
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGING.

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

PART I

SECTION 1. In 1965, the Older Americans Act established a delivery system of services and supports for older adults. In 1975, this service delivery system was codified into the Hawaii Revised Statutes. With guidance from the United States Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the state executive office on aging and the county offices on aging are currently making sweeping changes to transform this system to reflect current and future needs of older adults and people with disabilities.

The purpose of this Act is to build a statewide system of support for Hawaii's older adults and their family caregivers by:

- (1) Enhancing the delivery of home- and community-based services through the kupuna care program; and
- (2) Engaging seniors in community activities, encouraging healthy aging, and assisting older adults living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.



PART II

SECTION 2. According to the executive office on aging, the elderly population in Hawaii is one of the fastest growing segments of the population in the country. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of persons aged sixty and older increased by nineteen per cent, compared to a nationwide increase of nine per cent. Studies conducted by the executive office on aging and the four county area agencies on aging have indicated that the elderly in Hawaii have a significant need for assistance in various areas and this need is outpacing the ability to provide assistance. Significant issues that arise with elderly people include health status, changes in family structure (caregivers), social security stability for the future, fear of health care burdens (financial stability), and changes in public responsibility. Case management and needs assessments of older adults are required to mold programs and services to meet the needs of the elderly community. As Hawaii's culture and values revolve around family, most caregiving of the elderly in Hawaii is provided by family members, which poses financial hardships for these family members. Financial stability and burden are the main issues for the elderly and their caregivers and families. Long-term care services are expensive and the high



1 cost of services may lead to changes in living arrangements and
2 family households, especially in Hawaii.

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

17 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for the
18 kupuna care program.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,200,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the



1 kupuna care program; provided that the sum appropriated shall be
2 in addition to the executive office on aging's base budget.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 health for the purposes of this part.

5 **PART III**

6 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that multi-service senior
7 centers offer a wide selection of daily events and activities,
8 classes, intergenerational opportunities, computer education,
9 cultural activities, fitness and health programs, and social
10 services for Hawaii's older adults. Senior centers are a venue
11 for older adults to socialize in a safe and healthy environment,
12 thus enabling participants to remain active and engaged in the
13 community.

14 Another opportunity to engage seniors is through health
15 promotion activities. Hawaii's healthy aging partnership
16 program is a statewide coalition established in 2003 to improve
17 the well-being of older adults by adapting evidence-based health
18 promotion programs to our multi-cultural population.

19 In spite of the evidence-based programs that keep older
20 adults healthy and independent, among the more common diseases
21 that Hawaii's elderly battle are Alzheimer's disease and related
22 dementia. Six out of ten people with Alzheimer's disease and



1 related dementia will wander during the course of their illness.
2 Wandering can be dangerous and sometimes fatal, and causes
3 stress among caregivers and family members.

4 The legislature finds that there are registration services
5 through which individuals who wander can be more easily located,
6 identified, and returned safely to their families. These
7 services also aid police and other first responders in the safe
8 return of the elderly who are found but who cannot remember
9 essential contact information.

10 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for the
11 following:

- 12 (1) The healthy aging partnership program;
- 13 (2) Senior centers; and
- 14 (3) Support and promote participation in elder
15 registration services.

16 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$426,722 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the
19 healthy aging partnership program.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 health's executive office on aging for the purposes of this
22 part.



SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$285,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide funding for grants, pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for senior centers and to be distributed as follows:

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|-----|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| (1) | Catholic Charities Hawaii for the | |
| | Lanakila multi-purpose senior center | \$175,000 |
| (2) | Moiliili Community Center for the | |
| | Moiliili senior center | \$50,000 |
| (3) | Waikiki Community Center | \$60,000 |

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health's executive office on aging for the purposes of this part.

SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 as a grant, pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, to:

- (1) Establish a wanderer's registration service to protect individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia;



(2) Conduct targeted outreach throughout the State to increase enrollment in the national wanderer's registry and offer scholarships and subsidies to low-income families, as defined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services' 2011 poverty guidelines for Hawaii, who want to enroll in the registry;

(3) Conduct annual training for first responders and other community members to increase awareness and provide ongoing education on best practices for search and rescue efforts for people with dementia; and

(4) When authorized by the family, issue customized updates and information through social media to provide alerts to community members and assist with search and rescue efforts.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health's executive office on aging for the purposes of this part.

PART IV

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Kupuna Care; Healthy Aging Partnership Program;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the kupuna care program, healthy aging
partnership program, senior centers, and elder registration
services. (SD1)

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