging.

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

This bill adds the definition of a financial management service provider to existing laws 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.

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

February 9, 2021

Page 2

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.



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1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Human Services
Thursday, February 11, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

RE: S.B. 838 Relating to Services for Kūpuna

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura 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. 838 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. This bill is similar to S.B. 1142 which we support as well.

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. 838.

Sincerely,

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

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:07:50 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

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 838.

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 838.

We thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

President

Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:06:36 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sarah Yuan | Testifying for The 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 SB 838, Relating to Services for Kupuna.

SB 838 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 also allows the elimination of the work requirements during the emergency period, which PABEA *does not support* because it is not consistent with the Kupuna Caregiver program's intent.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:21:55 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Linda Muralidharan | Testifying for AARP | Support | No |

Comments:

Senators,

I am very concerned that Kapuna Care be maintained at a viable level. Caregivers need a certain amount of flexibility in work arrangements for themselves and in what kind of care can be paid for when they are at their own jobs and not present for their charge.

We all probably know people who are dedicated to giving more or less full time care to a loved one who is incapacitated or aging past a point where complete self-care is possible. If the caregiver has to quit a paying job to do that, the household income goes down and the caregiver's future retirement security is put at great risk.

This bill means society benefits from secure future retirees, from the skills caregivers can contribute in the work force in Hawaii, and from a community that respects its aging and disable population.

ALOHA CHAPTER

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

February 11, 2021

Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room Via Teleconference, 3:00 P.M.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB838 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association **supports** Senate Bill 838 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 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.

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 Senate Bill 838.

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

LATE



SUPPORT FOR SB838: RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA

Senate Committee on Human Services (HMS)

Thursday, February 11, 2021 | 3:00 pm | via Video Conference

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

Faith Action for Community Equity is a grassroots, interfaith organization driven by our members' deep spiritual commitment to addressing the root causes of social justice issues facing our community. **Faith Action is in support of SB838.**

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

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

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

Mahalo for considering our testimony in support of SB838.

If you have any questions, please contact Faith Action Executive Director Ashleigh Loa (808-746-2741, aloa@faithactionhawaii.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 S.B. 838 and S.B. 1142, Relating to Services for Kupuna**

Hearing: Thursday, February 11, 2021, 2021; 3:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
(via video conference)

Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) **supports the intent** of S.B. 838 and S.B. 1142, which are similar in content and allow 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, as is proposed in S.B. 1142. There are undoubtedly many caregivers working 30 hours or more who could benefit from services paid with the funds. Third, why is a “coach” be 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 may pay for these financial management service providers. but is funding available for this service in the EOA budget?

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 S.B. 838 and H.B. 1142 for further discussion and consideration of the questions and concerns raised above. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these measures.

Testimony by Jim Shon (jshon@hawaii.edu)

Senate Committee on Human Services

February 11, 3pm

RE: SB 838 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2021/Bills/SB838_.pdf

Position Support With Suggested Amendment

Chair, Members of the Committee

This level of flexibility is necessary and appropriate during unstable times of crisis. I support this bill as is.

However, I would also respectfully suggest granting additional temporary emergency powers to EOA regarding the requirements of 2 permanent disabilities for ADLs and IADLs.

The law, and many private Long Term Care insurance frameworks, is built around the premise that permanent disabilities should be a trigger to qualify for services. This is problematic during normal times. If I break a leg or hip, this is not permanent, yet for some time I may in fact be unable to perform a number of ADLs.

Not long ago, at a legislative briefing, it was revealed that one county was disqualifying frail seniors from meals on wheels if they were seen using a walker. This was interpreted to mean the senior was in fact mobile and not in need. Mobility can be limited by strength and endurance, even if one can hobble to the door once a day to receive a meal.

In the time of COVID, we do know that short of hospitalization many who are already weak may need longer periods of time to recover strength, endurance, and full engagement in IADLs.

It makes sense to allow EOA to administratively waive the 2 permanent disability rule for some residents. Please consider amending this bill to include a broader scope of emergency powers.

Sincerely,

Jim Shon

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:24:59 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark A. Koppel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

TESTIMONY STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF SB838

MARK KOPPEL

UMAUMA, HAWAII

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

I am testifying strongly in favor of SB838 on Kupuna Care.

This a bill that actually Saves the State money!

By providing care at home, the kupuna does not need to enter a nursing home on Medicaid. The nursing home option will cost the state around \$75000 per year.

Home Care is better and cheaper.

Also, hiring aides allows the care-giver to keep their job, thus keeping them off unemployment. More savings for the State.

Kupuna Care is a win-win.

Mahalo.

To: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr. , Vice-Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 225

Re: SB 838 Relating to Services for Kupuna

Chair San Buenaventura , Vice-Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Esther Ueda, and I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 838 which amends Chapter 349, Part II and allows the Executive Office of Aging to relax the requirements for qualified caregivers under the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is an important resource for working family caregivers who need assistant in getting respite care for their Kupuna. With the recent economic situation where so many persons who are caregivers have lost jobs or had a reduction in work hours, these proposed amendments are needed to continue their eligibility as working caregivers. The bill provides flexibility in reducing minimum employment hours to qualify and also includes options to allow the caregiver more choices of care.

Please support SB838.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Esther Ueda
Pearl City, Hawaii

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:40:57 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fern Anuenue Holland | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill Senators!

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:05:21 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| 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 worsened our employment. 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 ultimately supports us all.

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:03:33 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill and those who care for our kupuna.

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:36:27 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura 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 for your time, LJ Duenas

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:47:55 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca Halloran | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura 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,

Rebecca

Dolores Foley, PhD
Pacific Academic Consultants
1389 Akalani Loop
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

TO: The Honorable Senator San Buenaventura, Chair

RE: SB838 Relating to Services for Kūpuna

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in supports of SB 838 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 SB 838

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dolores Foley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:54:22 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura 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.

When I told my close friends, who have been the primary caregivers for the husband's mother and father for the past several years, that I recently joined the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter team, they shared that the husband's father was suffering from many signs of dementia and that it had gotten harder and harder to care for him over the past year. While I was able to connect them with our programs team at the Alzheimer's Association for support, it is becoming a bigger challenge every day to balance caregiving, their jobs and caring for their kids. The passing of SB838 is essential for families like this to not only care for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias but to help them and the rest of their families in caring for their entire families.

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

Mahalo,

Justin George

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:53:45 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stacie M Burke | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support SB 838

Mahalo for your time

Stacie Burke

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:27:36 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB838, which strengthens the Kupuna Care and Kupuna Caregivers programs 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 Care programs 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 Care and Kupuna Caregivers programs are 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.

In addition to over ten years working with the aging population, being a caregiver for my 96-year-old grandmother who is living with dementia has shown the immense energy and spirit given by caregivers like me and my 'ohana each and every day. Your support of SB838 will help develop State-wide efforts to grow the supports and services available to address the needs and challenges experienced by families like mine every single day. Furthermore, the increasing number of kÅ«puna in Hawai'i highlights the need for your support of this bill, 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

TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF SB 838 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA

To: Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair,
Senate Committee on Human Services

Date: Feb 11, 2021

RE: Hearing, Thursday, February 11, 2021; 3:00 p.m.; CR 22

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of SB 838 Relating to Services for Kupuna. My name is Anna Filler and I retired six years ago at the age of 75. The passage of this bill is important to allow 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 provider; 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 causing 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 Hawaii's kūpuna and their caregivers. This program is a cost effective way to prevent the majority of seniors from being placed in a nursing home and allows them to age in place at home with their loved ones.

I urge you to support Hawaii's growing senior population by supporting SB 838.

Anna Filler
Kakaako/Senate District 12

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:00:03 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura 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.

My father lived with some form of dementia for 10-15 years. His caregiver wife never accepted any outside help, partly for her own reasons, and also because it is just so difficult to find caring and compassionate respite care.

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

Thank you,

Nancy Rose

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:40:30 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM



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

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura 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,

LATE

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:59:18 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB838, 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. They 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 nui for your time and consideration,

Ivy Castellanos

LATE

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:40:31 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elaine Aotaki | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha.

I support SB838. Passing SB838 will greatly help care recipient(s) & qualified caregivers in need.

Mahalo, Elaine Aotaki

LATE

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee of Human Services

CJ Ibara
University of Hawaii Manoa Thompson School of Social Work

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Support for S.B. N.O. 838, Relating to Services for Kupuna

My name is CJ Ibara, and I am a current Master student in University of Hawaii's Thompson School of Social Work. I firmly support S.B. N.O. 838, Relating to Services for Kupuna, which would allow caregivers the opportunity to continue their work with the Kupuna Caregiver Program during the pandemic.

The safety and health of our kupuna is very important. Because of the pandemic, many caregivers were laid off due to insufficient funding, causing a halt or decrease in services to the kupuna. Compared to pre-covid when kupuna could remain and be cared for in their own home, there is currently an increase in the number of kupuna who had to move to a nursery, care, or retirement home.

With the revival of the Kupuna Caregivers Program, it will allow caregivers the opportunity to provide traditional service delivery through contracted service providers and participant-directed services. These services will help our kupuna receive assistance with their daily living, while living in their own home. Caregivers will be able to provide meals, transportation, and other personal care matters to our kupuna. With the support from caregivers, our kupuna will be able to thrive in their homes and age in their own community where they already have established connections. With the ongoing pandemic, I support the notion of relaxing the thirty-hour employment requirement to be qualified for the Kupuna Caregivers Program. All caregivers should have the necessary resources, be able to take care of our kupuna, and receive an income from the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

For most people, remaining in their homes is the most ideal situation. However, with the harsh effects of the pandemic, the kupuna are forced to move to care, nursery, or retirement homes to receive the care that they need. With the passing of this bill, it will allow the kupuna the opportunity to remain in the comfort of their homes and receive the necessary care they need. I urge the committee to pass S.B. N.O. 838. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-838

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:26:36 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee

I am writing in support of SB838, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

My father passed away in 1985 after struggling with the Alzheimer's disease. Many of his siblings have since passed due to Alzheimer's. The disease have now claimed the lives of the next generation, my cousins. In the process many of my relatives have served as caregivers resulting in major burden and expenses.

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

Gordon Takaki

(808)430-5720