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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1142
Relating to Services for Kupuna**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR LES IHARA, Jr., VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 11, 2021
3p.m.

Room Number: 225
Via Videoconference

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the Department
2 of Health (DOH), is in strong support of Senate Bill 1142, Relating to Services for Kupuna and
3 **offers two amendments.** This measure: 1) amends the work eligibility requirement during a
4 Governor proclaimed state of emergency; 2) adds Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an
5 option in the Kupuna Caregivers program; and 3) adds a financial management service provider
6 who is responsible for financial payments on behalf of participants enrolled in the Kupuna
7 Caregiver-Directed program.

8 **Fiscal Implications:** The Kupuna Care and Kupuna Caregivers programs are currently state
9 funded and implemented by the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in each county. This measure
10 will provide the AAAs an additional option (Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services) offering more
11 flexibility to services and supports to kupuna and their caregivers. Current funds and other
12 supports will be used for these programs.

1 **Purpose and Justification:** The Kupuna Caregivers Program has been in existence since 2017.
2 The language being proposed improves the program and provides additional options for
3 caregivers to support their loved ones. For example, qualified caregivers are currently limited to
4 only using service providers that are contracted by the AAAs. This measure adds Kupuna
5 Caregiver-directed services that allows participants to direct their own services and address their
6 needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount instead of receiving services through a contracted
7 provider.

8 **Recommendation:** Since the language of the bill was written, we offer two amendments as it
9 relates to “unemployed caregiver”. EOA proposes **to delete "or be unemployed" on page 2**
10 **line 18 and delete “or is unemployed” on page 9 lines 9 and 10** to retain the original intent of
11 the bill to support working caregivers.
12 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:16:26 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cristina Valenzuela	Testifying for Executive Office on Aging	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for comments

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:56:01 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Yuan	Testifying for The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)	Support	No

Comments:

The Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA) has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), we do not speak on its behalf.

PABEA is in strong support of SB 1142, Relating to Services for Kupuna.

SB 1142 addresses work eligibility requirements and service options of the Kupuna Caregivers program. The amendment to work eligibility requirement during a Governor proclaimed state of emergency would allow *working caregivers* whose work hours have been reduced to less than 30, continue to receive needed caregiving support in times of uncertainty, as demonstrated during this pandemic. The bill extends this flexibility to unemployed caregivers, which PABEA *does not support* because it is not consistent with the Kupuna Caregiver program's intent.

The addition of Kupuna Caregiver-Directed services as an option in the Kupuna Caregivers program would allow the participants to direct their services and address their needs with a monthly budgeted dollar amount, instead of receiving services through a contracted provider. A participant-directed service is an existing option for the *Kupuna Care* program, so the EOA and Area Agencies on Aging are experienced in implementing this service option. The limited service-delivery options during the pandemic have added a sense of urgency to this change. The bill also defines a financial management service provider, the person who is responsible for financial payments on behalf of participants in the Kupuna Caregiver-Directed service option.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:48:52 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audrey Suga-Nakagawa	Testifying for AARP Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

AARP supports this measure. It is similar to SB 838 in which our testimony in support was also submitted.

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:48:45 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Wyatt	Testifying for Adult Day Centers Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB1142 is vitally important, not only for the caregivers, but also for the kupuna. Due to the pandemic, many kupuna have had to stay home with no socialization, no exercise, and no mental stimulation. Studies show that persons living with dementia need all of these things in order to slow the progression of the disease. Caregivers need a safe place for their loved one to stay during the day while they work or attend to other family business. Many caregivers were out of work because of the pandemic, but their loved ones still needed the activities offered at adult day care. As the caregivers slowly get back to work, they are still in need for a place for their loved one, so they will need services offered by the Kupuna Caregiver Program and the Kupuna Care Program. I ask that you support this bill.

ALOHA CHAPTER

1670 Makaloa Street, Suite 204-316, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

February 11, 2021

Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room Via Teleconference, 3:00 P.M.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB1142 RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association **supports** Senate Bill 1142 and is in strong support of allowing the Executive Office of Aging to relax the 30-hour employment requirement for qualified caregivers under the Kupuna Caregivers Program during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that caregiving will not be an impediment to getting back to work for those on this program during this pandemic and economic downturn. The Alzheimer's Association is concerned about individuals and families that require support from the Kupuna Caregivers program in order to work fulltime but now, due to no fault of their own, may dip below the 30-hour employment requirement in this economic downturn. They may find themselves caught in a predicament where they cannot accept fulltime work without support but cannot receive support until they are working fulltime.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. Studies have shown that when family caregivers are forced to leave the workforce to provide care for an aging loved one, they risk their own retirement security. No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long-term care.

The growing number of kupuna in Hawaii increases the need for and pressure on family caregivers. Supporting working family caregivers ethically and economically is the right thing to do. Not only do we have a kuleana to support our kupuna, it also makes financial sense to keep family caregivers working, advancing their careers, and paying taxes, and not seeking more costly support from the state.

Here in Hawaii, an estimated 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregivers program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

1670 Makaloa Street, Suite 204-316, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support Senate Bill 1142.

Ian Ross
Public Policy and Advocacy Manager
iaross@alz.org | Phone: (808) 591-2771 x1333

LATE



SUPPORT FOR SB1142: RELATING TO SERVICES FOR KUPUNA

Senate Committee on Human Services (HMS)

Thursday, February 11, 2021 | 3:00 pm | via Video Conference

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

Faith Action for Community Equity is a grassroots, interfaith organization driven by our members' deep spiritual commitment to addressing the root causes of social justice issues facing our community. **Faith Action is in support of SB1142.**

It is an incredibly difficult task to take care of someone while working in Hawaii. Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care.

We should amend Kupuna Caregivers to make sure that caregiving is not an impediment to getting back to work. We can do that by allowing the Executive Office of Aging to relax the 30-hour employment requirement for qualified caregivers under the Kupuna Caregivers Program during a state-declared state of emergency. Counties can use the money carried over from previous fiscal years as well as CARES money to continue to fund the program in the short term. This funding may last through December 2021.

No one should be forced to choose between earning a living to provide for their family or leaving a job to provide long-term care.

Mahalo for considering our testimony in support of SB1142.

If you have any questions, please contact Faith Action Executive Director Ashleigh Loa (808-746-2741, aloa@faithactionhawaii.org).

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 5:49:43 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen M Gawrys	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

yes

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:00:47 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill since it supports Hawai`i's caregivers.

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:37:30 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LJ Duenas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Thank you, LJ Duenas

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:46:16 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Halloran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

As a caregiver myself for my grandmother for over 12 years, I understand this burden first hand. Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Thank you,

February 10, 2021

Senate Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **SB1142 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vic Chair Les Ihara and members of the Committee:

I support SB1142 because this bill calls for the Executive Office on Aging to strengthen the Kupuna Caregivers program by relaxing the thirty-hour employment requirement during a state declared state of emergency. Passage of this bill eases the decision making of caregivers whether to care for their loved one or go to work.

Hawaii's kupuna population continues to rise each year. Many seniors have dementia and often Alzheimer's disease. Statewide, there are over 29,000 people with Alzheimer's, cared for by 65,000 caregivers. Seniors and their caregivers are impacted financially, socially and physically every day. There are no breaks from being a caregiver.

My late mother had various care needs, from cardiac to dementia. As a caregiver, providing as much as comfort, happy moments when possible, and the quality of life deserved to a woman who devoted herself to family and community.

Kupuna and caregivers need assistance during this pandemic. I encourage you to support SB1142.

Sincerely,



Calvin M. Hara

email: cmhara@comcast.net

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:39:31 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

My wife's grandmother recently turned 94 years old and is suffering with dementia. Her primary caregivers are my wife's 96-year-old grandfather and my wife's aunt who works as a nurse and lives in the same housing development to be available to care for both of them when she is not working. There are many times where my wife's grandparents are alone to take care of themselves and as they continue to get older it will be essential that they always have someone with them. About 18 months ago, my wife's grandmother was having pain in her stomach area which led to more severe pains and was rushed to the emergency room where it was determined that she had to have her appendix removed immediately. While she was fortunate that her family was available in that instance to get her to the hospital, without the passing of SB1142 this may not be the case the next time there is a medical emergency.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Mahalo,

Justin George

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:52:52 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacie M Burke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 1142

Mahalo for your time

Stacie Burke

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:26:44 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicolas K. Los Banos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB1142, which strengthens the Kupuna Care and Kupuna Caregivers programs by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Care programs ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Care and Kupuna Caregivers programs are especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

In addition to over ten years working with the aging population, being a caregiver for my 96-year-old grandmother who is living with dementia has shown the immense energy and spirit given by caregivers like me and my 'ohana each and every day. Your support of SB1142 will help develop State-wide efforts to grow the supports and services available to address the needs and challenges experienced by families like mine every single day. Furthermore, the increasing number of kÅ«puna in Hawai'i highlights the need for your support of this bill, which is crucial to ensuring that caregivers have as much support as possible to maintain their capacity to care for and honor their loved ones.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Nicolas K. Los Baños

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:59:00 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

My father lived with some form of dementia for 10-15 years. His caregiver wife never accepted any outside help, partly for her own reasons, and also because it is just so difficult to find caring and compassionate respite care.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Thank you,

Nancy Rose

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:38:18 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Humberto Blanco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of this bill, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. Family caregivers provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session

Thank you,

LATE

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:56:38 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ivy Castellanos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB1142, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

During these challenging and unprecedented times, we must safeguard the resources and supports that family caregivers rely on. As a caregiver for my late grandmother who suffered from dementia for 11 years and as a professional who currently serves families affected by dementia, I can attest to the inherent challenge of balancing work and caregiving. With the additional weight and complexity of maintaining this balance during an ongoing global pandemic, these resources and supports become lifelines for family caregivers who are exhausted, depleted, and trying their best simply to get through the day.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers are the most compassionate and dedicated people in our community. They provide seventy percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving as you work towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state’s economy this legislative session.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

Ivy Castellanos

LATE

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:29:39 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Aotaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha.

I support SB1142. Having the kupuna caregiver-directed services added to Kupuna caregivers program will greatly help those caregivers in need.

Mahalo, Elaine Aotaki

LATE

SB-1142

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:21:59 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/11/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon takaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of SB1142, which strengthens the Kupuna Caregivers program by empowering the Executive Office of Aging to relax the thirty-hour employment requirement for caregivers during a state-declared state of emergency. This change to the Kupuna Caregivers program ensures that enrolled caregivers will not have to choose between getting back to work and caregiving during this on-going crisis.

My father passed away in 1985 after struggling with the Alzheimer's disease. Many of his siblings have since passed due to Alzheimer's. The disease have now claimed the lives of the next generation, my cousins. In the process many of my relatives have served as caregivers resulting in major burden and expenses.

In Hawaii, 65,000 caregivers assist the more than 29,000 individuals who live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Kupuna Caregiver program is especially important for them, as caregivers of people with dementia are twice as likely to report substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties as caregivers of people without dementia.

Family caregivers provide 70 percent of the care for frail elderly family members and thus bear the major burden and expense of care. As you work hard towards balancing the budget and rebuilding our state's economy this legislative session, I humbly ask that you remember those who balance work and caregiving.

Gordon Takaki

(808)430-5720