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# 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 elderly 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



1 rapidly increases. The additional funding provided by this Act  
2 would enable the executive office on aging to target and triage  
3 additional clients according to each individual's needs by  
4 utilizing the comprehensive person-centered intake and  
5 assessment tools developed statewide for targeting public  
6 supports to persons with the greatest need.

7 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
8 department of health for the kupuna care program.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
13 year 2024-2025 for the kupuna care program within the executive  
14 office on aging.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
16 of health for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Kupuna Care; Executive Office on Aging; DOH; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for the Kupuna Care Program within the Executive Office on Aging. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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