Profile of University of Hawai‘i (UH) Employees Who Are Family Caregivers

The following information comes from 248 UH employees responding to a survey and reporting that they provide care to older family members or friends on a regular basis. Respondents to this survey are referred to as family caregivers.¹

About the Family Caregivers

The average age of these family caregivers ranged from 24 to 83 years with an average of 56.16 years. Most (73.4%) were female. Most of the family caregivers were married (71%), although quite a few (29%) were single, divorced or widowed. Their self-report primary ethnicities were Japanese (44%), followed by Caucasian (27%), Chinese (11%), Hawaiian (9%), Filipino (7%), and Pacific Islander (2%).

Nearly one-third (31.9%) of these family caregivers reported that they had worked for UH for 20 years or more. They represented a variety of job classifications (see below).

About their Care Recipients and Caregiving Duties

The average age of the older adults for whom these caregivers were providing care was 81.1 years. The vast majority of care recipients were the mother or father of the family caregiver (71.1%), although some were taking care of spouses (5.8%), grandparents (5.3%) or other family (5.3%). Nearly half (40.4%) of the care recipients lived in the same house as their caregiver, although some lived within a few miles (31.8%) or within an hour’s drive (7.9%). Some care recipients lived on a neighbor island (2.7%), on the mainland (5.8%) or in another country (1.3%).

¹The survey took place in Fall 2009. Depending upon their job classification and duties, employed family caregivers were invited to participate via either e-mail or a letter sent via campus mail.
On average, caregivers estimated that they missed 6.2 days of work during the previous year to fulfill caregiving duties (s.d. 11 days). During this same time, the average caregiver estimate for having to take part of the day off was 9.75 part-days (s.d. 18 days). The types of services and the number of caregivers reporting that they provided each service are listed below.

![Services Provided for Care Recipients](image)

**About the Support These Caregivers Need**

Caregivers felt they needed a variety of services to help them fulfill their duties to their care recipients. These services are listed below.

![Services Needed](image)

**Summary and Implications**

Many employees at UH are family caregivers. They hold a variety of jobs at UH: faculty, civil service, professional support, and executive administrators. On average, these caregivers reported taking 6.2 full days and 9.75 part-days off during the previous year to fulfill caregiving duties. The most common services that caregivers reported needing were informational services (such as workshops and referrals) and flexible work schedules. Family caregivers who are employed at UH would benefit from programs to help them with their caregiving duties.