

SYNOPSIS OF ACT 220 (SB 2830) RELATING TO CAREGIVING

1. The Joint Legislative Committee on Aging In Place (JLCAIP) is new name of the joint legislative committee on family caregiving. It's term is extended by two years to June 30, 2010 [part I].
2. Requires the Aging and Disability Resource Center to update the committee on its physical site in Hawaii county and the "virtual" site in Honolulu [part I].
3. Executive Office on Aging (EOA) shall design a cash and counseling project for non-medicaid participants to direct and manage their personal assistance services according to their own specific needs, while enabling family caregivers to receive a level of financial recognition and support. The project shall include an advisory group to assist with the design of the project. EOA shall report results of the project to JLCAIP by December 2008 [part II].
4. Kupuna Care is expanded to allow offering emergency, overnight, and weekend respite services; provide grants for home modifications that facilitate aging in place; and provide grants to family caregivers pursuant to a care plan as part of a cash and counseling approach. Appropriated \$500,000 to EOA for Kupuna Care [part III].
5. A 16-member Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force (GRGTF) is established to address the needs and issues of grandparents raising grandchildren. GRGTF is co-chaired by members from UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, and submits interim report in December 2008 and final report by June 9, 2009 to JLCAIP and legislature [part IV].
6. EOA shall continue its respite inventory project in collaboration with the University of Hawaii School of Social Work, and propose a definition of respite care [part V].

Kupuna Care Program
Elderly Affairs Division
July 31, 2008

Funding

EAD receives \$2,946,860 per year for Kupuna Care which funds the following services: case management, home delivered meals, transportation, personal care, chore, homemaker, attendant care and adult day care services.

Act 262 (SB 3252) provided an additional \$303,531 intended for FY 07. These funds were utilized beginning April 2007 and for the most part were used up by June 2008.

Act 204 (SB 1916) provided an additional \$288,354 for FY08. Providers started using these funds beginning January 2008 and it will run out by October 2008.

Kupuna Care Budget and Services

In FY 08, our total Kupuna Care budget, including Act 262 and Act 204 funds was \$3,307,075 and served 232,482 units of service to 4,082 clients. (Not included in the service units are 6,600 *Deciding What If* legal handbooks which are being printed.) In FY09, which consists mostly of base funds, our budget is \$3,042,722 and will provide 176,436 units to 3,369 clients.

The FY 09 budget will serve 341 fewer clients and provide 82,231 fewer units of service than in FY08. The addition of \$318,707 in Act 204 FY 09 funds will bring the FY 09 total back up to \$3,361,429 is on par with FY 08 funding levels and could restore the FY 08 service levels.

Acts 262 and 204 in total provided \$591,885 for supplemental services for a period of 17 months from April 2007 to October 2008. \$355,282 was provided to LMOW to address their wait list. The balance of \$236,573 was used to hire one part time volunteer coordinator for Project Dana, one intaker for Senior Case Management, one van driver, one homemaker, and one bath aide. It also provided small amounts of supplemental funds to two other providers to augment service units and \$10,000 to revise and print a new edition of the *Deciding What If* legal handbook.

Impacts if Act 204 and SB 2830 funds are not released

Project Dana used their supplemental funds to hire a part-time volunteer coordinator from April 2007 until June 2008. It is estimated that in one year, this coordinator helped provide 6,000 hours of services for 80-90 clients. Project Dana has been keeping this coordinator on with grant and donation funds. They do not know how much longer they can keep him on. If Act 204 funds are not released, Project Dana may lose this volunteer coordinator.

Child and Family Service hired an intake worker to help with case management for FY 08. She is being kept on for an additional 4 months until October 2008 using funds freed up when an adult day care provider contract was closed and CFS was not able to utilize some funds due to

case manager turnover. If Act 204 funds are not released, the intake worker will have to be released. The director is worried because the wait list has been growing. In FY 07, the average number on the wait list at the end of each quarter was 12. In FY 08, it grew to 43. In addition, recent clients have more complex situations and less social supports. The wait list time is currently 4-6 weeks and without supplemental funds it is projected to grow to 8-10 weeks. SB 2830 funds will be able to address the 43 on the wait list.

Catholic Charities was provided funds to hire an additional homemaker and transportation driver. There has been turnover in the homemaker position and the position is currently vacant. Although funding has been provided for an additional 3 months until October 2008, action to hire a new homemaker will not be taken until Act 204 or SB2830 funds are released. The current wait list of 58 for homemaker services and 51 for transportation services is projected to double or triple by the end of this year. The current waiting time is 3-6 months and may grow to one year by the end of 2008. If funds are released, the provider will be able to hire or retain current staff to address the wait list.

St. Francis hired a bath aide to serve a larger number of clients and to augment current staffing. A growing number of clients require 2 aides to be able to accomplish the task safely. Without additional funding for FY 09, St. Francis will provide 932 fewer baths.

Lanakila Pacific DBA Lanakila Rehabilitation Center, Inc. provided additional meals and brought down their wait list from 262 in March 2007 to 74 in March 2008 and in their latest report on June 30, there are no clients on their wait list caused by lack of funding. While this is good news for now, the program will have to start waitlisting in about 3 months to stay within their budget and maintain services to current clients. Without Act 204 funds, the waitlist is projected to grow to 250 by the end of the year. With Act 204 funds, the number waitlisted will be less than 62 and these individuals could be served if in addition, to Act 204, SB2830 funds were released. Lanakila is concerned as food prices have gone up and the cost per meal is likely to rise.

Supplemental funding for Kokua Kalihi Valley permitted them to fill a temporary case manager position, maintain a short wait list time and serve an additional 36 clients. The agency is struggling to cover costs and report growing need.

The Waikiki Friendly Neighbor program which utilizes volunteers to provide attendant care services report financial pressures and reliance on supplemental funding to maintain client services at the current level. If supplemental funds are not released, the deficit will likely cause a reduction in hours for their half time position placing it at risk.

Wait lists

Despite these supplemental funds we continue to have wait lists. There is insufficient funding to cope with the need due to the growth of the elderly population. In our latest wait list report, we have 320 on the wait list of which 210 are due specifically to lack of funding. While the home-delivered meals wait list is diminished at this point in time, some of the other wait lists are growing, particularly chore, homemaker, transportation and case management.

The release of SB 2830 funds would be able to address this wait list. It could also be used to restore adult day care services which were sacrificed to ensure continuity of other services for another four month of FY 09 from July until October 2008. While supplemental funds are much appreciated, please note that the base funding for Kupuna Care has not grown since 2002. If inflation at 4% alone were a factor, the past six years would warrant an additional 24% uncompounded. Acts 262 and Act 204 offer about a 10% supplement in funds. Providers are struggling with the increasing costs of gas and its impacts on goods and services, as we have kept the unit rate fairly flat. Additional funds are needed not only to provide services but to help providers kept afloat.

Base funding

It would be much appreciated if the supplemental funding was folded into the base so that precious resources are not wasted on administrative burden. It is difficult to cope with base contracts and supplemental contracts whose time periods do not coincide.

Moreover, it is extremely difficult to recruit, hire and train staff with only a one year promise of employment and to hang on to trained staff at the end of the year with uncertainty in future funding.

With supplemental funds from Acts 262 and Act 204, service providers have proven that they can utilize funding and expand service provision in a timely and responsive manner. Consideration of folding supplemental funds into the Kupuna Care base budget is not only needed, but necessary to ensure a steady provision of services.

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Hawai'i Alliance for Retired Americans

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Statement of Al Hamai, President, on JLCAIP projects and activities

Hearing of JLCAIP

July 31, 2008, 2 p.m. Conference Room 229

Co Chairs Senator Les Ihara, Jr., and Representative Marilyn Lee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on the projects and activities of this Committee during the interim, pursuant to Act 220 (SB2830) and 243 (HB2520).

HARA is very pleased that the Committee is moving very quickly to carry out its very important responsibilities and has listed six projects—Kupuna Care Program; Respite Inventory Project; Cash and counseling Project; Family leave Work Group; Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force and Aging; and Disability Resource Center. Also the Committee will be considering support in categories such as: coordinated services and policies, training and education, respite services, financial incentives and balancing work and caregiving. Much important work for your Committee but you can do it.

HARA appreciates very much the efforts of the Committee, through your leadership, along with the strong support of Senator Chun Oakland and the leadership of both houses of the legislature for all the work that was involved in drafting and then approving both bills and getting the Governor to sign Act 220 in part and then overriding her veto to fund the Kupuna Care program and to enact Act 243 that establishes a working group to explore the provision of wage replacement benefits to employees who need time off from work to care for a family member with a serious health condition. Mahalo.

Although your Committee has a full plate, please also carefully monitor and offer your input on Act 224, which, among other things, establishes long term care policy goals and guiding principles, and establishes a long term care commission to identify needed reforms of the long term care system, and explore an array of funding options. This act is a very forward looking legislation to deal with a serious and surely increasingly more critical social and economic issue facing each of us individually and as a state. Hopefully, the members of the new Commission will accept their challenge in an enlightened and open minded spirit and will prepare a report and set of recommendations that will be based on what is best for the state of Hawaii and its people, our Ohana.

HARA will continue to support your activities and to participate in your deliberations.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Al Hamai
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