In July 2017 Governor David Ige signed into law, HB 607 appropriating $600,000 to the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to establish the Kupuna Caregivers program, aimed at supporting working caregivers. Recognizing the tremendous contributions of caregivers, the bill provides financial assistance to support employed caregivers to remain in the workforce, provided certain criteria are met. EOA and the county Area Agencies on Aging are working to develop and implement the program.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Qualified Caregivers** must be employed at least 30 hours a week by one or more employers and provide care directly to a care recipient.

- A **Care Recipient** is someone who:
  - Is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien
  - Is 60 years of age or older
  - Is not covered by any comparable government or private home and community-based care service, except kupuna care services
  - Does not reside in a long-term care facility and
  - Has impairments of at least:
    - Two activities of daily living or
    - Two instrumental activities of daily living or
    - One activity of daily living and one instrumental activity of daily living or
    - Substantive cognitive impairment requiring substantial supervision

ASSISTANCE

Qualified caregivers may receive up to $70 per day in benefits (subject to the availability of funds and paid directly to contracted service providers, not the caregiver) to cover costs for adult day care, chore services, home-delivered meals, homemaker services, personal care, respite care, or transportation.

Assistance may also be provided now through other ADRC programs.

TIMELINE

EOA plans to launch the Kupuna Caregivers program in 2018.

Contact your county Aging and Disability Resource Center at:

ADRC Statewide Phone Number: 643-2372
ADRC TTY Line: 643-0899
http://www.hawaiiadrc.org