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 coronavirus

2 disease 2019 pandemic strained the health care workforce

3 pipeline. While important initiatives to recruit and train new

4 professionals are underway, investment in programs that support

5 existing 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 further finds that health care employers

10 and educators are competing with other industries to attract

11 residents to health care programs. A concerted effort to

12 maximize federal dollars to address the health care workforce

13 shortage by creating a robust workforce pipeline is a smart

14 investment that will attract more local students interested in a

15 self-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.   There is established within the executive

2   office on aging a caregiver workforce support and development

3   center.   The center may:

4   (1)   In consultation with members of the education and

5   health care industries, develop a comprehensive

6   statewide recruitment and retention campaign to

7   encourage more residents to enter the health care

8   workforce;

9   (2)   In consultation with appropriate organizations,

10   develop programs to educate and train informal

11   caregivers, including familial caregivers, to best

12   practice informal caregiving;

13   (3)   Provide professional development courses, including

14   relating to interviewing, management, and leadership,

15   for current employers and employees; and

16   (4)   Develop an active aging strategy to keep kupuna and

17   kupuna caregivers as healthy as possible.

18   SECTION 3.   There is appropriated out of the general

19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $1,000,000 or so much

20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the

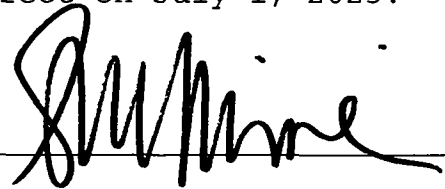21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year

1 2024-2025 for the establishment of a caregiver workforce support

2 and development center within the executive office on aging.

3   The sums appropriated shall be expended by the executive

4 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

5   SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

6

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Report Title:
Kupuna Caucus; Caregivers; 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
for the center's establishment.

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