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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that as of July 1, 2019,  
2 the United States Census Bureau estimated that 18.4 per cent of  
3 Hawaii's population was sixty-five years or older, and with  
4 projections of an increase to 19.4 per cent in 2020 and 23 per  
5 cent by 2030, caring for Hawaii's kupuna is a high priority of  
6 the legislature.

7           The legislature finds that currently there are 154,000  
8 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their  
9 parents, spouse, or other relatives who need extra care. Family  
10 caregivers play a crucial role in the State's health care system  
11 by providing long-term care to the elderly, all unpaid.

12 However, it is imperative to ensure that the caregivers take  
13 care of themselves and have the necessary support and services  
14 to sustain their own health as well as the health of the family  
15 member for whom they are caring.

16           To address this issue, the kupuna caregivers program was  
17 established on July 6, 2017, and aims to provide working



1 caregivers with additional resources to cover a variety of  
2 support services, such as adult day care, assisted  
3 transportation, homemaker services, and many more important  
4 services, to qualified kupuna. The program ensures that  
5 caregivers continue earning their own retirement benefits, which  
6 helps businesses retain experienced workers and provides peace  
7 of mind that loved kupuna are well cared for while caregivers  
8 remain in the workforce. The kupuna caregivers program allows  
9 caregivers who are juggling their own employment with their  
10 caregiving responsibilities to simultaneously take care of their  
11 kupuna and themselves.

12 Since the establishment of the kupuna caregivers program,  
13 the executive office on aging has reportedly received hundreds  
14 of calls from Hawaii residents wishing to receive the benefits  
15 of the program. While the creation of the program was an  
16 important first step, the legislature believes that the program  
17 requires additional fourth year funding to have the impact it  
18 needs. With the high volume of residents showing interest in  
19 the program, the current funding needs to be increased to better  
20 serve the people of Hawaii.



1           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for  
2 implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

3           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for proper  
6 implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

7           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
8 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

9           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
10 2059.



**Report Title:**

Kupuna Caucus; Kupuna Caregivers Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the kupuna caregivers program. Takes effect on 12/31/2059. (HD1)

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

