

JOSH GREEN M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau  
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA  
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF  
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

**TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. No. 2473, Relating to Taxation.

**BEFORE THE:**

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 225

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

The Department of Taxation ("Department") offers the following comments regarding S.B. 2473 for your consideration.

S.B. 2473 amends chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a new section that establishes a refundable tax credit for eligible unpaid family caregivers. The new tax credit is equal to the amount of the taxpayer's qualified expenses, up to a limit of \$5,000 per taxable year. The credit is also limited to one taxpayer per household for a care recipient per taxable year.

To be eligible for the credit, a taxpayer must have a federal adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less (or \$125,000 if filing jointly) and undertake the care, custody, or physical assistance of their relative who is a "care recipient." Expenses that would qualify for the credit include accessibility improvements and alterations, the purchase or lease of certain medical equipment and supplies, and other expenses incurred to assist the taxpayer in providing care, such as expenses for home care aides, respite care, adult day care, transportation services, and assistive technology such as alerts and reminders. In addition to definitions for "eligible taxpayers," "qualified expenses," "care recipient" and "relative," the bill also includes definitions for "activity of daily living," "instrumental

activities of daily living," and "kupuna care services," to set forth applicable criteria for determining credit applicability.

The bill would also require the Department to provide a report on the number of eligible taxpayers claiming the credit and the credit's cost during the past year no later than twenty days before the start of each annual legislative session. This bill is effective upon approval and would apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

First, the Department recommends that the credit be made nonrefundable, as refundable credits are more susceptible to waste, fraud, and abuse.

Second, because the Department does not possess subject-matter expertise in healthcare, caregiving, or social services, the Department requests that a third party with sufficient subject-matter expertise be placed in charge of certifying whether a person qualifies as a "care recipient" and the amount of "qualified expenses" incurred so that this credit can be properly administered.

Third, the Department requests that the effective date of this measure be postponed so that the new tax credit would apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024. This would provide the Department with sufficient time to make the necessary form, instruction, and computer system changes while educating taxpayers about this new credit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor



William H. Farr  
Executive on Aging

## County of Hawai'i OFFICE OF AGING

Aging and Disability Resource Center, 1055 Kino'ole Street, Suite 101, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3872  
Phone (808) 961-8600 ♦ Fax (808) 961-8603 ♦ Email: hcoa@hawaiiantel.net  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Highway, Kailua-Kona 96740  
Phone (808) 323-4390 ♦ Fax (808) 323-4398

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Support of SB2473, RELATING TO TAXATION**  
**1:00 P.M., February 14, 2024, Conference Room 225 VIA Videoconference**

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

The unpaid family caregiver provides the backbone of the long term care system in Hawai'i. The countless hours of care that range from bathing and dressing, the preparation of meals, and medical visits are but a few of the daily task that caregivers provide. All this is done so that the care recipient can remain in their home and age in place.

As caregivers, my wife being the primary, and I the secondary, for her mother 91 years old, and her younger brother, 52 years old and disabled, both who live with us, we experience firsthand the 24/7 requirements of providing for their care. We do all of this while we both continue to be employed full-time. Therefore, we know firsthand the benefit the passage of SB2473 would be to those caregivers who would qualify under this bill.

As an Area Agency on Aging, the Hawai'i County Office of Aging supports the passage SB2473. The tax credit provided by SB2473 will help ease the financial expenses that unpaid caregivers incur for their loved ones on a daily basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

William "Horace" Farr  
Executive on Aging  
Hawaii County Office of Aging



*An Area Agency on Aging*  
*Hawai'i County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## 2024 Hawaii Leadership Board

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Island Insurance  
Companies*

Caroline Witherspoon  
*President  
Becker Communications*

LJ R. Duenas  
*Executive Director  
Alzheimer's Association*

## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Thursday, February 14, 2024; 1:00 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225, and Videoconference

### RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2473 – RELATING TO TAXATION

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. We testify in **SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 2473.**

The Alzheimer's Association was established to assist those facing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by providing local support groups and educational resources while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives.

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged 65 and older live with Alzheimer's disease. This figure is projected to increase to over 35,000 by next year. In 2022, 60,000 family caregivers provided 91 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$1.9 billion.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would establish a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association stands with AARP in its efforts to acknowledge the critical role that caregivers provide to their loved ones and the community. **We ask you to pass Senate Bill No. 2473.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions, please contact Ron Shimabuku at 808.451.3410 or [rkshimabuku@alz.org](mailto:rkshimabuku@alz.org).



Ron Shimabuku  
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy  
Alzheimer's Association – Hawaii

To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Re: **SB 2473 – Relating to Taxation**  
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
February 14, 2024, 1:00 PM

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of SB 2473**. This bill establishes a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers and requires the Department of Taxation to report to the Legislature before the convening of each Regular Session.

Nearly half of children in Hawai'i live in households experiencing financial hardship. While almost 1 in 8 are in poverty, an additional 1 in 3 aren't officially poor but still don't earn enough to afford the basic life essentials.<sup>1</sup>

That's where tax credits come in. They help people keep more of their hard-earned money, and when targeted for lower- to middle-income families, help reduce financial hardship.

Hawai'i has 154,000 unpaid caregivers for adult family members, providing 144 million hours of care worth \$2.6 billion per year,<sup>2</sup> and those numbers will continue to increase as our population ages.

This bill would provide up to a \$5,000 tax credit for expenses incurred by family caregivers to care for a loved one at home. To qualify, taxpayers could earn up to \$75,000 per year single filers or \$125,000 for married couples.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Nicole Woo  
Director of Research and Economic Policy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.auw.org/sites/default/files/pictures/ALICE-in-Focus-Children-Hawaii%20%283%29.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/ltss/family-caregiving/valuing-the-invaluable-2015-update/>



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024; 1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2473 – RELATING TO TAXATION.**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 2473, RELATING TO TAXATION.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish an income tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers.

The following is an excerpt of a letter to the editor submitted by Kealii Lopez, AARP Executive Director, that appeared in the Honolulu Star Advertiser on March 31, 2023:

*“ . . . Family caregivers in Hawaii work tirelessly without pay to keep parents and spouses at home, or out of costly nursing homes. If you are a family caregiver or know someone who is, then you know it takes an emotional toll, but it also has a real financial cost. They sacrifice income, job security, and their savings.*

*More than three out of every four caregivers pay out of pocket for care-related expenses like equipment, transportation, and home modifications. It adds up fast. On average, family caregivers spend 26% of their income on caregiving activities. Plus, many family caregivers must*

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2473**  
**Wednesday, February 14, 2024; 1:00 p.m.**  
**Page 2**

*cut back their work hours or even leave the workforce to care for loved ones, which can create a huge loss in income on top of any existing financial challenges related to caregiving expenses. It also puts their career advancement and retirement savings at risk.*

*While family caregivers are facing these personal financial burdens, they are saving our state money by keeping their loved ones out of taxpayer-supported nursing facilities. The economic value of unpaid care provided by family caregivers in the U.S. every year is approximately \$600 billion – about the same as the profits of our 20 largest companies combined. . . “*

[See, <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2023/03/31/editorial/island-voices/column-how-do-you-repay-family-caregivers-start-with-a-tax-credit/>

The HPCA agrees with Ms. Lopez that Hawaii’s family caregivers play an enormous role in protecting and preserving the unique way of life which we all hold so dear. Likewise and more importantly, family caregivers improve the quality of life and health care outcomes of our citizens. Because of this, it is not only fitting, but essential that government does what it can to assist caregivers in this essential responsibility.

**Accordingly, the HPCA strongly stands united with AARP and the members of the Kupuna Caucus in support of this measure. We urge your favorable consideration.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BILL SB2473  
POSITION: SUPPORT

Hearing Date: February 14, 2024

Aloha Chair Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports SB2473, which establishes a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers. Requires the Department of Taxation to report to the Legislature before the convening of each Regular Session.

Hawaii has the highest cost of living in the nation and imposes one of the highest tax burdens on low-income households. We urge you to pass this bill and support Hawaii's working families, including ALICE households, who often rely on the unpaid labor of family and friends due to the overwhelming cost of paid childcare in this State.

Tax credits like SB2473 have been shown to be one of the most effective tools policy makers have to decrease poverty and stabilize families. This tax credit will go a long way to helping ALICE families continue to live and work in Hawaii and will put a meaningful amount of money back into the pockets of working families to cover increasing childcare, housing, and food costs.

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, and refers to households who are employed but whose incomes are not sufficient to meet their basic costs. According to our 2022 report an estimated **44% of Hawaii's households are ALICE households**, with an increasing number falling into poverty.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your action to support ALICE families and the non-profit programs working to improve financial stability in Hawaii. We urge you to pass SB2473.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kayla Keehu-Alexander in black ink.

Kayla Keehu- Alexander  
Vice President, Community Impact  
Aloha United Way

Handwritten signature of Suzanne Skjold in blue ink.

Suzanne Skjold  
Chief Operating Officer  
Aloha United Way





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1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**  
**Conference Room 225, 1:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii  
RE: Strong Support for S.B. 2473 -Relating to Taxation

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 nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

**AARP strongly supports S.B. 2473 which establishes a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers. This bill supports family caregivers who make less than \$75,000 (individual) and \$125,000 (married couples) a year, with an annual tax credit of up to \$5,000 for qualifying caregiving tax credits.**

**Amendment Request:** AARP requests a minor amendment in the bill's introduction on Page 1, Line 7. Please change in the sentence: "The report finds that each year, these family caregivers contribute nearly one hundred forty-four million hours of unpaid services, estimated at a value of **\$2,600,000.**" **The value of the unpaid services should be \$2,600,000,000. (\$2.6 Billion)**

Family caregivers are struggling to hold up Hawai'i's fractured and outdated long-term care system by helping their older parents, spouses, and other loved ones remain at home—where they want to be. An estimated 154,000 family caregivers in Hawai'i provide \$2.6 billion of unpaid care. These unpaid heroes manage medications, prepare meals, help with bathing, feeding & dressing, providing transportation to medical appointments, and managing financial & legal matters to care for loved ones and keep them out of costly nursing homes. Many juggle work and caregiving. Others must balance child-care, work, and adult dependent care. Not only does caregiving take an emotional toll, but it also has a real financial cost. Many caregivers sacrifice income, job security, and their savings. Most spend 26% of their income on caregiving, an average of more than \$7,200 a year. More than three out of every four family caregivers pay out of pocket for care-related expenses like equipment, transportation, and home

modifications. It adds up fast. We can never repay our family caregivers for all they do, but the State can start by giving them a modest tax credit. Family caregivers need and deserve our support.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.B. 2473.**

**SB-2473**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:34:57 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angie Knight	Testifying for The Institute for Human Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IHS, The Institute for Human Services, supports the passing of SB2473.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024  
1:00 p. m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 225 and via videoconference

Re: SB 2473 Relating to Taxation

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

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of those who give and receive care by increasing community awareness of caregiver issues through continuing advocacy, education, and training. I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty-five years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition.

The Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports SB 2473, which establishes a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers. The bill will provide financial relief for Hawaii's 154,000 unpaid family caregivers. The tax credit will help defray the thousands of dollars that many families spend each year in out-of-pocket caregiver costs.

We urge you to support the refundable tax credit for non-paid family caregivers and SB 2473, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

Mahalo for seriously considering the bill.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Simon".

Gary Simon



Email [gsimon@arp.org](mailto:gsimon@arp.org)

# TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME TAX, Establish New Family Caregiver Tax Credit

BILL NUMBER: HB 1769, SB 2473

INTRODUCED BY: HB by CHUN, AMATO, EVSLIN, GARRETT, HOLT, HUSSEY-BURDICK, ICHIYAMA, ILAGAN, KAHALOA, KAPELA, KILA, KOBAYASHI, LAMOSAO, LOWEN, MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, MIYAKE, MORIKAWA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, PERRUSO, SAYAMA, SOUZA, TAKAYAMA, TAKENOUCI, TAM, WARD; SB by MORIWAKI, AQUINO, CHANG, DECOITE, FEVELLA, HASHIMOTO, KANUHA, KIDANI, KIM, MCKELVEY, SAN BUENAVENTURA, SHIMABUKURO, Fukunaga, Ihara, Wakai (Kupuna Caucus)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers. Requires the Department of Taxation to report to the Legislature before the convening of each Regular Session.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 235, HRS, establishing the family caregiver tax credit. The amount of the credit is 100% of the qualified expenses of the taxpayer up to \$5,000, providing that individuals married filing separately shall be limited to \$5,000 between them.

A credit may be claimed for every taxable year or part thereof that the eligible taxpayer provides care to a care recipient during the taxable year; has personally incurred uncompensated expenses directly related to the care of a care recipient; and has not claimed the care recipient as a dependent for the purpose of a tax deduction in the same taxable year. Only one eligible taxpayer per household may claim a tax credit for any care recipient cared for in a taxable year. An eligible taxpayer shall not claim multiple tax credits under this section in a taxable year, regardless of the number of care recipients receiving care from the eligible taxpayer.

The credit is refundable. All claims for the credit, including amended claims, must be filed on or before the end of the 12th month following the close of the taxable year for which the credit may be claimed. Failure to do so waives the credit.

Requires DOTAX to report to the Legislature.

Defines “care recipient” as an individual who: (1) Is either a U.S. citizen or green card holder; (2) Is not covered by any comparable government or private home- and community-based care service, except or excluding kupuna care services; (3) does not reside in a long-term care facility; (4) has impairments of at least two activities of daily living, two instrumental activities of daily living, one activity of daily living and one instrumental activity of daily living, or substantive cognitive impairment requiring substantial supervision. The term includes a person with a “disability” as defined in section 515-2, HRS.

Defines “qualified expenses” as costs that are directly incurred

by the eligible taxpayer in providing care to a care recipient, including but not limited to:

(1) The improvement or alteration to the eligible taxpayer's primary residence to permit the care recipient to live in the residence and remain mobile, safe, and independent, including entrance ramps, safety grab bars by toilets, and the conversion of tubs to accessible showers; (2) The purchase or lease of equipment and supplies, including but not limited to durable medical equipment, incontinent undergarments, and portable commodes, necessary to assist a care recipient in carrying out one or more activities of daily living; and (3) Other paid or incurred expenses by the eligible taxpayer that assists the eligible taxpayer in providing care to a care recipient, such as expenditures related to: (A) Home care aides or chore workers; (B) Respite care; (C) Adult day care or adult day health center services; (D) Personal care attendants; (E) Transportation, including but not limited to para-transit service for non-emergency medical transport; (F) Health care equipment; and (G) Assistive technology, including emergency alert system and voice activated medication dispensers or reminders.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon approval, applicable to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** We already have a credit for dependent care expenses necessary for gainful employment (HRS section 235-55.6). One of the challenges for implementing this proposed credit would be to specify the extent (if any) to which expenses will qualify for the existing credit as opposed to the proposed credit. The current bill does not address this issue at all. A policy decision needs to be made as to whether the existing credit will be kept in addition to this one, and if so, the degree of duplication that will be tolerated.

Digested: 1/30/2024

Kevin L. Johnson, Ko Olina, Hawai'i

**Hawai'i Legislature  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, Conference Room 225, 1:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
RE: Support for SB 2473 Relating to Taxation

I would like to take this opportunity to express my **strong support of SB 2473, Relating to Taxation**, particularly as it addresses a **tax credit for family caregivers**.

I recently had the experience of caring for my spouse for several weeks after surgery. While I am retired, still able to do the physical work required and have the financial means for this short stint, it truly opened my eyes to the challenges encountered for those caring for a family member on a long-term or permanent basis. Balancing household activities, work and the expense of necessary medical equipment is both mentally and physically taxing to these individuals.

While these hundreds of thousands of Hawaii citizens are providing millions of hours of this service out of love, they are not being reimbursed for their estimated \$2.5 million dollar expenses which might otherwise fall on the State. The small tax credit outlined in this legislation is both well deserved by these individuals and **an investment in healthcare** with a huge return to the State.

Please **support SB 2473**.

Sincerely,

*Kevin L. Johnson*

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Hearing:**

Monday, February 14, 2024, 1:00 pm  
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONEY ON SENATE BILL 2473  
RELATING TO TAXATION**

**To:** Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair; Sen. Henry Aquino, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee

My name is Anna Filler and I am in strong support of **SB 2473**. The purpose of this bill provides a tax credit for unpaid family caregivers that can help ease the financial expenses incurred for their loved one's care.

Family caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system. They provide countless hours of care that range from bathing, preparing meals and escorting loved ones for medical visits. They lovingly perform these daily tasks so that their family member can remain in their homes and age in place. In addition family caregivers often pay out of their own pocket for needed home care supplies and additional in-home assistance. It is estimated that they spend approximately \$7,000 annually. Please support these family caregivers by passing **SB 2473**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to support **SB 2473**.

Anna Filler  
Sen. District 12, Waikiki, Ala Moana, Kaka'ako  
Email: [afiller@twc.com](mailto:afiller@twc.com)

Hawaii State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
From: Susan L Baylosis, Makawao, Maui  
RE: Support for S.B. 2473 -Relating to Taxation

My name is Susan Baylosis and in strong support of S.B. 2473 which establishes a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers. I am the sole family caregiver for both parents who are in their 80's. I have been caring for my parents these past four years and can personally attest that this proposed tax credit would be deeply appreciated. Due to their medical issues, both parents depend on me for their daily care ranging from bathing, dressing, preparing meals as well as driving them to their medical appointments.

I'm having to use my own money that I was saving for my retirement to help pay for the extra help and other health and personal care supplies that my parents need. Unfortunately, these expenses can add up quickly. I was forced to quit my job to take care my parents full time. Hiring professional caregivers which starts at \$35.00/hour minimum 3 days a week is very expensive. Even if I worked, I would not be able to make enough for the care required as it is 24-7. I have given up everything to care for my parents which, I gladly do as their child. However, having this tax credit would be helpful to me and many other family caregivers who are caring for their loved ones at home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2473.

Contact Information:

Susan Baylosis

Email: [leilanismana@gmail.com](mailto:leilanismana@gmail.com)

Makawao, Hawaii

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2473  
Relating to Taxation

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Deborah M. Oyakawa, and I was a caregiver for my mother who had dementia. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of S.B 2473. The bill provides a tax credit for unpaid family caregivers that can help ease the financial expenses incurred for their loved one's care.

Due to the stress of being a caregiver, my focus and energy level were taxed and I was not performing well at work. I had to reduce my hours significantly. To supplement my income, I tapped into my retirement plan to cover basic living expenses and my mother's care, and eventually drained the funds. I am now in my sixties with no retirement money to help support me.

There are many family caregivers who find themselves in similar situations. They sacrifice their own financial security to provide countless hours of care that range from bathing, preparing meals and escorting loved ones for medical visits. They lovingly perform these daily tasks so that their family member can remain in their homes and age in place. In addition, family caregivers often pay out of their own pockets for needed health care supplies and additional assistance. Like me, they have to draw down from their personal and retirement savings. Having a tax credit would be greatly welcomed and appreciated by families who are caring for their loved ones. Please support these unsung heroes by passing SB 2473.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Deborah M. Oyakawa  
Waikoloa, HI 96738  
deboyakawa@gmail.com

February 14, 2024

TO: Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members  
FROM: Carl Takamura  
RE: SB 2743

My name is Carl Takamura and my sister and I provided care for my mother, especially during the latter years of her life before she passed away at 105. I strongly support this bill that would establish a tax credit for unpaid family caregivers who provide the care needed for a loved one at home.

Family caregivers are a vital and, I believe, an underappreciated component of Hawaii's long term care system. They provide countless hours of care performing daily tasks so that their loved one(s) can continue to live at home and age in place. Many caregivers struggle to provide this care, often at the sacrifice of their own families, personal health, and financial security. This bill would provide some much-needed support for these unsung heroes.

We urge you to approve this important proposal.

Mahalo,

*Carl Takamura*

Carl Takamura  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
Email: [ctakamura@aol.com](mailto:ctakamura@aol.com)

Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2473  
RELATING TO TAXATION  
Wednesday, Feb 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christina Enoka and I am a former caregiver of my father who had stage 4 cancer. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2473. The bill provides a tax credit for unpaid family caregivers that can help ease the financial expenses incurred for their loved one's care.

During my father's illness, my sister and I helped our mother with the daily care and transport to doctor appointments which included chemo therapy and radiation treatment. Because my mother did not drive, it was necessary to assist with weekly grocery shopping and other household upkeep purchases. Additionally, I was the primary contact for insurance claims processing. My father's care lasted for 10 months until his death. My father wanted to be at home and my sister and I did everything we could to accommodate his wishes; this included taking time off from work either using vacation hours or unpaid time. It also involved running a variety of necessary errands frequently in addition to our own household needs. This brought some peace to my mother as she was able to stay by his side throughout his illness.

Family caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system. They provide countless hours of care that range from bathing, preparing meals and escorting loved ones for medical visits. They lovingly perform these daily tasks so that their family member can remain in their homes and age in place. In addition, family caregivers often pay out of their own pockets for needed supplies such as incontinent supplies, medications and additional in-home assistance. It is estimated that they spend about \$7200 annually. Please support these unsung heroes by passing SB 2473.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Christina Enoka  
Mililani, Oahu  
Ncsmn150@gmail.com

**SB-2473**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 3:25:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2473

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair**

**Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair**

**HEARING**

**DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**TIME: 1:00 PM**

**Re B 2473 RELATING TO TAXATION.**

**Aloha Chairs Aquino and San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:**

**My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2473. The bill Establishes a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers that can help ease some financial burden on caregiving expenses incurred for the care of a loved one.**

**Family caregivers are the backbone of Hawaii's long term care system. They provide countless hours of care that range from bathing, preparing meals and escorting loved ones for medical visits. They lovingly perform these daily tasks so that the family member can remain in the home and age in place; but they sacrifice income, job security, and savings. Family caregivers often pay as much as \$7,200/Year out of their own pockets for needed supplies such as incontinent supplies, medications, and additional in-home assistance. It is estimated that there are 154,000 Caregivers giving 144 Million Care Hours/Year which amounts to \$2.6 Billion of Unpaid Labor/Year. Many must also balance work and caregiving or leave the workforce altogether.**

**Please support these unsung heroes by passing SB2473. They deserve this help. We know eventually all of us will be there.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!**

**Linda Dorset**

**Wailuku, Maui**



THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Carol Wakayama and I wish to submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2473 (“Relating to Taxation”).

SB2473 would provide tax credits to eligible taxpayers who are providing care to a family member and who have also incurred uncompensated expenses in order to care for family members. These expenses could range from transportation costs; items/services related to hygiene and other ‘activities of daily living.’ Over the course of a tax year, these expenses could become substantial as - the caregivers must also be able to live/afford their own lives, while also being a caregiver to a family member.

For nearly 30 years before she retired, my mother worked part-time at a very small company. When my mother retired, she had no pension or was provided any retirement package.

In my mother’s final years, my sister and I provided care for her. The only reason my sister and I were able to financially provide our mother with a comfortable, but, simple life was - because our mother was a widow of a Federal employee. Thankfully, our mother had some significant medical costs covered - only because of our father’s Federal retirement/medical package. My sister and I also used our own savings (and monies received from our father) to provide our mother with incidentals and transportation. We were somehow able to afford our mother’s care, but, I realize ‘life is so much more expensive now.’

For the reasons mentioned above, I humbly request your support of SB2473. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Carol Wakayama  
Honolulu, HI

**SB-2473**

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:56:00 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Dan Gardner and my wife and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2473 to provide a tax credit for unpaid family caregivers. This credit would help offset a portion of the financial burden of the caregiving expenses they incur providing care for their loved one's. As a vital portion of Hawai'i's long term care system, family caregivers provide countless hours of care such as bathing, making meals, and taking their loved ones to medical appointments and to see friends. Performing these daily tasks enables their family members to stay in their homes and age in place. Family caregivers also routinely pay for needed day-to-day supplies, medications, and additional in-home assistance. On average, these costs are estimated to be about \$7200 annually. Please support these dedicated family member caregivers by passing SB 2473. They are most certainly worthwhile of this support. Mahalo

Dan Gardner,

Honolulu, Hawaii

daniel.dano.gardner@gmail.com

**SB-2473**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:40:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill to create a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers.

Family caregivers can offer some of the most loving and cost-effective care for family members in need. Sometimes, it is the only way a family can afford to care for a kupuna, or disabled family member and is surely something we want to encourage.

The costs of caregiving are very real, from foregoing employment that could generate income, to spending personal funds on food, medical supplies, utilities and other needs for the family member being cared for. This tax credit can help ease that burden for those serving in this important role of family caregivers.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Ellen Carson, Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-2473**

Submitted on: 2/11/2024 11:09:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Wond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lisa Wond, and I support SB2473, which proposes a tax credit for family caregivers who expend their funds on caregiving services. Caregiving is an expensive undertaking, and every bit helps.

However, I also ask that you consider expanding this bill to allow a tax credit for those Kupuna who are receiving caregiving services and who are paying for those services. Such a tax credit would allow Kupuna to remain at home for a longer period of time, delaying their institutionalization, and delaying or avoiding their dependence on Medicaid. In addition, it could reduce the expense put upon family caregivers to pay for their kupuna's caregiving services.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Lisa Wond

**SB-2473**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:55:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann H Paulino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Aquino and Members of the Committee

My name is Ann Paulino and I am a caregiver for my 80 year old aunty. who has dementia. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2473. The bill establisihes tax credit for unpaid family caregivers that can help ease the financial expenses incurred fot their loved one's care.

I spend 5-10 hours per week helping her with finances.I sort her mail and discard any possible scams promising millions and multiple requests for donations for worthy causes. Without my help she tends to respond to mail with promises of wealth, which has led to her finances being depleted. Unknowingly, she allowed access being granted to both bank accounts and credit card information multiple times. When notified by other family members I assumed the kuleana to recover and monitor her finances by obtaining the Power of Attorney. This decision required obtaing necessary legal documents and presenting it to several financial entities, which was both time consuming and emotionally draining. Upon competion, I am now in maintanance mode by ensuring that bank balances cover her bills that are automatically deducted, pay for other incurred expenses, familiarize myself with all her financial transactions, take her to the bank(s) and recommend courses of action to use her financial resources prudently. I am retired so I have the time to kokua but initially, it was a full time job until matters stabilized. We forsee a time when she will need more assistance with daily functioning and preparing by looking at retirement homes that are very limited on Hawaii island.

I can share multiple stories of other family and friends who were not as fortunate. They must make the difficult decision to reduce hours thereby income, retire early or quit to care for their loved one. Please support this bill SB 2473 to help caregivers.

Ann Paulino

Hilo, Hawaii

heal0ha.722@gmail.com

