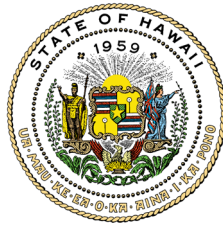


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII

**KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE



**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 652, HD1**  
**Relating to Caregivers**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 23, 2023  
1:30 PM

Room Number: 308  
Via Videoconference

**EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health, supports HB 652, HD1 Relating to Caregivers.

**Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$1,000,000 for fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the Executive Office on Aging to establish a caregiver workforce support and development center that will develop and expand the State's long-term and home and community-based caregiver workforce.

**Purpose and Justification:** The EOA is working with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), the University of Hawaii, AARP, Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), and Dr. Cullen Hayashida to support the gaps not filled by current workforce pipelines such as the educational and health care industries such as Good Jobs Hawaii.

This bill supports current caregivers, and non-clinical and para-professional staff in home and community based settings.

Hence the H.D. 1 provides for:

(1) In consultation with members of the education and health care industries, develop a comprehensive statewide recruitment and retention campaign to encourage more residents to enter the health care workforce;

(2) In consultation with appropriate organizations, develop programs to educate and train informal caregivers, including familial caregivers, to best practice informal caregiving;

(3) Provide professional development courses, including interviewing, management, and leadership courses, for current employers and employees; and

(4) Develop an active aging strategy to keep kupuna and kupuna caregivers as healthy as possible.

**Recommendation:** EOA strongly supports SB 652, H.D.1 provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
Conference Room 308, 1:30 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
RE: Support for H.B. 652, HD1 Relating to Caregiving

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

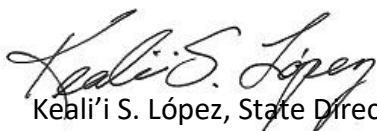
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

**AARP Supports H.B. 652, HD1** which establishes a caregiver workforce support and development center that will develop and expand the State's long-term and home and community-based caregiver workforce to effectively care for Hawaii's aging population.

There is an acute shortage of health care workers in Hawaii. According to the Healthcare Association of Hawaii's Healthcare Workforce Initiative 2022 Report, "there were 3,873 vacancies across Hawaii's direct care health workers, a 76% increase over the 2,200 unfilled positions reported in 2019."<sup>1</sup> Exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall health care industry continues to face mounting challenges with the growing demand for care. However, the worker shortage is even more acute with the increasing number of kūpuna needing long term care whether in an institutional setting or in the home. Home health agencies, for example, continue to have the highest percentage (39%) of vacancies as they compete with wages and benefits with larger health care employers.<sup>2</sup> There is an urgent need to recruit and train more workers in long term care while reinvesting and enhancing the skills of the current health care workforce. Establishing a caregiver workforce support and development center that can coordinate and work with the health care industry, academic, community and government partners will help Hawai'i address this workforce crisis statewide.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support for **H.B 652, HD1**.

Sincerely,

  
Keali'i S. López, State Director

<sup>1</sup>HealthCare Association of Hawaii, Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Initiative 2022 Report

<sup>2</sup>Ibid



**February 23, 2023 at 1:30 pm**  
**Conference Room 308**

**House Committee on Finance**

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita  
Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
Associate Vice President, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Support**  
**HB 652, HD1, Relating to Caregivers**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing more than 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **support** for this measure which, among other things, would help to support a recruitment campaign to fill critical shortages in our healthcare workforce. In our 2022 Report on the Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Initiative, we found that there are nearly 3,900 open positions among 89 patient-facing professions. This represents a 76% increase in the number of positions open in our last survey done in 2019. We found that nearly 20% of all positions remained unfilled at the healthcare organizations surveyed in 2022, compared to 10% of all positions unfilled in 2019. The greatest need is for nurses, with 999 openings for RNs and 744 openings for certified nurse aides.

We are working closely with our education and community partners to build the workforce pipeline to fill these positions. We believe that healthcare is a steady industry that will allow our residents to stay in the state and work in jobs that provide a living wage. In fact, HAH is part of an innovative initiative, Good Jobs Hawaii, which brings together a coalition of educators, businesses, and community partners to help people in Hawaii get high quality jobs and careers. The UH Community Colleges are leading the effort, and HAH services as the healthcare sector lead. This initiative is one of only 32 workforce proposals awarded with federal funding to develop innovative approaches to workforce development, and will bring in around \$30 million to the state.

We believe that a recruitment campaign will help us to maximize the federal dollars coming into the state by ensuring that we have enough interested individuals participating in this landmark initiative. We are also appreciative of other funding in this measure to support caregivers more broadly—all caregivers, formal and informal, need more support to manage the aging population.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide support for this measure.

# THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



FIN\_02-24-23 1:30pm Submitted 02-22-23

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Re: HB 652 HD1 Relating to Caregivers

POSITION: Strong Support

ALOHA Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Finance Committee

The Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has an enrolled membership of more than 2,000 politically aware and active seniors. Our Caucus urges you to support HB 652 HD1. This bill would require the Executive Office on Aging to establish a Caregiver Workforce Support and Development Center. The bill would also appropriate funds for the Center.

Anyone who has ever been a caregiver for an elder or someone who has a long-term illness or disability will understand what a difficult and draining job this can be. Caregiver responsibilities often fall on family members who have no professional training for dealing with the stresses of the job. They may find themselves having to learn many new skills in a hurry, while not getting any recompense for what is a very difficult job. Then there is the need for respite time to regain some energy or internal peace of mind.

Any program that might help people who have to be caregivers would provide a valuable service. Any program that would help professional caregivers, who are generally poorly paid by their agencies, would provide a valuable service.

As our population ages we will need many more people in caregiving related professions and hopefully there will be more training for them in the future. This bill would be a big step forward in the process of preparing for the inevitable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Chair, and Martha E. Randolph for the  
Kūpuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**HB-652-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:10:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

## **HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair**

**Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023, 1:30 p.m**

**Re: HB652, HD1 - RELATING TO CAREGIVERS**

**Aloha Chair Yamashita and Committee Members.**

**My name is Linda Dorset, a resident of Wailuku, Maui. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the above referenced legislation. I strongly support HB652 that will establish a Caregiver Workforce Support and Development Center to develop and expand the State's long-term and home— and community-based caregiver workforce to effectively care for Hawaii's aging population. Family caregivers are stressed to the max; and it is getting more difficult to find help due to the shortage of healthcare workers.**

**Because there is an acute shortage of health care workers in Hawaii especially in long term care and home and community based services, there is an urgent need to recruit and train more workers in long term care and to further build the skills of the current health care workforce. Therefore please establish this caregiver workforce support and development center that will coordinate and work with the health care industry, academic, community and government partners.**

**Linda Dorset**

**Wailuku Resident**

February 21, 2023

To:

House Committee on Finance  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

RE: **HB652 Relating to Caregivers**

Hearing Date: February 23, 2023  
Conference Room 308, 1:30PM

Most Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members:

**I support HB652** as a productive way to increase the number of caregivers needed for the Hawaii's kupuna who would like to live at home – but need a caregiver to assist them – either temporarily or full-time. There is an urgent need for a training program for family caregivers as well as a high-quality recruitment campaign to hire new candidates for training in the caregiving field.

Through caregiver education, hands-on training, and a living wage the crucial need for caregivers could be solved and would reap benefits to our society as a whole...and most importantly...provide a stable career path for many capable people who want to live and work in Hawaii.

**Please vote in support of HB652.** Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Olah  
Honolulu Resident



**HB-652-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:12:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The percent of Hawai'i's population aged 75 years old and above is expected to double by 2045, from 8% to 15%. Supporting and retaining existing formal and informal caregivers will be more important than ever as Hawai'i's population continues to age. Yet several factors, including burnout, an aging workforce and population, rising costs of living, and greater demand for both institutional and at-home patient care, have increased pressure and strain on spread-thin paid and unpaid caregivers.

Supporting caregivers in both home and long-term care settings will ensure that Hawai'i's aging population, as well as others who require care, receive it in an appropriate, timely manner. While there has been strong investment in training new employees, there must also be an investment in the existing workforce. It is imperative that new candidates who believe in the mission of providing care, and especially in providing services for older adults in post-acute care settings, are recruited and retained.

We should establish a caregiver workforce support and development center to preserve and expand the state's long-term and home- and community-based caregiver workforce to effectively care for Hawai'i's aging population. Please support HB652 HD1.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Hearing:** Thursday, February 23, 2023, 1:30 p.m.  
Via Video Conference Room 308  
State Capitol

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 652, HD1  
RELATING TO CAREGIVERS**

**To:** Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair; Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair; Committee on Finance

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of **HB 652, HD1**, Relating to Caregivers. There is a shortage of health care workers for long term care including home and community services. Establishing a caregiver workforce support and development center is necessary for our aging seniors in need of care.

**HB 652, HD1:** Requires the executive office on aging to establish a caregiver workforce support and development center. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000.

I urge you to support **HB 652, HD1**.

Anna Filler  
District 26, Downtown-Kakaako-McCully  
Email: afiller@twc.com



**HB-652-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:37:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry SUPPORT HB 652 RELATING TO CAREGIVERS.

To include the Waianae community.