

LATE

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 3, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 607, HD1, SD1 Relating to Kupuna Care

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

My name is Kathy Jaycox, and I currently serve as the Oahu President for FACE, Faith Action for Community Equity. As most of you know, FACE is a coalition of churches and other groups on both Oahu and Maui with a common focus on issues of social justice. I am writing to express my support -- and FACE's support -- for HB 607, HD1, SD1 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

The program created by this legislation would provide support for working caregivers who also take care of aging family members or other loved ones. In this way, it provides needed in-home care for kupuna who are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid, but who do not have sufficient resources to pay for daily services of professional caregivers. At the same time, through its daily benefit, it allows the family member to remain in his or her regular employment. This benefits the individual as well as the family concerned about financial pressures. Plus, by providing employment opportunities for professional caregivers, this adds further stimulation to our local economy.

I was a caregiver for a family member during the final two years of his life -- and I worked only half-time during that period. I am familiar with all of the concerns faced by families in this situation.

FACE is grateful to all of you for your efforts to create legislation which addresses this pressing need in our state. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify.

Kathy Jaycox
559 Pauku St
Kailua, HI 96734



CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS

Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice Chair Donoval Dela Cruz
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

LATE

April 3, 2017

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607 HB1, SD1 RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE

My name is Pedro Haro, and I wish to testify on behalf of Caring Across Generations in strong support of House Bill 607, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1.

Caring Across Generations is a national movement of families, caregivers, people with disabilities and aging Americans working to transform the way we care in this country, calling for policy solutions that enable all of us to live and age with dignity and independence. Caring Across Generations has worked with partners in Hawai'i for years in support of legislation that will help make quality long-term care accessible to everyone, and we believe that this bill is an important step toward that goal.

There is little disagreement that the lack of long-term care coverage is a critical issue facing our country. For the vast majority of families without private long term care insurance, the only choices available are to either spend down their life savings in order to qualify for Medicaid, or to rely on unpaid family caregivers. Neither choice is sustainable. In Hawai'i, the issue is even more devastating as our cost of home health care is on average \$10,000 more than on the continental U.S. To adequately meet the care needs of families, and of the direct care workforce, we need new caregiving infrastructure.

House Bill 607 and the creation of the Kupuna Caregivers program will provide the needed respite care that our kūpuna caregivers deserve and the support our working families and businesses need. Study after study shows that the value of unpaid, and often under-recognized, family care is astronomical, and 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. Our own research showed that 1 in 5 people indicated that they or someone in the household has had to leave a job or the workforce to help care for an aging loved one.

The benefit offered in this legislation will help ensure that aging adults in Hawaii will have access to the care they need, in a setting where they are already comfortable. And, importantly, family members in the workforce will be able to continue working, which improves their economic security and also stabilizes the workforce for business owners.

Care is a universal issue, and anyone in this room who is not currently providing some form of care to a family member has almost certainly done so in the past...or will do so in the future. Caring Across Generations urges this committee to support House Bill 607, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 and help ensure that all families have the support they need to provide the care our kūpuna deserve.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Pedro Haro
Community Organizer, Hawaii
Caring Across Generations
pedro@caringacross.org



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

LATE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Supporting HB 607, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Kupuna Care
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Scheduled for hearing Monday, April 3, 2017, 1:35 PM, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Deal Cruz, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of **HB 607, HD1, SD1**, which would fund up to \$70 a day for the respite that working family caregivers need in order to stay active in the workforce while caring for their kūpuna at home.

By 2020, nearly 300,000 people will be age 65 or older in Hawai'i. Because the demographic make-up of our state is changing, we need to change the way we provide care for our kūpuna.

Ninety percent of people over age 65 would prefer to remain stay in their homes as long as possible. Our extended 'ohana are often loving caregivers, but providing that care can often create financial and emotional stress. According to a MetLife survey, the cost of home health aide and homemaker services are significantly higher in Hawai'i than the national average.

When the caregiver is working full-time, adding care duties adds significant personal strain for the caregiver. As a result, many caregivers make the difficult decision to leave their job or reduce their work hours to care for an aging family member. HB 607, HD1, SD1 would create a fund to help caregivers provide care for our kūpuna. By ensuring that working caregivers have basic support and assistance to care for their aging loved one, it would enable more of our seniors to age at home.

This program is not intended to cover a stay in a long-term care facility like a nursing home or an assisted living home. Instead, it could help pay for a home care aide for a couple of hours, transportation to adult day care or adult day health, or chore and homemaking services. This program will help make long-term care for our kūpuna more affordable and provide the helping hand caregivers so desperately need.

Supporting home caregiving means Hawai'i can honor the wishes of our seniors, improve their health outcomes, and reduce the cost of long-term care for both family caregivers and the state.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.

THE SENATE

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Monday, April 3, 2017; 1:35 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.B. 607, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

The ILWU Local 142 **supports** H.B. 607, HD1, SD1, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to establish the Kupuna Caregivers program to assist community members with elder care so they can continue to remain in the workforce.

H.B. 607, HD1, SD1 will establish a Kupuna Caregivers program to pay for certain services needed by care recipients —e.g., transportation, personal care services, respite care, adult day care, chore and homemaking services. The funds, available through an appropriation, may be provided directly to a service provider, not to a family caregiver, but the funding will support family caregivers by paying for services to kupuna that will allow the caregivers to continue employment.

This bill is far different than the bill introduced last year to establish a fund with a half percent surcharge on the general excise tax (GET) and would pay benefits directly to family caregivers. That proposal would have assured greater sustainability of funds, particularly since at least one-third of the GET is paid by visitors who will never claim a benefit from the fund.

We supported last year's bill—and still support that financing mechanism. However, we understand the Legislature's reluctance to increase the GET because of the disproportionate impact such a tax would have on lower income individuals and families. We, therefore, fully support H.B. 607, HD1, SD1 as a first step toward a program that eventually will provide meaningful help to those struggling with the cost of providing in-home care to loved ones needing long-term services and supports.

Hawaii's elder population continues to grow faster than younger populations. Many of the elderly are or will be in need of long-term care in one form or another. Most people cannot afford the cost of institutional care but, more importantly, prefer to remain in their own homes.

Family caregivers caring for elderly relatives at home as an alternative to institutionalization do so at great sacrifice to their own financial well-being, now and into the future. They need help so they can continue to earn a living or, if they must stay at home with their loved ones, be provided with financial support.

H.B. 607, HD1, SD1 offers help to pay for services. As with last year's bill, however, \$70 a day does not go very far. It may pay for adult day care or a couple of hours for a professional caregiver to come to the home, but most people need a lot more services that will cost a lot more.

Nevertheless, we are well aware that tackling the issues brought on by the “silver tsunami” must start somewhere. H.B. 607, HD1, SD1 is a reasonable start.

The ILWU urges passage of H.B. 607, HD1, SD1 to recognize the huge costs borne by family caregivers—costs that could easily be transferred to taxpayers if family caregivers were not available. The caregivers who spoke at a February rally in support of the Kupuna Caregiver bills in the House and Senate (the Star-Advertiser featured them in a front page article) were very eloquent as they shared their heart-wrenching stories. Please consider them as you make your decision on H.B. 607, HD1, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this important issue.

LATE

From: [John Reppun](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Dawn N. Chang](#); [Kaipo Kukahiko](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 607, HD1, SD1; Committee On Ways and Means Hearing of April 3rd, 2017, 1:45 pm
Conference Room 211
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 9:27:23 PM

Aloha Chair Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz,
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Please accept KEY Project's testimony in strong support of House Bill 607, HD1m SD1 *Relating to Kupuna Care* requiring the State Executive Office on Aging to establish the "Kupuna Caregivers Program" - assistance for community members as they seek to obtain care for elders, a rapidly growing demographic, while remaining in the workforce.

KEY Project, established nearly 50 years ago as a 501(c)(3) non-profit community center, has always provided programs and services to an intergenerational mix of community members on the Windward side of Oahu. Based on our experience we are sure of the benefit that comes from such a mix while in close proximity to the civic center of which are a part. By community and governmental design we are surrounded by parklands, schools (early childhood programs, elementary and continuing education), churches, community garden spaces and more...all contributing to a healthy environment for those who grow up in and grow older in our area. We have seen the slow transitions and cycles of life as generations have now come through or been touched by our own programs and services and/or those with whom we collaborate. As our nation struggles with health care and, locally, this legislature makes ready to step up to fill any gaps that may occur with respect to health insurance and affordable care, this measure will surely help to bridge a gap and assure support for both our *kupuna* and those who are most concerned with their care.

KEY Project, along with other agencies that have been in social service for decades, has been well aware of the "Silver Tsunami" that is already upon us and know that we, too, must play a role in stepping up to support with additional services. This measure will ensure excellent guidance and

collaboration among agencies concerned with aging at both State and County levels, backed by funding that can help the families and community caregivers with whom we intersect. We join with many others in thanking this committee for its consideration and invite your support for passage and funding for this measure.



Mahalo – on behalf of KEY Project.

John L. Reppun

Executive Director Emeritus/Community & Resource Development Program

Cc: Dawn N. Chang, Board President; Kaipō Kukahiko, Executive Director



John L. Reppun

www.keyproject.org

(808)277-8686

LATE

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 607, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE**

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, and Senator Donovan M. Ila Cruz, Vice Chair,
Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date: Monday, April 3, 2017; 1:35 p.m.; CR 211

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of **HB 607, HD1, SD1**, Relating to Kupuna Care. My name is Anna Filler and I retired two years ago at the age of 75. I was a caretaker for my father who passed away at the age 97. I first retired at the age of age 62 and worked several temporary jobs to help take care of my father which I shared with my younger sister.

This bill will provide appropriate funds to help caregivers pay for a home health care worker when a family caregiver is not available. It is a difficult decision for a caregiver to leave a full time job or reduce work hours to care for an aging family member.

Kupuna Care program requests funds for a pilot program to help working caregivers provide care for their elder family members.

I urge you to support Hawaii's growing senior population by supporting HB 607, HD1, SD1.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB 607, HD1, SD1.

Anna Filler
Email: afiller@twc.com
Kakaako/Senate District 12

LATE

From: [Bob Leinau](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Kuouana Care bill [SB 534 and HB 607]
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2017 8:05:59 PM

SB 534 and HB 607 Kuouana Care bill is a very important bill . Please find a way to pass this measure.

Mahalo, Bob Leinau

LATE

April 2, 2017

Relating To: Kupuna Care HB 607 HD1

Position: SUPPORT

Hearing: Monday, April 3, 2017, 1:35 pm, Room 211

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Alexandra Soren and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I am submitting my testimony in support of HB 607 HD1 relating to Kupuna Care. This bill is proposing to offer support to families and working caregivers in need of financial assistance while caring for their kupuna. This bill will provide the support needed for those who must balance caring for another with their own self care and personal responsibilities.

Majority of the elder population prefer to age in their homes rather than in institutionalized care. By providing financial support to the caregivers of these kupuna, many will be able to age within the comfort of their own homes. Family members caring for their kupuna often have to sacrifice time at their jobs to provide care. This bill will provide funds that family members might be losing while caring for their kupuna at home.

The aid of \$70 a day provided from this bill would also give families the option of being able to hire professional caregivers. With the growth of the population that is over the age of 65, there is also a growth in the demand for people to care for these kupuna, creating many job opportunities within the field of caregiving.

I strongly believe that this bill will positively impact the lives of many. Families, kupuna, and people who specialize in caregiving will have the chance to benefit from this bill. The strong culture of caring for one another in Hawai'i is something that defines us as a state, and I believe this bill is a representation of that culture. This bill could serve as an example for the rest of the country to follow and take action into providing better care for our elderly citizens nationwide.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Soren

LATE

From: [Catherine Clement](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: I support the Kupuna Caregivers Bill
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 5:13:59 AM

Aloha dear legislators,

I am asking you to please support the Kupuna Caregivers Bill. This is so important to all the people of our state- the kupuna, the caregivers, and their families. All of us are touched, now or eventually, by caregiving for our kupuna. I will soon be a kupuna, and my children will need this support that comes collectively from everyone. The Kupuna Caregivers Bill is another manifestation of aloha in action.

Mahalo for your consideration and support,
Catherine Clement
PO Box 1450
Kilauea, HI 96754

Catherine Clement
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