

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

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, HD1
Relating to Kupuna Housing

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

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

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:00 P.M., Conference Room 308

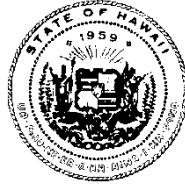
- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health supports the intent of SB2866 SD1, HD1. EOA requests that this program and
- 3 appropriation not conflict with, reduce, or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.
- 4 **Fiscal 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. To
- 10 afford rent, older adults are often forced to reduce spending on essential items such as food,
- 11 transportation, and medication. Even a small disruption in income can place them at risk of
- 12 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.

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 Finance

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
2:00 PM – Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2866, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING

Honorable Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2866, SD1, HD1 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.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The Hawai'i State Legislature
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director
RE: Support for S.B. 2866, SD1, HD1 Relating to Kupuna Housing

Aloha Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

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, HD1 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, HD1 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, HD1**.

April 6, 2026

House Committee on Finance
Chair Chris Todd
Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi
Members of the Committee

Re: SB 2866 SD1 HD1 – Relating to Kupuna Housing – SUPPORT

Aloha kākou!

LeadingAge Pacific West is pleased to support Senate Bill 2866 SD1 HD1, 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 HD1 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 HD1 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 HD1 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-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:42:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Lenzer Medeiros	PABEA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sara Medeiros and I am representing the policy advisory board on elderly affairs, PABEA. The below comments may or may not reflect necessarily the view of the executive office on aging.

Please support this very important Bill to extend the rent supplement for our seniors. We know many elder people who are struggling, keeping up with the very high costs of rent, here on Hawai'i island. Many of them have gotten quite creative by taking in others in similar circumstances. Although the house that they are renting does not have much room, they are squeezing in many people just to make rent. They count on the gift of the supplement to help them just get by.

The program has been very successful and keeping these people with shelter. Otherwise they might be out on the streets. In Kona unfortunately, there is little public shelter available that has openings. So it's doubly important to keep people in the housing they have.

We ask you to please support extending the supplemental funds for rentals to Kupuna. thank you for the opportunity to give input.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2866 SD2 HD1: RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING

TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026; 2:00 PM; CR 308 and Videoconference

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members, Committee on Finance:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 2866 SD2 HD1**, 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 is critical to allow kupuna to remain stably housed.

CCH's Housing Assistance Program (HAP) provides housing counseling for O'ahu residents aged 60+. Most HAP clients have very low incomes making rental assistance essential to prevent homelessness. One recent client avoided homelessness due to this subsidy. **He has been in and out of the hospital with surgeries over the past year and unable to work.** During this time, Social Security was his only source of income. Rent Supplement saved his housing during this stressful time. Another HAP lived in a container on a property with no kitchen or bathroom. When he was accepted for senior housing, his rent was \$855. He was **using more than 80% of his income to pay for rent.** Obtaining Rent Supplement was a godsend. Now he is housed with a truly affordable rent.

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.





April 3, 2026

Testimony in Support of S.B.2866 SD1 HD1 Relating to Kūpuna Housing

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

Aloha United Way stands in strong support of S.B. 2866 SD1 HD1, which makes the State Rent Supplement Program for Kūpuna permanent and provides funding to sustain and administer the program.

Housing costs remain the primary driver of financial instability in Hawai'i, particularly for older adults on fixed incomes. According to ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) data, 40%¹ of households struggle to afford the basic cost of living, and kūpuna are among the fastest-growing² segments of this population. Even small increases in rent can place older adults at immediate risk of eviction and homelessness.

The State Rent Supplement Program for Kūpuna has already demonstrated strong, positive outcomes. With modest monthly assistance of typically less than \$500 per household, the program has helped prevent eviction for hundreds of at-risk kūpuna. This targeted investment allows seniors to remain stably housed in their communities, maintaining access to healthcare, social supports, and essential services.

From a fiscal perspective, this program represents a highly cost-effective use of State resources. Preventing homelessness is significantly less expensive than responding to it. The cost of rental

¹ <https://www.auw.org/about/alice-initiative/alice-reports/>

²United For ALICE. *Trends in Financial Hardship: Hawai'i* (2025)



assistance is far lower than the public costs associated with emergency shelter, healthcare utilization,

and long-term institutional care that often result when kūpuna lose stable housing.

In addition, making the program permanent provides stability and predictability in budgeting and program delivery. The initial appropriation has been nearly exhausted, demonstrating both the demand for and effectiveness of this intervention. Continued and sustained funding, along with dedicated staff support, will ensure that the program can operate efficiently and reach those most in need.

S.B. 2866 S.D.1 is a prudent investment that helps stabilize vulnerable residents while reducing long-term public expenditures. By keeping kūpuna housed, the State can avoid more costly downstream impacts and strengthen overall community well-being.

Aloha United Way respectfully urges the Committee to pass S.B. 2866 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo,

Michelle Bartell
President & CEO
Aloha United Way



April 7, 2026

**House Committee on Finance
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

RE: SB2866 SD1 HD1, Relating to Kupuna Housing

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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 HD1, 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.

SB-2866-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:13:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2866 SB RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING.

SB-2866-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:21:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Rep. Miyake for my district on Maui, Rep. Yamashita of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Maui, where we are reeling from the flooding of the kona low storms while still recovering from the devastating wildfires of 2023, I respectfully request your support of this measure for Kupuna Housing. The housing shortage on Maui has been multiplied by the impacts of the natural disasters, and it is especially impacting our vulnerable kupuna.

Mahalo nui,

Christine Andrews, J.D.

SB-2866-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 7:34:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!! MAHALO!

SB-2866-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:38:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

SB-2866-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:21:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support SB2866 SD1 HD1.

Gregory Misakian