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# 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 as of July 1, 2018,  
2 the United States Census Bureau estimated that 18.4 per cent of  
3 Hawaii's population was sixty-five years or older, and with  
4 projections of an increase to 19.4 per cent in 2020 and 23 per  
5 cent by 2030, caring for Hawaii's kupuna is a high priority of  
6 the legislature.

7           The legislature finds that currently there are  
8 approximately 154,000 unpaid family caregivers in Hawaii who are  
9 caring for a parent, spouse, or other relative who needs extra  
10 care. Family caregivers play a crucial role in the State's  
11 health care system by providing long-term care to the elderly,  
12 and all are unpaid. However, it is imperative to ensure that  
13 caregivers also care for themselves and have the necessary  
14 support and services to sustain their own health as well as the  
15 health of the family member for whom they are caring.

16           To address this issue, the kupuna caregivers program was  
17 established on July 6, 2017, and aims to provide working



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

21 The purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Reduce from thirty to twenty the number of hours per
- 2 week an individual must be employed to be a qualified
- 3 caregiver under the kupuna caregivers program; and
- 4 (2) Appropriate funds for the implementation of the kupuna
- 5 caregivers program.

6 SECTION 2. Section 349-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 7 amended by amending the definition of "qualified caregiver" to  
 8 read as follows:

9 "Qualified caregiver" means an individual who meets the  
 10 following requirements:

- 11 (1) Provides care for a care recipient; and
- 12 (2) Is employed at least [~~thirty~~] twenty hours per week by
- 13 one or more employers."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
 16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for proper  
 17 implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

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

20 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Kupuna Caucus; Qualified Caregiver; Kupuna Caregivers Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Reduces from thirty to twenty the total number of hours per week an individual must be employed to be a qualified caregiver under the kupuna caregivers program from thirty to twenty. Appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the kupuna caregivers program. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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