
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
5 twenty-three per cent by 2030, caring for Hawaii's kupuna is a
6 high priority of the legislature.

7 The legislature finds that there are currently
8 approximately 154,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are
9 caring for a parent, spouse, or other relative who needs extra
10 care. Family caregivers play a crucial role in the State's
11 health care system by providing long-term care to the elderly,
12 all unpaid. However, it is imperative to ensure that caregivers
13 also care for themselves and have the necessary support and
14 services to sustain their own health as well as the health of
15 the family 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 other important
4 services, to qualified kupuna. The program ensures that
5 caregivers continue to work and earn their own retirement
6 benefits, which helps businesses retain experienced workers and
7 provides peace of mind that loved kupuna are well cared for
8 while caregivers remain in the workforce. The kupuna caregivers
9 program allows caregivers who are juggling their own employment
10 with their caregiving responsibilities to simultaneously care
11 for their 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 proper
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 \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
6 proper 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 July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Kupuna Caregivers Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the kupuna caregivers program. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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

