



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 24, 2025

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

House Bill 701 HD2 – Relating to Taxation

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 701 HD2 which establishes a refundable Family Caregiver Tax Credit for nonpaid family caregivers and requires the Department of Taxation to report to the Legislature.

Family caregivers play a critical role in supporting individuals with disabilities, older adults, and those with chronic conditions, often at great personal and financial cost. A refundable tax credit would help alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with caregiving, recognizing the essential services that family caregivers provide.

Providing financial relief to family caregivers acknowledges their contributions and helps sustain their ability to provide care. DCAB supports efforts to ease the financial strain on caregivers, as their work is essential to maintaining the health, dignity, and independence of those they support.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

HB-701-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:41:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GARY SIMON	Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Gary Simon, a member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of EOA but of PABEA. Also, I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty-five years.

PABEA strongly supports HB 701 HD 2, which establishes a Family Caregiver Tax Credit for nonpaid family caregivers; requires the Department of Taxation to report to the Legislature; and appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Aging to certify claims for the credit.

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 families spend each year in out-of-pocket caregiver costs.

We urge you to support the family caregiver tax credit for non-paid family caregivers and HB 701 HD 2, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

Mahalo for seriously considering the bill.

Gary Simon

PABEA Board Member



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony COMMENTING on HB701 HD2
RELATING TO TAXATION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REP. KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
REP. JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing: Monday, February 24, 2025, 12:00 P.M., Conference Room 308

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates funds to the EOA for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same
- 4 sum for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the certification of tax credits.
- 5 **Purpose:** This measure establishes a tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers and requires the
- 6 Department of Taxation to process those claims, provided the EOA certify the claim for the tax
- 7 credit. The Act shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.
- 8 **Recommendations:** EOA recognizes the important contribution that unpaid caregivers provide
- 9 and supports policies that can help to alleviate some of the financial burdens they face in
- 10 caregiving.

1 EOA recommends that the new tax credit applies to taxable years beginning after
2 December 31, 2026. Since EOA does not have the expertise or experience in the “certification of
3 tax credits” this would allow sufficient time to research, determine and develop the necessary
4 requirements, forms, procedures and instruction for the certification of the tax credits.
5 Additionally, EOA requests \$100,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for infrastructure development
6 and the same sum for fiscal year 2027-2028 for the certification of the claims. Once the tax
7 credit is established, EOA will need continuous funding beyond the two years for the ongoing
8 certification of the tax credits or the mandate will be unfunded. Without ongoing funding, EOA
9 may have difficulty in the certification of the tax credits and would impact tax credits from being
10 administered.
11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 701, H.D.2, Relating to Taxation.

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Finance

DATE: Monday, February 24, 2025

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 308

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding H.B. 701, H.D. 2, for your consideration.

H.B. 701, H.D. 2, adds a new section to chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establishing a nonrefundable 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 limited to one taxpayer per household for a care recipient, per taxable year. Excess credit over income tax liability may be carried forward in subsequent years until exhausted.

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." To set forth criteria for determining credit eligibility, the bill defines "care recipient," "eligible taxpayers," "qualified expenses," "relative," "activity of daily living," and "instrumental activities of daily living."

Expenses that 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. The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) will certify claims for tax credit.

The bill will require DOTAX to report no later than 20 days before the start of each legislative session on the number of eligible taxpayers claiming the credit and the credit's cost during the past year.

This bill has a defective effective date of July 1, 3000, and would apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

First, DOTAX appreciates the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology (ECD) confirming that the EOA will certify claims for tax credits and consult with DOTAX on the adoption of forms and rules, and guidance on reasonable supporting documentation. DOTAX notes the ECD committee also amended section 3 of the bill to authorize an unspecified appropriation so the EOA has appropriate funding to carry out the certification process. DOTAX defers to the EOA on its ability to certify the credit.

Second, DOTAX reiterates its prior suggestion to make the amount of the credit equal to a percentage of the taxpayer's expenses to discourage waste and abuse. Credits awarded for less than actual expenses encourage taxpayers to seek cost-savings through competition pricing. DOTAX recommends that under section 2, on page 2, subsection (b) be amended as follows:

(b) The family caregiver tax credit shall be equal to _____ per cent of the qualified expenses of the eligible taxpayer, up to a maximum of \$5,000 in any taxable year; provided that married individuals who do not file a joint tax return shall only be entitled to claim the tax credit to the extent that they would have been entitled to claim the tax credit had they filed a joint return.

Third, DOTAX recommends that unused nonrefundable credits have a sunset date so they cannot be carried forward indefinitely. In general, credits claimed farther away from the year in which they are incurred are difficult to verify and create further incentives for abuse. Specifically, DOTAX recommends that under section 2, on page 4, subsection (f) be amended by adding a proviso that reads as follows:

(f) If the tax credit under this section exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability, the excess of the credit over liability may be used as a credit against the taxpayer's income tax liability in subsequent years until exhausted; provided that no credit carried forward under this subsection shall be used as a credit more than five years after the taxable year in which qualified expenses are incurred. All claims for the tax credit under this section, including amended claims, shall be filed on or before the end of the twelfth month following the close of the taxable year for which the credit may be claimed. Failure to comply with the foregoing provision shall constitute a waiver of the right to claim the credit.

Finally, DOTAX estimates the expected revenue loss as follows:

General Fund Impact (\$ millions)

FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
-	-\$397.4	-\$397.4	-\$397.4	-\$397.4	-\$397.4

DOTAX will consult and work with the EOA on this new tax credit and can administer this measure for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025. This will provide DOTAX with sufficient time to make the necessary form, instruction, and computer system changes while providing guidance to taxpayers about this new credit.

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



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**The State Legislature
House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 24, 2025
Conference Room 308, 12:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawaii
RE: Strong Support for H.B 701, HD2 -Relating to Taxation

Aloha Chair Yamashita, 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 135,000 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 H.B. 701,HD2 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 for qualifying caregiving tax credits.

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.¹ These unpaid heroes manage medications, prepare meals, help with bathing, feeding and dressing, providing transportation to medical appointments, and managing financial and 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.¹ 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.

In a 2024 AARP poll among Hawaii registered voters aged 40 and above, 45% identified as current or former family caregivers. Notably, 90% of these caregivers incur costs to care for a loved one and expressed support for a state income tax credit to alleviate their financial

burden.² While we can never fully repay our family caregivers for all they do, the State can begin by offering them a modest tax credit. These caregivers need and deserve our support.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of H.B. 701, HD2.**

1. Source: AARP Family Caregivers Need Support Fact Sheet

2. Source: 2024 AARP Survey of 1,002 Hawai'i Voters Aged 40-Plus

HB-701-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:14:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Knight	The Institute for Human Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME TAX; Family Caregiver Tax Credit

BILL NUMBER: HB 701 HD 2

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes a Family Caregiver Tax Credit for nonpaid family caregivers. Requires the Department of Taxation to report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Aging to certify claims for the credit.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 235, HRS, to establish a nonrefundable family caregiver tax credit equal to 100% of “qualified expenses” of the taxpayer, up to a maximum of \$5,000 in any taxable year.

An eligible taxpayer may claim the tax credit for every taxable year or part thereof that the eligible taxpayer:

- 1) Provides care to a care recipient during the taxable year,
- 2) Has personally incurred uncompensated expenses directly related to the care of the care recipient, and
- 3) Has not claimed the care recipient as a dependent for the purpose of a tax deduction in the same taxable year.

Only one tax credit shall be claimed in any one taxable year, regardless of the number of care recipients receiving care from the eligible taxpayer.

Requires the director of taxation to prepare any forms necessary to claim a credit, may require a taxpayer to furnish reasonable information to validate a claim for the credit, and adopt rules pursuant to HRS chapter 91. Requires claims for the credit, including any amended claims, to be filed on or before the end of the twelfth month following the taxable year for which the credit is claimed. Failure to comply with the foregoing provision shall constitute a waiver of the right to claim the tax credit.

The department of taxation shall report prior to the convening of each regular legislative session, the number of eligible taxpayers claiming the tax credit and the total cost of the tax credit during the past year.

Defines “care recipient” as an individual who: (1) Is either a U.S. citizen or qualified alien; (2) does not reside in a long-term care facility, and (3) 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 because the individual behaves in a manner that poses a serious health or safety hazard to the individual or another person. The term includes a person with a “disability” as defined in section 515-2, HRS.

Defines “eligible taxpayer” as any relative of a care recipient who 1) has a federal adjusted gross income of \$75,000 or less, or \$125,000, if filing a joint tax return and 2) has undertaken the care, custody, or physical assistance of the care recipient.

Defines “qualified expenses” as out-of-pocket expenses directly incurred by the eligible taxpayer in providing care to a care recipient that have not been reimbursed, credited, paid or otherwise covered by another. Includes 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.

Defines “relative” as a spouse, child, parent, sibling, legal guardian, a reciprocal beneficiary, partner or any other person who is related to a care recipient by blood, marriage, or adoption, including a person who has a hanai or substantial familial relationship to the care recipient.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 3000 and shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

STAFF COMMENTS: A tax credit currently exists 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.

We note that the credit as proposed is 100% of qualified expenses. The taxpayer can be thought of as paying nothing where the Hawaii taxpayers pay everything. There is currently nothing to indicate that the taxpayer seeking the credits would have “skin in the game,” and thus does not create any incentive for the taxpayer to do due diligence before incurring expenses, and does not create competition among vendors who then can charge whatever they want because the taxpayer has little motive to seek the most reasonable price.

Finally, the additional credit would require changes to tax forms and instructions, reprogramming, staff training, and other costs that could be massive in amount compared to the benefit expected to accrue because of the creditable activity.

Digested: 2/22/2025

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Finance
Re: **HB 701 HD2 – Relating to Taxation**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
February 24, 2025, 12:00 PM

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB 701 HD2**. This bill establishes a refundable Family Caregiver 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.¹

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,² 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

¹ <https://www.auw.org/about/alice-initiative/alice-reports/>

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

**2025 Hawaii
Leadership Board**

Travis Kikuchi, *Chair*
Senior Vice President
Central Pacific Bank

Lori McCarney, *Immediate*
Past Chair Community
Advocate

Tricia Medeiros, *Past Chair*
Chief Operating Officer
The Plaza Assisted Living

Gina Fujikami, *MD*
The Queen's Medical
Center

Kai Ohashi,
Financial Advisor Edward
Jones

Michael Robinson,
Vice President Hawaii Pacific
Health

Kimberly Soares, *Vice*
President Atlas Insurance

Gino Soquena,
Executive Director
Hawaii Building and
Construction Trade Council

Gordon Takaki, *Past*
President Hawaii Island
Chamber of Commerce

Cary Tanaka,
Past President
Island Insurance
Companies

Caroline Witherspoon,
President Becker
Communications

LJ R. Duenas,
Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 24, 12:00 PM Hawaii State Capitol, Conference
Room 308, and Videoconference**

RE: HB701 HD2 – RELATING TO TAXATION

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Coby Chock, and I am testifying on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association Hawaii Chapter in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB701 HD2, which provides a tax credit for family caregivers.

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 to medical visits. In addition, many caregivers pay for their loved one's care out of their own pocket. The average cost of assisted living with memory care in Hawaii is approximately \$7,036 per month which is substantially higher than the national average. This cost can be a significant financial burden on families.

The number of people living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawaii is 31,200, with 60,000 caregivers providing \$1,907,000,000 in unpaid care. This number is growing. The proposed tax credit would provide much-needed relief for family caregivers, helping them cover expenses such as adult day care fees, medical supplies, transportation, respite care, and other health and personal care services.

As an organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, we understand the critical importance of financial security in ensuring quality care and support. This tax credit would be a small but significant step in recognizing and supporting the invaluable contributions of family caregivers.

Please support these unsung heroes by passing HB 701 HD2. They all deserve our support. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support! If you have questions, please contact me at 808-451-3410 or ckchock@alz.org



Coby Chock
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii

HB-701-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 3:28:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Serota	AARP	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Angela Serota and I am writing in strong support of HB 701, HD2 that provides a tax credit for family caregivers.

I have lived on the North Shore of Kauai for over 20 years and have witnessed first hand the financial, emotional, and physical toll of providing home health care for a family member. Approving this proposed tax credit will significantly help financially stressed families who struggle to care for loved ones. They truly need and deserve this support.

Mahalo nui loa for your service and support.

Angela Serota

Kilauea, Kauai

To: Committee on Finance

Date: Monday, February 24, 2025

Re: House Bill 701, HD2 Relating to Taxation

Chair Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Esther Ueda, and I am writing in SUPPORT of House Bill 701, HD2 Relating to Taxation.

The Bill establishes a refundable Family Caregiver Tax Credit for nonpaid family caregivers.

Some of my friends have taken early retirement from their jobs to care for family members. Although this sacrifice was appreciated by their parents and family members, it had a negative impact on their own personal financial situation (resulting in a reduction of their current income, and also possibly their future retirement benefits).

This decrease in their income creates a significant hardship on a Caregiver and their family especially in the long run. The proposed tax credit can help them with some of their current caregiving expenses, and possibly enable them to continue working longer while caring for their loved ones.

Please support HB 701, HD2 that will provide a Tax Credit for nonpaid family caregivers.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Esther Ueda
Pearl City, Hawaii

HB-701-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:47:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Finance Committee. My name is Dan Gardner and I together with my wife Deborah, are both in strong support of HB701 HD2 to provide a tax credit for family caregivers. These dedicated family members provide literally unlimited hours - estimated to be an average of \$7,200 per year - caring for their family loved ones in need. They are the mainstay of Hawaii's long term care system and deserve our strong support. We are counting on your continued efforts to deliver a meaningful tax credit for these vital caregivers. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this critical legislation.

HB-701-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 6:57:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celeste Rojas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Celeste Rojas, and I am a former family caregiver. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 701,HD2 which provides a tax credit for family caregivers.**

As a former family caregiver it helps to have a government support for a tax credit. Individuals need to work and balance the care needed for a loved one. The risk involved is caregivers do two jobs being a caregiver and doing a second job. Sometimes it involves delaying a future promotion. This why this testimony is important, as well for the Paid Family Leave.

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. In addition, many caregivers pay for their loved one’s care out of their own pocket. The average cost is \$7,200 per year to cover expenses such as adult day care fees, medical supplies, transportation, respite care and other health and personal care services. This proposed tax credit would provide a small relief for family caregivers. Please support these unsung heroes by passing HB 701. They all deserve our support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Celeste Rojas

Mountain View, HI , Big Island

HB-701-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:28:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Buckovetz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee, My name is Katherine Buckovetz, a former caregiver for many years for my father, and live in Kailua Kona. I ask that you pass HB 701 HD2 to provide desperate relief to caregivers who have no or little income or supports for assisting loved ones in Hawaii. Hawaii has meager resources for caregivers and generally provides low salaries and pensions to provide caregiver assistance. I had to retire early to care for my father 24/7 for 7 years without assistance. We had no money to hire help, get certain medical apparatus, transportation assistance, bathroom mods. respite or handyman assistance. It takes a toll on the caregiver physically and emotionally. A Tax Credit would provide modest support of the over \$8000 a year spent on caregiving and relieve mental anguish over how to manage basic needs. Many caregivers I have talked to do not even have the funds to provide anything except basic room and board for their care recipient. Please make a difference and help those who are giving so much to help their loved one. Pass HB 701 HD 2. With aloha,
Katherine Buckovetz

NOTICE OF HEARING
Monday, February 24, 2025

H.B.701 - RELATING TO TAXATION

Aloha Chair Yamashita Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee on Finance. My name is Carol Wakayama and I wish to submit testimony in favor of H.B.701, HD2.

Volunteer family caregivers come forward to provide help to those they love. Although associated costs - to provide help - can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars, family caregivers currently provide this care without any compensation or tax credits. Family caregivers provide help such as preparing meals, providing hygiene and transportation. It could also be something relatively simple like reading to or talking story with their loved ones.

H.B.701, HD2 establishes a Family Caregiver Tax Credits for providing family caregiving. If passed, the bill would assist family caregivers to provide care/help to those they love. H.B.701 could also encourage others to provide care - even though they are currently financially unable to provide such help to their loved ones.

For reasons mentioned above, I humbly request that H.B.70,HD 2 be considered for passage. Thank you.

Carol Wakayama
1011 Prospect Street #804
Honolulu, HI 96822
ckwakayama@gmail.com

HB-701-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 6:09:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sai Peng Tomchak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 701,HD2

RELATING TO TAXATION

Monday, February 24, 2025 at 12:00 pm

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sai Peng Tomchak. I am in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 701 which provides a tax credit for family caregivers.**

My husband and I are caregivers of my mother-in-law, who has severe dementia. Before being a caretaker, I never imagined the level of involvement of a caretaker in someone else's life. We take mom to adult daycare, numerous doctor appointments, checkups, lab tests, and even emergency rooms. We spend time on managing her bills, doing her laundry, taking care of her hygienic needs and making sure she has as much as companionship as possible. My husband and I have been taking turns to take paid time off from work for mom. Very fortunately together we managed to take care of mom. However, the expenses for caring of mom have mounted, from daily necessities, doctors, emergency care, medication, adult daycare, transportation, and much more. It is hard to imagine how much more difficult it is for individuals who have to take care of their loved ones alone, without help from spouses or other family members.

Bill HB 701 will provide caretakers with some deserved financial relief. This is as much needed (if not more desperately needed) for caregivers as child tax credits needed by parents. I respectfully ask you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my testimonial!

Sai Peng Tomchak

Resident of Kihei, Maui County