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State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate

Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Monday, February 29, 2016, 9:15am  
Room 211

SB 2085, SD 1 Relating to Aging

Good morning, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Ways and Means Committee.

Lanakila Pacific **strongly supports** SB 2085, SD 1, Relating to Aging, as it provides critically needed services for our most vulnerable elderly neighbors. Although our preference is that ongoing support be provided in the base budget, this measure provides essential supplemental funding for the Kupuna Care services which are designed to prevent more costly institutional care.

**The Kupuna Care program funding is necessary** because the need for services far exceeds current resources due to over a decade of flat funding ~~that hasn't kept pace with inflation, let alone combined with~~ the ~~spike in the growing~~ elderly population. The base budget for Kupuna Care services of \$4.85 million has not been increased since 2002, while Hawaii's senior population has increased by 30% and the costs of living in Hawaii continues to rise. Supplemental funding is requested every year; however, it should be and has been requested as part of the budget of the Executive branch.

**In addition to funding, the shrinking resources combined with the growing need require more transparency in how funds are allocated and program efficacy evaluated. We encourage the Executive Office on Aging to develop the Administrative Rules for the Kupuna Care program.**

**The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) program.** We are in support of funding for the ADRC which is the resource directory for the growing needs of Hawaii's senior population and individuals with disabilities.

However, in allocating ADRC resources to the counties, the Executive Office on Aging should take into consideration not only the needs of each county, but also resources each county brings to the ADRCs.

As a Kupuna Care service provider, Lanakila Meals on Wheels serves more than 2,000 Hawaii seniors every day or more than 250,000 meals each year. Our average meal recipient is a woman of Asian or Pacific Island descent, 83 years old with an income of less than \$1,000 per month. Our staff and volunteers deliver much more than a nutritious meal, as they may be the only person that our Kupuna will spend time with each day. ~~SB 2085, SD 1~~

~~February 29, 2016~~  
~~Page 2 of 2~~

Providing Kupuna Care Services, which enables seniors to stay in their homes and avoid costly institutionalization, can be the difference between less than \$200 for a month of home delivered meals vs. \$9,000 for a month in a semi-private room in a nursing facility.

While more long-term support is needed to meet the growing needs with one of the fastest growing senior populations and the longest life expectancies in the nation, this measure is a vital part of the solution as it will provide critically needed and more cost-effective services for our most isolated and vulnerable elderly neighbors. Aging network providers cannot meet the current and growing demand for services when faced by years of flat or reduced State and Federal funding.

We urge you to support Hawaii's ~~k~~Kupuna by supporting ongoing funding for Kupuna Care and ADRC as it provides essential services for the most vulnerable senior citizens in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji  
President & CEO