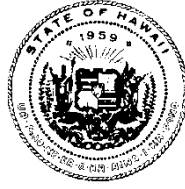


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

26:OED

Statement of the
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
and
House Committee on Health

Thursday, March 19, 2026
9:30 AM – Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2866, SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING

Honorable Chair Marten, Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Olds, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness and House Committee on Health:

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2866, SD1 which repeals the sunset date for the State Rent Supplement Program (RSP) for Kupuna and appropriates funds to continue the program, including staffing to ensure its effective administration.

HPHA appreciates the Legislature's continued commitment to this important program and would welcome the opportunity to make the State RSP for Kupuna a permanent resource for at-risk kupuna across Hawaii. The program has proven to be a targeted and cost-effective tool in preventing eviction and homelessness among elderly residents living on fixed incomes. By providing modest rental assistance, the program helps kupuna remain stably housed in their communities and avoid the far greater social and fiscal costs associated with displacement and homelessness.

Stable access to safe and affordable housing plays a critical role in supporting the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of our kupuna. Reducing housing cost burdens helps alleviate financial stress and contributes to improved mental and physical health outcomes, allowing seniors to age in place with dignity and stability.



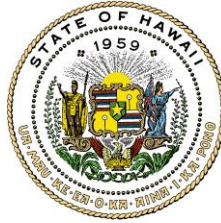
HPHA also supports the bill's provision for staffing resources to administer the program. Permanent authorization and staffing will allow HPHA to operate the program efficiently, ensure timely assistance to participants, and provide consistent coordination with landlords and service providers statewide.

HPHA looks forward to continuing to work with the Legislature and other partners to address Hawaii's housing challenges and views this measure as an important part of the broader, coordinated solution to support our vulnerable residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment to meeting housing needs of Hawaii's kupuna.

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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KA LUNA HO'OKELE



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STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2866 SD1
Relating to Kupuna Housing

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

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

Hearing: Thursday, March 19, 2026, 9:30 A.M., Conference Room 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health supports the intent of SB2866 SD1. EOA requests that this program and appropriation
- 3 not conflict with, reduce, or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.
- 4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority
- 5 (HPHA) for the State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna and for two staff positions.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure repeals the sunset date and makes the State Rent
- 7 Supplement Program for Kūpuna permanent while appropriating funds for the program and
- 8 necessary staff. As housing costs and inflation continue to rise, many kūpuna, who rely on Social
- 9 Security or other fixed retirement incomes, find it increasingly difficult to meet basic needs.
- 10 Even a small disruption in income can place them at risk of eviction and homelessness.

1 The State Rent Supplement Program for Kūpuna provides critical support by reducing the
2 financial burden of Hawai‘i’s high rental costs. Consequently, stable housing can improve
3 physical and mental health, support aging in place, and reduce reliance on emergency shelters.
4 Making this program permanent will help ensure that older adults have ongoing access to safe,
5 affordable housing.

6 **Recommendation:** We support the intent of this measure and defer to HPHA for permanent
7 implementation.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



March 19, 2026

House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

RE: SB2866 SD1, Relating to Kupuna Housing

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the committee –

Navian Hawaii is a nonprofit organization supporting the needs of Hawai'i's aging population, including through hospice, palliative care, and integrated support services. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of SB2866 SD1, Relating to Kupuna Housing. This bill would repeal the sunset date for the State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna.

Hawai'i is undergoing a major demographic shift, with a rapidly aging population that will have profound implications for our healthcare infrastructure. In 2023, over 21% of Hawai'i's residents were aged 65 and older – a proportion that has been increasing and is projected to reach one in four by 2035. The fastest-growing segment includes those over 80 years old.

Adapting to these changing demographics requires investments in both healthcare and housing, both of which pose a significant challenge to those living on Social Security or limited retirement savings.

The State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna provides a targeted and practical tool to help address this challenge. By offering rental assistance to eligible seniors, the program helps ensure that older residents can remain financially stable. Repealing the sunset date would provide needed continuity for the program and allow it to function through 2035 and beyond.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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The Hawai'i State Legislature
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
House Committee on Health
Thursday, March 19, 2026
Conference Room 329, 9:30 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director
RE: Support for S.B. 2866, SD1 Relating to Kupuna Housing

Aloha Chair Marten, Chair Takayama and Members of the Committees:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 135,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

AARP supports S.B. 2866, SD1 which repeals the sunset date for the state rent supplement program that specifically target qualified individuals who are sixty-two years of age or older and are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Hawaii's high cost of housing is making it unaffordable for many, but especially for those at low or fixed income. These residents are more vulnerable of becoming dependent on other family members for shelter, or face homelessness. According to Statista/AARP analysis of census data available by United States Census Bureau (USCB), close to 387 older adults (age 65+) in Hawaii are expected to be evicted in 2026 and more than 1,147 older adults (age 65+) are expected to experience homelessness in 2026 in Hawaii. It is essential to assist older adults from facing housing crisis and therefore, the proposed S.B. 2866, SD1 will help many vulnerable kūpuna from being displaced from their residence.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support **S.B. 2866, SD1**.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2866 SD2: RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING

TO: House Committees on Human Services and Housing, and Health
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Thursday, 3/19/26; 9:30 AM; CR 329 and Videoconference

Chair Marten, Chair Takayama, and Committees on Human Services and Homelessness and Health

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 2866 SD2**, which makes the State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna permanent and appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) for positions to support this program.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax-exempt, community-based organization that has provided social services in Hawai'i for over 78 years, serving over 40,000 people annually across the state. Our mission is to provide services and advocate for the most vulnerable people in Hawai'i. We have a long-standing history of leadership in affordable housing, homelessness solutions, and child welfare.

CCH supports this bill to ensure that kupuna, and other low-income households, who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness, or pay a high percentage of income for rent, continue to receive critical rental assistance. Making this program permanent would give kupuna and other households the security to remain in their homes. In January, 2026, 601 households, including 300 kupuna households, received this rental subsidy. These renters would face homelessness without the ongoing continuation of this program.

Hawai'i has seen a tragic surge in homeless kupuna. Catholic Charities Hawai'i is witnessing a growing number of elders experiencing homelessness for the first time—often due to losing long-term rental housing as landlords rebuild or renovate, rising rents, losing a household member's income (e.g. due to the death of a spouse), or facing health challenges. The Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna would allow kupuna to remain stably housed and would help to prevent the much greater social and fiscal costs resulting from displacement and homelessness.

CCH's Housing Assistance Program (HAP) provides housing counseling for O'ahu residents aged 60+. Most HAP clients have very low incomes and can only afford \$300 to \$500 per month in rent, making rental assistance essential to prevent homelessness. One HAP client was a 67-year-old male living in a container on a property with no kitchen or bathroom. He was given notice to vacate. He couch surfed or stayed in his vehicle until he got accepted into a new affordable senior housing project with a rent of \$855/month for seniors with incomes below 30% of the area median income (AMI). He was **using more than 80% of his income to pay for rent**. HAP assisted him to apply for Rent Supplement which was a godsend. Now he is housed with a truly affordable rent and can save funds for future needs or even future rent increases.

We urge your support for this bill that would enable seniors to age in place with safety and dignity. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813.

CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808) 527-4813 •



SB-2866-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:44:04 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/19/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ericca G.	Catholic Charities Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an individual and upon the agency that i have volunteered at Catholic Charities Hawaii, I highly recommend and support the rent supplement program for the kupuna because they live in extremely high cost of living in a one bedroom or a two bedroom apartment. Many kupuna rely on social security and small pensions that don't increase fast enough to keep up with Hawaii's high housing costs, especially here in Hawaii.

Having the rent supplement program benefits these kupuna's who have struggled between choosing to pay for rent, buying food, and paying for medication. Some kupuna's decide to pay rent and there will be no money to buy their medication and/or food due to the high cost in rent.

I am testifying because I have helped a 73-year-old widowed male who lived in a shared group home and pays \$600.00 per month for his rent. He receives social security monthly in the amount of \$973.00 per month. He is currently in the process of being on the list for senior affordable housing projects which we already had submitted all applications.

During this time, I also helped him enroll with the rent supplement program. We did the paperwork together and he was approved with almost the full amount in rent supplement which had saved him another \$300-\$400 dollars for himself to buy things that was necessary.

My client expresses his happiness, and is grateful, and has been satisfied with the services that was offered with rent supplement. He states that this has been very helpful for him and this has made a very big positive impact in his life and is now a relief that this can help him throughout his life.

Rent supplement is vital to help our kupuna live safely, independently, and with dignity in Hawaii - despite the high cost of living and without this support, many would be at serious risk of homelessness or declining in health.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2866 SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Lawelawe Kānaka a me ka Pilikia Ho‘okuewa
(House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Malaki 19, 2026

9:30 am

Lumi 329

Aloha e Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) submits this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB2866 SD1**, which repeals the sunset for the State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna and makes the program permanent, while appropriating funds and establishing positions to sustain its administration within the Hawai‘i Public Housing Authority (HPHA). This measure builds upon prior legislative action extending the program and now appropriately recognizes that rental assistance for vulnerable kūpuna should not be treated as temporary relief. As reflected in the bill’s findings, the program has assisted approximately three hundred at-risk kūpuna with modest rental supplements, often less than \$500 per month, helping to prevent eviction and homelessness. Making the program permanent reflects the Legislature’s acknowledgment that housing instability among elderly residents is an ongoing structural issue, not a short-term emergency.

This bill aligns directly with OHA’s statutory mission to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians and promote their well-being, including access to safe and stable housing.¹ Native Hawaiian kūpuna are disproportionately affected by housing cost burdens, fixed incomes, and limited retirement savings. According to the 2024 ALICE Report for Hawai‘i, 43% of residents age 65 and older live below the ALICE Threshold, meaning they are either in poverty or working but unable to afford basic necessities.² The report further documents that the monthly survival budget for a single adult age 65+ in

¹ Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §10-3

² United For ALICE, *ALICE in Hawai‘i: A Study of Financial Hardship*, 2024 Update(Hawai‘i State Report), at 7–9.

Hawai‘i exceeds the average Social Security benefit by more than \$2,000, underscoring the structural gap between fixed income and cost of living.³

Hawai‘i continues to experience some of the highest housing costs in the nation. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reports that older adults on fixed incomes are particularly vulnerable to housing cost burden and displacement in high-cost states.⁴ When rent increases outpace fixed retirement income, even modest rental supplements can mean the difference between stability and homelessness. Preventing homelessness among kūpuna is both fiscally responsible and humane; research consistently shows that supportive housing interventions cost less than emergency shelter, hospitalization, and crisis response systems.⁵

By repealing the sunset and establishing permanent support positions within HPHA, **SB2866 SD1** ensures continuity, administrative capacity, and program stability. Permanency provides predictability not only for program participants, but also for service providers and state administrators. Housing security for kūpuna supports aging in place, reduces strain on emergency systems, and preserves community stability. OHA appreciates that this measure recognizes the ongoing need for rent supplementation and does not allow the program to lapse. Making the program permanent reflects sound policy, aligns with OHA’s mission, and advances housing stability for vulnerable kūpuna across Hawai‘i.

For these reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS SB2866 SD1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

³ Ibid

⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Worst Case Housing Needs 2023 Report to Congress* (Washington, DC: HUD, 2023).

⁵ National Alliance to End Homelessness, *The Cost of Homelessness: Housing vs. Emergency Systems* (Washington, DC: NAEH, 2022).

March 18, 2026

House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
Chair Lisa Marten
Vice Chair Ikaika Olds
Members of the Committee

Re: SB 2866 SD1 – Relating to Kupuna Housing – SUPPORT

Aloha kākou!

LeadingAge Pacific West is pleased to support Senate Bill 2866 SD1, which would make the State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna permanent and provide the supplemental funding and staffing necessary to sustain this critical homelessness prevention tool for older adults.

LeadingAge Pacific West is a leading advocate for quality, mission-driven housing, care, and services for older adults across the Pacific West region, including Hawai‘i. Our nonprofit members include providers of affordable senior housing, residential care facilities for the elderly (assisted living), life plan communities, skilled nursing care, and home and community-based services.

SB 2866 SD1 builds on a proven program that has already helped prevent eviction and homelessness among some of Hawai‘i’s most vulnerable kupuna by providing modest rental assistance. As the Legislature has recognized, even relatively small rent subsidies can make the difference between housing stability and homelessness for older adults living on fixed incomes in a state with an exceptionally high cost of living.

We strongly support the bill’s proposal to remove the program’s sunset date and make it permanent. Housing instability among older adults is not a temporary challenge, and permanency provides the predictability needed for both residents and administrators.

Preventing homelessness among kupuna not only improves health and quality-of-life outcomes but also helps the state avoid far more costly downstream impacts on emergency services and health care systems. SB 2866 SD1 represents a thoughtful, cost-effective investment in housing stability and aging with dignity.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Pacific West is pleased to support SB 2866 SD1 and thanks the Committee for its leadership on this important measure. We welcome the opportunity to serve as a resource as this bill moves forward. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Harrison Linder
Assistant Director of Housing Policy

SB-2866-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:17:14 PM

Testimony for HSH on 3/19/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully request your vote in **support** of this measure.