
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CARE PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's aging
2 population, like that of the United States', is rapidly
3 increasing as more and more residents born during the baby boom
4 era of 1946-1964 turn sixty years of age. Between 2010 and
5 2020, the percentage of the State's population over the age of
6 sixty-five increased from 14.3 per cent to nineteen per cent and
7 is projected to reach 22.6 per cent by 2030. Within the same
8 decade, the number of people over the age of eighty-five
9 increased by more than a third, from 30,238 people to 41,600.
10 The significant increase in Hawaii's elder population and the
11 concomitant increase in demand for services, particularly those
12 that allow for aging in place, require an ongoing commitment to
13 ensure that Hawaii's kupuna are adequately cared for.

14 The legislature further finds that the kupuna care program
15 was enacted in 1999 to help frail and vulnerable seniors age in
16 place by leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in
17 their own homes and communities. One of the principles of the



1 program is that long-term care should be available to everyone,
2 regardless of government or private insurance coverage or
3 eligibility for other assistance programs, such as medicaid and
4 supportive and nutrition services under title III of the Older
5 Americans Act. The kupuna care program is considered an
6 alternative to traditional long-term care options and uses state
7 funds to provide a continuum of home and community-based
8 supports to form a safety net for all kupuna and their
9 caregivers.

10 The legislature further finds that access to the kupuna
11 care program for all seniors is necessary to maintain a
12 consistent continuum of care for vulnerable older persons,
13 particularly as individuals' access to resources, support
14 systems, and capacity change over time. The most successful
15 aging in place programs recognize and build upon integrated
16 health and social services. Kupuna care consists of nine core
17 services that support individuals in need of assistance to
18 perform some of the basic and instrumental activities of daily
19 living. Basic activities of daily living include transferring
20 from bed to chair, moving about within the home, bathing,
21 dressing, toileting, and eating. Instrumental activities of



1 daily living include preparing a meal, shopping, managing
2 medications, washing laundry, using the telephone, managing
3 money, housekeeping, and using available transportation. Kupuna
4 care also provides core services, including personal care,
5 homemaking, chores, home-delivered meals, adult day care, case
6 management, assisted transportation, regular transportation, and
7 attendant care.

8 In addition to these services, kupuna care clients may
9 select services from a contracted provider or have the option
10 for a participant-directed approach to home and community-based
11 services. Individuals who are assessed and deemed eligible for
12 kupuna care core services will have services authorized based on
13 the needs identified within their respective individual support
14 plans. In the participant-directed model, an individual
15 exercises decision-making authority to use an allotment of
16 public funds to purchase and manage a wide array of supports
17 that meet the individual's unique needs and complement the
18 ongoing efforts of family caregivers and the individual's
19 personal and financial resources.

20 The legislature further finds that funding for the kupuna
21 care program is critical as the population aged sixty and older



H.B. NO. 1486

Report Title:

Kupuna Care; Executive Office on Aging; Department of Health;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for the Kupuna
Care Program within the Executive Office on Aging.

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

