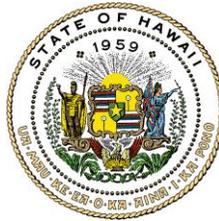


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2268 SD1
Relating to Equity

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

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

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 10:16 A.M., Conference Room 211

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health supports SB2268 SD1.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose and of this measure is to require all places of public
- 4 accommodation and public entity construction projects constructed after July 31, 2027, to
- 5 provide universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible. Everyone deserves the
- 6 ability to participate in community activities. Universal changing accommodations, also known
- 7 as adult changing tables, provide safe, hygienic, and dignified facilities for teens and adults with
- 8 disabilities, medical needs, or mobility challenges. These accommodations help prevent social
- 9 isolation and promotes inclusion.
- 10 **Recommendation:** EOA strongly supports this measure to make public spaces accessible for all.
- 11 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'Ī
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
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
10:17 AM – Room 211, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2866, SD1
RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2866 SD1: RELATING TO KUPUNA HOUSING

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Tuesday, 3/3/26; 10:17 AM; CR 211 and Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee on Ways and Means:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **strongly supports SB 2866 SD1**, 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 •





February 28, 2026

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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha United Way stands in strong support of S.B. 2866 SD1, 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, nearly 40%¹ of households struggle to afford the basic cost of living, and many kūpuna are especially vulnerable to rent increases and displacement. Kūpuna are currently the fastest² growing ALICE demographic.

The State Rent Supplement Program for Kūpuna has already helped prevent hundreds of older residents from facing eviction and homelessness with modest monthly assistance. This program is a cost-effective and targeted solution that helps kūpuna remain safely housed in their communities, close to their support networks, health providers, and familiar surroundings.

Making this program permanent will provide stability for some of Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents while helping the State avoid the far greater costs associated with homelessness, emergency medical care, and institutionalization.

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

Mahalo,

Michelle Bartell
President & CEO
Aloha United Way

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

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



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The Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Conference Room 211, 10:17 a.m.

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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, 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 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**.

SB-2866-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 2:40:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Tabor	Testifying for PABEA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you WAM Committee Members for your time and consideration on Hawaii SB2866 SD1 which kindly asks to make the State Rent Supplement Program for Kupuna permanent.

I stand in strong support of SB2866 SD1 which will establish an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center of Hawai'i within the University of Hawai'i.

I testify on behalf if PABEA (Policy Advisory Board gor Elderly Affairs) as their Legislative Committee Chairman.

For the record, I'm a retired mental health clinician, past in-home care operation manager, and veteran field medical Navy hospital corpsman.

The bill asks to remove the previous June 30, 2028, sunset date. Administered by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), the program provides monthly rental assistance to low-income, at-risk elderly residents, 62 years or older. residents. The bill also proposes funding for two new HPHA staff positions to support the program.

Key Details of the Proposed Legislation:

- **Purpose:** To prevent homelessness among vulnerable, low-income elderly residents (kupuna) by providing rental assistance.
- **Action:** Removes the sunset date to make the program permanent, with an effective date of July 1, 3000 (often used in legislative drafts to denote permanent, non-expiring status).
- **Funding:** Appropriates funds to HPHA for FY 2026-2027 to sustain the program and create two full-time public housing specialist positions.
- **Context:** The program currently provides roughly 300 at-risk kupuna with monthly assistance, often under \$500 per month

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. I appreciate all you do for Hawaii!

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Rick Tabor

March 2, 2026

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki
Members of the Committee

Re: SB2866 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.

SB2866 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. SB2866 SD1 represents a thoughtful, cost-effective investment in housing stability and aging with dignity.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Pacific West is pleased to support SB2866 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