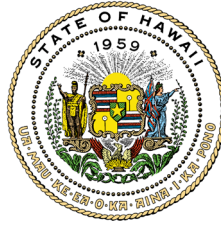


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'

**KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1486**  
**Relating to The Kupuna Care Program**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS  
REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 15, 2023  
8:30 AM

Room Number: 329  
Via Videoconference

**EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health, supports HB 1486, Relating to the Kupuna Care Program.

**Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates an unspecified amount for SFY 2023-2024 and SFY 2024-2025 for the Kupuna Care Program within the Executive Office on Aging.

**Purpose and Justification:** The Kupuna Care Program assists older adults and their caregivers with much needed home and community-based services. Kupuna Care services include services to support kupuna's activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, toileting, eating, etc.) and instrumental activities of daily living (shopping, medication management, housekeeping, etc.). Kupuna Care services also provide services such as personal care, chore, home-delivered meals, adult day care, transportation, respite care and caregiver support services.

In FY 2021, the Executive Office on Aging's base budget for Kupuna Care was cut by \$1.8 million. This bill will help make the Kupuna Care Program whole and restore the pre-pandemic funding level. We appreciate your consideration of this bill.

**Recommendation:** EOA supports this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1486**

Submitted on: 2/12/2023 8:06:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roberta Murray	PABEA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Roberta Wong Murray, Chair of the Policy Advisory Board on Elder Affairs (PABEA), an appointed board which serves to advise the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I represent PABEA which is in favor of HB1486 to appropriate funds to EOA for the implementation of the Kupuna Care Program.

The purpose of EOA is to provide programs and services such as Kupuna Care which promote, support and sustain the health and well being of Hawaii's kupuna.

Please pass HB1486.

Sincerely,

Roberta Wong Murray

Chair, PABEA



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[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**Hawaii State Legislature**  
**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2023**  
**8:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
RE: HB 1486, Relating to Kupuna Care Program

Aloha Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawai'i.

AARP Hawai'i supports HB 1486 which appropriates funds for the kupuna care program within the Executive Office on Aging.

Kupuna Care has been a long-standing program that provides an array of home and community-based services such as home/chore services, transportation and offers respite to family members. It affords families to receive respite care for their loved ones so that they continue to support them to age safely in their homes.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to support HB 1486.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Lopez".

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i

February 14, 2023

To: Committee on Health & Homelessness  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

**RE: HB1486 – Relating to the Kupuna Care Program**

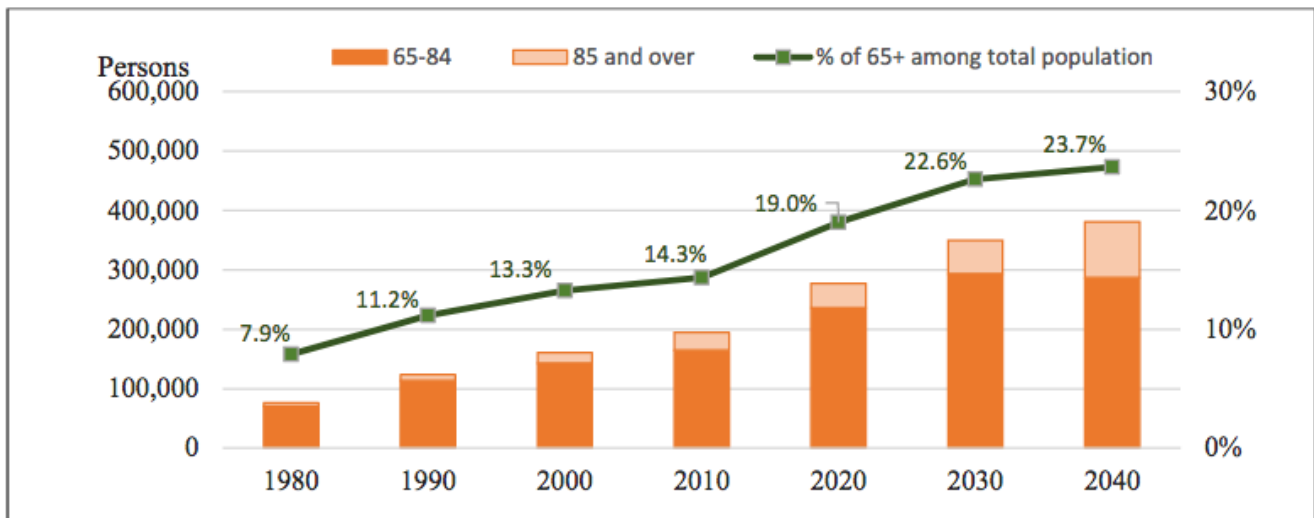
Hearing Date: February 15, 2023  
Conference Room 329, 8:30 AM

Most Honorable Chair Belatti and Committee Members:

**I support HB1486** to provide the needed funds to the Department of Health for the Kupuna Care Program to maintain and improve the services needed for vulnerable seniors needing extra care to remain in their home environment.

The senior population in Hawaii is large and increasing exponentially. This table illustrates:

**Figure 1. Growth of elderly population in Hawaii: history and projection**



Source: DBEDT Population and Economic Projections for the State of Hawaii to 2045 with adjustments to reflect the actual counts of total population from the 2020 Decennial Census

In this study [https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/Elderly\\_Population\\_in\\_Hawaii-Housing\\_Dec2021.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/Elderly_Population_in_Hawaii-Housing_Dec2021.pdf) it was reported about 22,000 elderly people in Hawaii were estimated to live in poverty -- under the official federal poverty measures -- and at that time only 9,135 affordable rental housing units were exclusively reserved for the elderly. Continuing and expanding the services offered by the Kupuna Care Program is the most sensible decision that can be made to assist these seniors.

**I ask you to support HB 1486** and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kupuna who need individualized care for their daily living needs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Olah  
Honolulu resident



**HB-1486**

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 7:26:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/15/2023 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Terada	Catholic Charities Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) has been a provider of Kupuna Care (KC) Transportation for many years. We have seen that the social isolation of the pandemic has had negative impact on the physical and emotional health of our already frail clients. As the pandemic restrictions lessen, we are seeing increased demand for in-person appointments - medical, social, etc. Additional KC funding will ease the need to restrict the KC services available for elders who need them. We ask for your support for HB 1486. Thank you.