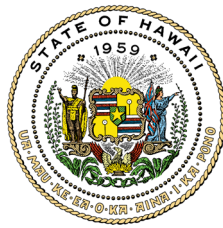


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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 838 SD1
Relating to Services for Kupuna**

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 23, 2021
9:30 a.m.

Room Number: 229
Via Videoconference

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the Department
2 of Health (DOH), is in strong support of Senate Bill 838 SD1, Relating to Services for Kupuna.
3 This measure: 1) relaxes the work eligibility requirement during a state declared state of
4 emergency; 2) adds Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an option in the Kupuna Caregivers
5 program; and 3) adds a financial management service provider who is responsible for financial
6 payments on behalf of participants enrolled in the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed program.
- 7 **Fiscal Implications:** The EOA is not requesting additional funds to implement and administer
8 the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed program.
- 9 **Purpose and Justification:** The Kupuna Caregivers Program has been in existence since 2017.
10 The language being proposed improves the program by providing additional options for
11 caregivers to support their loved ones. For example, qualified caregivers are currently limited to
12 only using service providers that are contracted by the AAAs. This measure adds Kupuna

- 1 Caregiver-directed services allowing participants to direct their own services and address their
- 2 needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount instead of receiving services through a contracted
- 3 provider.
- 4 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 20, 2021

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 838 SD1 – RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.**

Hearing: February 23, 2021, 9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure. DHS defers to the Executive Office on Aging. The Senate Committee on Human Services amended the measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have given the Executive Office on Aging the authority to eliminate the work hour requirement for a "qualified caregiver", as requested by the Office;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of May 1, 2029, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill allows the executive office of aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for qualified caregivers under the Kupuna Caregivers Program during a state-declared state of emergency. Adds the option of kupuna caregiver-directed services to the kupuna caregivers program. Includes assisting the care recipient and caregiver with the enrollment process as the duty of a coach. Allows funds under the Kupuna Caregivers Program to be issued to the care recipient's financial management service provider. Takes effect 5/1/2029. (SD1)

This bill adds the definition of a financial management service provider to existing laws so that a provider or a financial management service provider can be issued funds for the cost of services provided. By doing so, this should help prevent situations where vulnerable adults are at risk of being financially exploited. The services provided to caregivers and vulnerable adults through the kupuna caregivers program are invaluable in helping to ensure their safety and health during the current state of emergency.

In State Fiscal Year 2020, the Adult Protective and Community Services Branch (APCSB) investigated 806 reports of alleged abuse of vulnerable adults. Adult Protective Services assists vulnerable adults to stop and prevent further abuse, neglect, or exploitation. The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed additional stressors and increased isolation on vulnerable adults. Additionally, APCSB is noticing a trend in more reports involving possible financial exploitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

SB-838-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 7:34:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Yuan	Testifying for Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)	Support	No

Comments:

The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), we do not speak on its behalf.

PABEA is in strong support of SB 838 SD1, Relating to Services for Kupuna.

SB 838 addresses work eligibility requirements and service options of the Kupuna Caregivers program. The amendment to work eligibility requirement during a Governor proclaimed state of emergency would allow *working caregivers* whose work hours have been reduced to less than 30, continue to receive needed caregiving support in times of uncertainty, as demonstrated during this pandemic.

The addition of Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an option in the Kupuna Caregivers program would allow the participants to direct their services and address their needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount, instead of receiving services through a contracted provider. The limited service-delivery options during the pandemic have added a sense of urgency to this change. EOA has years of experience administering the participant-directed program because this is the service model of its Community Living Program and Veteran-Directed Choice Program. The bill also defines a financial management service provider, the person who is responsible for financial payments on behalf of participants in the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed service option.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-838-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 4:26:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB838 SD1 that gives the Executive Office on Aging more flexibility to provide kupuna care and caregiving services to those in need.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert

Waikiki