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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAREGIVERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the COVID-19  
2 pandemic strained the health care workforce pipeline. While  
3 important initiatives to recruit and train new professionals are  
4 underway, investment in programs that support existing  
5 professional caregivers is needed. Support for unpaid  
6 caregivers, such as family and friends, whose caregiving enables  
7 people to live at home, is also needed.

8           The legislature also finds that several factors, including  
9 burnout, an aging workforce and population, rising costs of  
10 living, and greater demand for both institutional and at-home  
11 patient care, have increased pressure on paid and unpaid  
12 caregivers. The per cent of Hawaii's population seventy-five  
13 years old and above is expected to double by 2045, from eight  
14 per cent of the population to fifteen per cent. Supporting and  
15 retaining existing formal and informal caregivers will be more  
16 important than ever as Hawaii's population continues to age.



1           The legislature further finds that supporting caregivers in  
2 both home and long-term care settings will ensure that people  
3 receive appropriate, timely care. While there has been strong  
4 investment in training new employees, there must also be an  
5 investment in the existing workforce. It is imperative that new  
6 candidates who believe in the mission of health care, and  
7 especially in providing services for older adults in post-acute  
8 care settings, are recruited and retained.

9           The legislature additionally finds that health care  
10 employers and educators are competing with other industries to  
11 attract residents to health care programs. A concerted effort  
12 to maximize federal dollars to address the health care workforce  
13 shortage by creating a robust workforce pipeline will enable the  
14 State to attract more local students interested in a self-  
15 sufficient career.

16           The purpose of this Act is to establish a caregiver  
17 workforce support and development center to develop and expand  
18 the State's long-term and home- and community-based caregiver  
19 workforce to effectively care for Hawaii's aging population.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 349, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§349- Caregiver workforce support and development  
5 center. There is established within the executive office on  
6 aging a caregiver workforce support and development center. The  
7 center may:

8 (1) In consultation with members of the education and  
9 health care industries, develop a comprehensive  
10 statewide recruitment and retention campaign to  
11 encourage more residents to enter the health care  
12 workforce;

13 (2) In consultation with appropriate organizations,  
14 develop programs to educate and train informal  
15 caregivers, including familial caregivers, to best  
16 practice informal caregiving;

17 (3) Provide professional development courses, including  
18 interviewing, management, and leadership courses, for  
19 current employers and employees; and

20 (4) Develop an active aging strategy to keep kupuna and  
21 kupuna caregivers as healthy as possible."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
5 year 2024-2025 for the establishment of a caregiver workforce  
6 support and development center within the executive office on  
7 aging.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
9 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

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# H.B. NO. 652 H.D. 2

**Report Title:**

Kupuna Caucus; Caregiver Workforce Development Center; Executive Office on Aging; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the executive office on aging to establish a caregiver workforce support and development center. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD2)

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