

## **RESPITE COMPANION SERVICE PROGRAM**

**State of Hawaii**  
**Department of Human Services**  
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### What is the Respite Companion Service Program?

The Respite Companion Service Program (RCSP) is an employment and training program established by the department which provides part-time community service employment opportunities as Respite Companions for low-income, able-bodied adults age 55 years and older, who assist families provide care for the frail elderly in homes, in adult day care or adult day health centers.

Since July 1980, RCSP has received federal funding annually from the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) under the Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), Workforce Development Division. It is administered by the Department of Human Services, Social Services Division, Adult & Community Care Services Branch.

### What are the Respite Companion Service Program's goals?

1. To increase the participant's economic self-sufficiency;
2. To assist the participants transition to unsubsidized employment;
3. To provide relief to family care givers to reduce their burnout and to enable their families to continue caring for their loved ones in their homes.

### Who is eligible to be a Respite Companion?

Individuals who are:

- 55 years of age or older;
- Low income;
- In good health;
- Able to work/train 19 hours a week;
- Unemployed and looking for employment.
- Willing to assist the frail elderly with personal care, exercises, and socialization activities.

### What are the benefits to program participants?

- Minimum Wage;
- Free pre-employment physical exam and annual physical exam;
- Free Bus Pass or mileage reimbursement;
- Paid trainings;
- Job readiness counseling & resume writing assistance.

### What services are provided by the Respite Companion Service Program?

Respite Companions carry out activities and tasks to enable family caregivers the opportunity to keep their frail elderly family members at home.