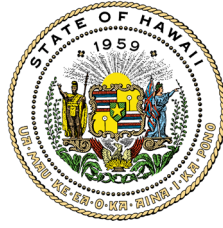


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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 652
Relating to Caregivers

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS
REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 1, 2023
10:00 AM.

Room Number:329
Via Videoconference

EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health, supports HB 652, Relating to Caregivers.

Fiscal Implications: This measure appropriates \$1,000,000 for fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the Executive Office on Aging to establish a caregiver workforce support and development center that will develop and expand the State's long-term and home and community-based caregiver workforce.

Purpose and Justification: The EOA is working with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), the University of Hawaii, AARP, Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), and Dr. Cullen Hayashida on refining this Kupuna Caucus measure. We recognize that there are multiple efforts and resources addressing the healthcare workforce shortage in our state.

Additionally, there are federal funds to develop workforce pipelines in the educational and health care industries, however, there is a need for coordination and filling gaps that the federal funds

and current efforts are not addressing. For example, supporting and developing the knowledge and skills of current caregivers is not yet being addressed. EOA and its partners mentioned earlier will be meeting on Thursday, February 2nd, to discuss this bill further. We respectfully request the opportunity to continue working on this bill to establish a comprehensive continuum of care for our kupuna and a strong and vibrant workforce.

Recommendation: EOA strongly supports this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget request and respectfully requests that the bill be kept alive, so we are able to continue to refine its contents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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The State Legislature
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Wednesday, February 1, 2023
Conference Room 329, 10:00 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
RE: Support for H.B. 652 Relating to Caregiving

Aloha Chair Belatti 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 mission 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 Supports H.B. 652 which establishes a caregiver workforce support and development center that will develop and expand the State's long-term and home and community-based caregiver workforce to effectively care for Hawaii's aging population.

There is an acute shortage of health care workers in Hawaii. According to the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's Healthcare Workforce Initiative 2022 Report, "there were 3,873 vacancies across Hawaii's direct care health workers, a 76% increase over the 2,200 unfilled positions reported in 2019."¹ Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall health care industry continues to face mounting challenges with the growing demand for care. However, the worker shortage is even more acute with the increasing number of kūpuna needing long term care whether in an institutional setting or in the home. Home health agencies, for example, continue to have the highest percentage (39%) of vacancies as they compete with wages and benefits with larger health care employers.² There is an urgent need to recruit and train more workers in long term care while reinvesting and enhancing the skills of the current health care workforce. Establishing a caregiver workforce support and development center that can coordinate and work with the health care industry, academic, community and government partners will help Hawai'i address this workforce crisis statewide.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support for **H.B 652**.

Sincerely,


Keali'i S. López, State Director

¹HealthCare Association of Hawaii, Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Initiative 2022 Report

²Ibid



February 1, 2023 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health and Homelessness

To: Chair Della Au Belatti
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Support
HB 652, Relating to Caregivers

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing more than 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support** for this measure which, among other things, would help to support a recruitment campaign to fill critical shortages in our healthcare workforce. In our 2022 Report on the Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Initiative, we found that there are nearly 3,900 open positions among 89 patient-facing professions. This represents a 76% increase in the number of positions open in our last survey done in 2019. We found that nearly 20% of all positions remained unfilled at the healthcare organizations surveyed in 2022, compared to 10% of all positions unfilled in 2019. The greatest need is for nurses, with 999 openings for RNs and 744 openings for certified nurse aides.

We are working closely with our education and community partners to build the workforce pipeline to fill these positions. We believe that healthcare is a steady industry that will allow our residents to stay in the state and work in jobs that provide a living wage. In fact, HAH is part of an innovative initiative, Good Jobs Hawaii, which brings together a coalition of educators, businesses, and community partners to help people in Hawaii get high quality jobs and careers. The UH Community Colleges are leading the effort, and HAH services as the healthcare sector lead. This initiative is one of only 32 workforce proposals awarded with federal funding to develop innovative approaches to workforce development, and will bring in around \$30 million to the state.

We believe that a recruitment campaign will help us to maximize the federal dollars coming into the state by ensuring that we have enough interested individuals participating in this landmark initiative. We are also appreciative of other funding in this measure to support caregivers more broadly—all caregivers, formal and informal, need more support to manage the aging population.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide support for this measure.

HB-652

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:35:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/1/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dara Yatsushiro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support