



February 10, 2020

To: The Senate Committee Members on Ways and Means
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

Re: Strong Support of SB2342, Relating to the Kupuna Caregivers Program

Hrg: February 11, 2020 at 10:40 AM at Capitol Room 211

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 400 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly **supports** SB2342, which would amend the total amount of hours per week and individual must be employed to be a qualified caregiver under the kupuna caregivers program from thirty to twenty. SB2342 also appropriates funds for the proper implementation of the kupuna caregivers program.

Information from the U.S. Census Bureau from 2000 to 2010 and from 2010 to 2016, as reported by both the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i, shows that the elderly population in our state continues to grow. Hawai'i's growing aging population will mean growth in the need for caregiver services- whether it be professional or familial. Professional care facilities are financially prohibitive for many kupuna. A 2015 report from the National Alliance for Caregiving and the AARP found that on average, caregivers spend 24.4 hours per week providing care. The same report found that 17% of caregivers rate their health as poor, compared to 10% in the general adult population. Therefore, it is the view of the HPHA that by adjusting the working hours will provide another avenue of flexibility for the caregiver and allow for continuing access of care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claire Townsend', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp.

Claire Townsend, DrPH
Legislative Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association