
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KUPUNA CARE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. According to the executive office on aging, the
2 elderly population in Hawaii is one of the fastest growing
3 segments of the population in the country. Between 1990 and
4 2000, the number of persons aged sixty and older increased by
5 nineteen per cent, compared to a nationwide increase of nine per
6 cent. Studies conducted by the executive office on aging and
7 the four county area agencies on aging have indicated that the
8 elderly in Hawaii have a significant need for assistance in
9 various areas and this need is outpacing the ability to provide
10 assistance. Significant issues that arise with elderly people
11 include health status, changes in family structure (caregivers),
12 social security stability for the future, fear of health care
13 burdens (financial stability), and changes in public
14 responsibility. Case management and needs assessments of older
15 adults are required to mold programs and services to meet the
16 needs of the elderly community. As Hawaii's culture and values
17 revolve around family, most caregiving of the elderly in Hawaii
18 is provided by family members, which poses financial hardships



1 for these family members. Financial stability and burden are
2 the main issues for the elderly and their caregivers and
3 families. Long term care services are expensive and the high
4 cost of services may lead to changes in living arrangements and
5 family households, especially in Hawaii.

6 The State's kupuna care program (kupuna care) was
7 established in 1999 to address the needs of the aging population
8 and the issues arising from those needs. The program is home-
9 and community-based, designed to address the increasing need for
10 affordable long term care and the desire of the elderly to age
11 in place. The program provides funding for services to
12 populations who are not eligible for medicaid, but cannot afford
13 services or insurance on their own. Therefore, the program has
14 no financial eligibility criteria and services are free to
15 clients, although consumers are asked to make voluntary
16 donations to the service provider. Kupuna care is an
17 alternative to traditional long term care options, which are
18 often more costly, and the program fills an important gap in
19 assistance for the elderly in Hawaii.

20 The purpose of this Act is to require the executive office
21 on aging to establish a sliding fee schedule to generate



1 additional revenue for the kupuna care program and to
2 appropriate funds for the kupuna care program.

3 SECTION 2. The executive office on aging of the department
4 of health shall establish a sliding fee schedule to generate
5 additional revenue for kupuna care to expand upon the services
6 it provides to elderly population in Hawaii.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for
10 the executive office on aging of the department of health to
11 provide funding for the kupuna care program in addition to the
12 \$ executive office on aging base budget.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

16

INTRODUCED BY:

<u>Debra A. Bellotti</u>	<u>Marilyn B. Lee</u>
<u>Tom Deaton</u>	<u>Linda Ichizawa</u>
<u>Raymond</u>	<u>Out</u>
<u>Mike Carroll</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>Cindy</u>
	<u>[Signature]</u>

H.B. NO. 2198

Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Kupuna Care; Appropriation; Long Term Care Commission

Description:

Appropriates funds for the kupuna care program. Requires executive office on aging to establish a sliding fee schedule for the kupuna care program.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

