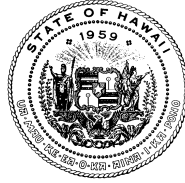


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831
eoa@doh.hawaii.gov

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2342 SD1
Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
REPRESENTATIVE JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE NADINE K. NAKAMURA, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: March 13, 2020
9:00 am

Room Number: 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health, provides comments to SB2342, SD1.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates an unspecified amount for FY2021 for the
- 4 Kupuna Caregivers Program (KCGP) and amends the definition of "qualified caregiver" in
- 5 Section 2, 349-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes by proposing to reduce the number of hours a
- 6 caregiver has to be employed to qualify for the Kupuna Caregivers Program, from 30 hours per
- 7 week to 20 hours per week. EOA notes the KCGP had an appropriation of \$1.5 million for
- 8 SFY20-21 in the Governor's Administrative Budget (HB2200) but was deleted by House
- 9 Finance committee.
- 10 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to increase funding for the Kupuna
- 11 Caregivers Program and amend the definition of a qualified caregiver to serve more working
- 12 caregivers. Hawaii's aging population continues to grow, and caregiver assistance is critical to

1 support the caregivers' own health as well as the health of Hawaii's kupuna. In addition,
2 caregivers who are employed earn retirement benefits and provide support to the workforce by
3 helping businesses retain experienced workers.

4 Act 102, HSL2017 created the KCGP and appropriated \$600,000 for services in SFY2018. The
5 program launched in February 2018 and the appropriation was used to provide a full day of
6 Adult Day Care services to the care recipients of 101 caregivers which allowed caregivers to
7 remain employed and limit the amount of the time they would need to leave their work to
8 provide caregiving. In SFY2019, the Legislature appropriated \$1.2 million for the KCGP which
9 allowed the EOA to continue providing services to care recipients for a full 12-month period. We
10 served 112 caregivers in SFY2019. In SFY2020, ACT 126 was passed by the Legislature which
11 increased the KCGP appropriation to \$1.5 million, amended the amount that can be expended for
12 services from \$70 per day to \$210 per week, and required the EOA to develop a written plan to
13 maximize the number of caregivers served. As of December 2019, we served 125 caregivers
14 statewide.

15 Regarding the amendment to change the number of hours a week for qualified caregivers, EOA
16 feels it is not necessary. In February 2017, an online survey commissioned by Caring Across
17 Generations and conducted by Ward Research Incorporated concluded the following:

- 18 • 57% of those surveyed were employed 30 hours or more per week.
- 19 • 1% were employed less than 30 hours because of the need to care for an elder part time;
- 20 • 9% were employed less than 30 hours by choice,
- 21 • 2% not employed due to full time caregiver responsibilities,
- 22 • 6% not employed by choice,

1 • and 25% were retired.

2 If the Kupuna Caregiver Program is not funded, caregivers would need to decide on leaving the
3 workforce, take early retirement, or place the older adult into institutional care at a higher cost of
4 \$121,545 per year, per person, with costs typically ranging from \$7,890 to \$17,130 monthly.

5 **Recommendation:** Funding for this program has been deleted from HB2200. If funding is not
6 restored in the budget bill, SB2342 SD1 is the only vehicle to support this program. Funding is
7 critical to support working caregivers. EOA feels that the focus should be on caregivers working
8 30 hours or more a week. In addition, EOA was tasked with developing a plan to maximize the
9 number of caregivers served. EOA is in the process of implementing this plan and would prefer
10 to keep the eligibility the same so that we can evaluate the effectiveness of the plan over time.
11 EOA supports this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities
12 within the Administration's budget request.
13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



1132 Bishop Street, #1920 | Honolulu, HI 96813
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-537-2288 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/hi | hiaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Friday, March 13, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329

To: Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair

Re: S.B. 2342 SD1 Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Nakamura, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawai'i families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

SB 2342 SD1 appropriates funds to the Kūpuna Caregivers program to assist family members who are providing care for elders to stay in the workforce. In addition, this bill amends the definition of a "qualified caregiver" by reducing the hours per week (from 30 hours to 20) that an individual needs to be employed in order to be a qualified caregiver under this program. This will assist more working caregivers to care for their loved ones in their own homes.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports SB 2342 SD1. This program supports our working caregivers who struggle to care for their loved ones while holding down their jobs and other personal responsibilities. The program provides a care benefit which allows families to obtain services such as home care or adult day care that will safely supervise a family member at home or in a community setting. This is less expensive than a nursing home which costs \$160,000 annually. (2019 American Council on Aging- Annual Private Room Rate)

AARP fully supports this program which will assist Hawaii's 154,000 caregivers, whom many are currently still in the workforce, and continue to care for our kūpuna in their homes and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2342 SD1.





Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Josh Frost - President • Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Kristin Hamada
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Friday, March 13, 2020

Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB2342 SD1 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**, which lowers the total hours per week a person must be employed for to be a qualified caregiver under the program.

Hawaii's population is aging rapidly, and the cost of personal home care is rising, having family caregivers is going to become more and more essential. These caregivers are doing physically and emotionally draining work, many doing it without pay and in addition to a traditional 30-40hr a week job. By lowering the hours, a person must work to qualify for this program, the State can lessen the load on these caregivers and help to support more families.

For all these reasons, we urge you to move this bill forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity,
Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

SB-2342-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 10:34:40 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GARY SIMON	Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

I am Gary Simon, Vice Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA.

My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA.

PABEA strongly supports the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

The intent of the Program is to provide enough labor assistance to allow full-time working caregivers to remain in the labor force by subsidizing services, such as, but not limited to, adult day care and bathing services.

By subsidizing these services, the working caregiver would minimize absences and time-off from work.

The goal is to prevent caregivers from retiring prematurely or leaving the labor force with impaired retirement benefits.

We urge you to support the Kupuna Caregivers Program, and we urge you to appropriate \$2,000,000 for proper implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers Program.

We thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Vice Chair, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs



House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
March 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 329

SUPPORTING SB 2342 SD 1 WITH AN AMENDMENT

The Church of the Crossroads, founded in 1922, is Hawaii's first intentionally multicultural church and is committed to a mission of peace, justice, and environmental preservation.

The Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the Hawaii Legislature in 2017, and launched in 2018, to support family caregivers. There are currently 150,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their frail elderly parents, spouse, or other relatives. As Hawaii's population ages, the number persons needing assistance with everyday activities will continue to increase.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce because their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families, as well as to assure that they themselves will have sufficient retirement benefits.

Research in Hawaii, as well as nationally, has shown that employed caregivers experience an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is designed to enable family caregivers to continue to participate in the labor force by providing assistance with care for their elder family member. The program offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, transportation, homemaker services, meals, and personal care services. Elder persons needing assistance with at least two activities of daily living may qualify for the program.

Within a few weeks of the launch of the program, more than 500 persons inquired about it. The program's relatively small budget, however, limited the services to a relatively small number of clients. The current level of funding, unfortunately, is still woefully inadequate to serve the existing need. Legislators, as well as persons in the community, have expressed a strong desire to expand the number of persons being served.

In the current fiscal year the program is funded at a level of \$1.2 million. This bill has a blank appropriation, and we recommend \$2 million. Although much more is needed, \$2 million is a realistic figure.



HAWAII APPLESEED

CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
In Support of SB 2342, SD1 – Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Friday, March 13, 2020, 9:00 AM, conference room 329

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 2342, SD1**, which reduces the number of hours per week an individual must be employed to be a qualified caregiver under the Kupuna Caregivers Program from thirty to twenty and appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the program.

We support the amendment of the number of hours needed to qualify for the program, as proposed in this bill, because we believe it will expand the program to help more caregivers and their families. **We support funding the program at the level of \$2 million in fiscal year 2020-2021 to cover this expanded eligibility.**

According to a MetLife survey, the cost of home health aide and homemaker services are significantly higher in Hawai'i than the national average. Ninety percent of people over age 65 say they 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.

When the caregiver is working at least half-time outside the home, kupuna care duties add 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.

Mahalo for creating the Kupuna Caregivers Program in 2017, the first of its kind in the nation. This groundbreaking program is a crucial way to both provide a safety net for Hawai'i's family caregivers and invest in our paid care workforce.

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.

Please pass this bill. We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

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.

SB-2342-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 2:05:00 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because it is so important to help support caregivers who are taking care of their frail elderly parents, spouse, or other relatives, to alleviate the need for hospitalization and care homes. Now more than ever, supporting in-home care can help free up our medical facilities and personnel for people in dire need, while families do their best to help care for Kupuna.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care for frail elderly persons and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce because their employment is necessary to support the needs of their families, as well as to assure that they themselves will have sufficient retirement benefits. The Kupuna Caregivers Program is designed to enable family caregivers to continue to participate in the labor force by providing assistance with care for their elder family member.

In the current fiscal year the program is funded at a level of \$1.2 million. Although much more is needed, \$2 million is a more realistic figure for what should be appropriated for this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this important program.

Ellen Godbey Carson

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
NADINE K. NAKAMURA, VICE CHAIR

Syeda Rabia Maharaj
MSW Gerontology student at UH Manoa
E-mail address: smaharaj@hawaii.edu

Hearing Date: Friday, March 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM

**Testimony in SUPPORT of and COMMENTING on SB2342 SD1
Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program**

Hello!

My name is Rabia Maharaj and I'm a Master's in Social Work student with my specialization in Gerontology at UH Manoa. I am testifying in support of SB2342 SD1 and also providing some comments. Most, if not all of us, already know that Hawai'i's elderly population is growing, and growing fast. People in Hawai'i live longer than the rest of the U.S.

According to the Family Caregiver Alliance (2016), 48% of caregivers are 18-49 years old and 34% of caregivers are 65+ years old. The number of hours dedicated to caregiving for caregivers 65+ range from 30 to 35 hours a week. Many caregivers of older adults are growing old themselves. Imagine working 30 hours a week at your place of employment to go home to do more work as a caregiver when you should be enjoying your retirement already? I personally think reducing the number of hours being employed from 30 hours a week should go down to 0 hours a week for those who are 65 and older, especially if they're retired, but 20 is a start. Even those ages 18-49 years old spend anywhere from 15 to 26 hours a week caregiving, which may not sound like a lot, but most people in that age range are either working full time, going to school full time, have their own children to take care of, or all three combined. As an MSW student, along with going to school full time, we need to have a practicum site where we have to be at about 20 hours a week, which doesn't count as employment either. Being a full time student with a practicum site is already stressful enough, I can't even fathom the thought of having to be able to take care of my own children and own parents or even grandparents along with a part time job.

Aging and becoming an elderly person is something that we ALL have in common and will inevitably experience. You never know if it's going to be a spouse, a close friend, or even yourself that will be in need of a caregiver. Wouldn't you want someone you know and are comfortable with giving you the care that you need? Reducing the number of hours per week an individual must be employed to be a qualified caregiver under the Kupuna Caregivers Program is a start, but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-2342-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 7:36:13 AM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly urge your support of SB 2342, to compensate Hawaii's unpaid caregivers. Mahalo.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

March 13, 2020

To: Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

LATE

Re: **SB 2342 SD1, Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
9:00 am, 3/12/2020

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and committee members

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2342 SD1, Relating to Kupuna Caregivers Program**. SB 2342 would provide an appropriation for the program and lower the threshold of hours that must be worked for eligibility, from 30 hours to 20 hours. We believe in order for the program to operate successfully and help as many families possible that it would require an appropriation of at least \$2 million dollars.

The Kupuna Caregivers program is a prevention program, assisting families before crisis strikes. Studies have shown that people who age at home with family are more likely to have better health outcomes, reducing hospitalization and ER visits, and as a result, ends up saving our state the cost of expensive medical procedures or institutionalization that could have been prevented with adequate care.

As strong supporters of paid family leave for Hawaii, we believe that workers should be able to take care of their families without sacrificing their economic livelihood. The Kupuna Caregivers Program provides the opportunity for working caregivers to stay engaged in the workforce while ensuring their loved one receives quality care.

For these reasons, we request the committee pass SB2342 SD1.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Research

TO : HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura Chair
Rep. Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

LATE

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.
Board Member, Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition

SUBJECT: SB2342 SD 1 Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

HEARING: Friday, March 13, 2020, 9:00 am
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

POSITION: The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports SB 2342 SD1 which appropriates funds to continue the Kupuna Caregiver Program

THE NEED:

The Hawaii Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the 2017 Legislative Session and is an important step in creating needed supports to family caregivers. The number of persons needing some assistance with everyday activities continues to increase. While many are able to manage without any assistance, research in Hawaii as well as nationally has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. Consequently, many employed caregivers have reduced productivity at work and many have to limit their hours or drop out of the workforce due the demands of caring.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program is designed to enable family caregivers to continue to participate in the labor force by providing a range of supportive services with care for their elder family member. The program offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, meals, personal care services, transportation, and homemaker services. Elder persons needing assistance with at least 2 activities of daily living may qualify for the program. This bill reduces the employment criterion from 30 hours a week to 20 hours a week.

Within a few weeks of when the program was launched, over 500 persons submitted an inquiry for the program. The current bill will also provide an appropriation for the FY 2020-2021. We suggest an amendment that \$2 million be allocated, increasing the amount recommended by the Ige Administration. The challenge to the Legislature is to increase resources so that the program can expand to better meet the level of need in the community.

Thank you
Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.

SB-2342-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 7:17:17 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/13/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashleigh Loa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



Evelyn Hao
President

Rev. Won-Seok Yuh
Vice President-
Clergy

William Bekemeier
Vice President-
Laity

Jon Davidann
Treasurer

Deanna Espinas
Secretary

Ashleigh Loa
Acting Executive
Director

Soo San Schake
Assistant
Director

House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

March 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol room 329

Supporting SB 2342 SD1

LATE

Faith Action for Community Equity is an organization of religious and community organizations driven by a spiritual commitment to improve the quality of life for all of the people of Hawaii by addressing the root causes of social justice challenges.

Family caregivers provide 70% of the care to frail elderly persons. There are currently 150,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their frail elderly parents, spouse, or other relatives. As Hawaii's population ages, the number persons needing some assistance with everyday activities will continue to increase.

The majority of family caregivers are also in the workforce because they must earn money to support themselves and their families. Research in Hawaii, as well as nationally, has shown that employed caregivers suffer an extraordinary level of stress in trying to balance the obligations of work and eldercare. This bill will help more caregivers be able to stay in the workforce, instead of having to quit their jobs entirely to care for aging loved ones.

The Kupuna Caregivers Program was established by the Hawaii Legislature in 2017, and launched in 2018, to support family caregivers. The program is designed to enable family caregivers to continue to participate in the labor force by providing assistance with care for their elder family member. It offers in-home and community-based services, such as day care, transportation, homemaker services, meals, and personal care services. Elder persons needing assistance with at least two activities of daily living may qualify for the program. In the current fiscal year the program is funded at a level of \$1.2 million. This bill proposes a funding level of \$2 million. Much more funding is needed because the need is great, but this bill is a step in the right direction.

Please continue to fund this program to allocate funds to support caregivers and the ones they care for, which will help to alleviate this tough burden on many members of our community.

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

1130 N. Nimitz Highway Suite A-265, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

March 13, 2020

LATE

Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329, 9:00 A.M.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB2342 SD1 RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

Dear Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nadine K. Nakamura, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, I am pleased to extend our **strong support** for Senate Bill 2342 Senate Draft 1. This bill lowers the total amount of hours per week an individual must be employed to be a qualified caregiver under the Kupuna Caregivers program from thirty to twenty and appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the Kupuna Caregivers program.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. Studies have shown that when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security. No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long term care. Funding the Kupuna Caregivers program will enable family members in the workforce to care for their loved ones while continuing to work.

Here in Hawaii, an estimated 65,000 caregivers assist the 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia. Respite services provide temporary, substitute care that gives the caregiver a break from his or her caregiving duties. State programs supporting family caregivers saves the state significant future long-term care costs to programs such as Medicaid.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on this legislation and applaud your leadership in bringing it forward.

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