
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that with 16.5 per cent
2 of Hawaii's population being sixty-five years or older, and with
3 projections of an increase to 19.4 per cent by 2020 and 23 per
4 cent by 2030, caring for Hawaii's kupuna is a high priority of
5 the legislature.

6 The legislature finds that currently there are 154,000
7 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are taking care of their
8 parents, spouse, or other relatives who need extra care. Family
9 caregivers play a crucial role in the State's health care system
10 by providing long-term care to the elderly, all unpaid. It is
11 imperative to ensure that while caregivers are looking after
12 their loved ones, the caregivers must also take care of
13 themselves and have the necessary support and services to
14 sustain their own health as well as the health of the family
15 member for whom they are caring.

16 To address this issue, the kupuna caregivers program was
17 established on July 6, 2017, aiming to provide families in need



1 of extra support services with additional resources to cover a
2 variety of services such as: adult day care, assisted
3 transportation, homemaker services, and many more important
4 services to qualified kupuna. The program ensures that
5 caregivers continue earning their own retirement benefits, which
6 helps businesses retain experienced workers and provides peace
7 of mind that loved kupuna are well cared for while caregivers
8 remain in the workforce. This program allows caregivers who are
9 juggling their own employment with their caregiving
10 responsibilities to simultaneously take care of their kupuna and
11 themselves.

12 Since the establishment of the kupuna caregivers program,
13 the executive office on aging has reportedly received hundreds
14 of calls from Hawaii residents wishing to receive the benefits
15 of the program. While the creation of the program was an
16 important first step, the legislature believes that the program
17 requires additional second year funding to have the impact it
18 needs. With the high volume of residents showing interest in
19 the program, the current funding needs to be increased in order
20 to better serve the people of Hawaii.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
2 implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for proper
6 implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive
8 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.
10

INTRODUCED BY:

<u></u>	<u>Gregg Takayama</u>
<u></u>	<u>Linda Lohman</u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u>Michelle E. Loman</u>
<u></u>	<u>Calvin M. Jay</u>
<u></u>	<u>Guthrie Thacker</u>
<u></u>	<u></u>



H.B. NO. 1912

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized name followed by a horizontal line underneath.

JAN 18 2018



H.B. NO. 1912

Report Title:

Kupuna Caregivers Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

