

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 4, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 222 HD2 SD1](#) – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

Hearing: April 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconferencing, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure and provides comments on this measure. However, DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce priorities identified in the executive budget and Governor's Messages.

**PURPOSE:** This bill adjusts the method by which DHS calculates payments to providers of medical care and long-term supports and services. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/2024.

(SD1)

The HD2 amended the measure by:

- (1) Adding a preamble;
- (2) Clarifying that the methodology used by DHS in calculating each biennial budget organizations and prepaid health plans;
- (3) Clarifying that the annual report to the Legislature by DHS is to be submitted when the Department reviews rates without Medicare comparisons;
- (4) Defecting the date; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of June 30, 2024; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

DHS appreciates the intent to clarify and adjust the Medicaid fee schedule and to determine rates for non-institutional long-term supports and services. DHS conferred with Senator Moriwaki and Representative Hashimoto on a similar bill, HB 1438.<sup>1</sup> Rates that do not have Medicare rates for equivalent services, such as all home and community-based waiver services (HCBS), are to be reviewed and determined by DHS at least every five years.

An example of such a review is MQD's December 2022 Home and Community Based Rate study for community care foster family homes (CCFFH), Expanded Adult Residential Care Homes, in-home services, and case management services, reported in "Senate Resolution 4: Requesting The Department Of Human Services To Study The Feasibility Of Increasing The Medicaid Reimbursement Rates For Community Care Foster Family Homes, Expanded Adult Residential Care Homes, And Other Types Of Home And Community Based Service Care Providers And Services." (SR4 2022)

If this measure were in effect, then SR 4 legislative report would meet the proposed amendment of section 346-59(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), (pages 9, lines 3- 10) ".....The director shall submit a report to the legislature on or before January 1 of each year when the department reviews rates without medicare comparisons, indicating an estimate of the amount of money required to be appropriated to pay providers [~~at the maximum rates permitted by federal and state rules in the upcoming fiscal year.~~] according to the rates determined by the department without medicare comparisons pursuant to subsection (c)."

The appropriation in Section 3 references funding any costs that may arise while the DHS establishes payment rates pursuant to section 346-59(c), HRS. If this appropriation were to include payment rates DHS recommended based on reviews that have already been completed, the SR4 2022 report includes three scenarios (low, medium, and high) for three different types of home and community based services (alternative community residential such

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<sup>1</sup> HB1438 was not scheduled for hearing in the House.

as community care foster family homes, in-home services, case management services) to consider rate increases for home and community-based services (HCBS). Each service and scenario can be considered independently. The table below includes all three scenarios with the estimated general funds (in millions) highlighted:

**Estimated Modeled Comparison Rate Impact (in millions)**

| Scenarios                        | Low                      |                        | Medium                   |                        | High                     |                        |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
|                                  | Estimated Payment Change | Estimated General Fund | Estimated Payment Change | Estimated General Fund | Estimated Payment Change | Estimated General Fund |
| Residential services             | \$13.50                  | \$5.59                 | \$27.90                  | \$11.56                | \$30.10                  | \$12.47                |
| In-home services                 | \$23.80                  | \$9.86                 | \$34.70                  | \$14.38                | \$40.40                  | \$16.74                |
| Case management services         | \$0.50                   | \$0.21                 | \$1.30                   | \$0.54                 | \$2.30                   | \$0.95                 |
| <b>Total Rate Study Services</b> | <b>\$37.90</b>           | <b>\$15.71</b>         | <b>\$64.00</b>           | <b>\$26.52</b>         | <b>\$72.90</b>           | <b>\$30.21</b>         |

We note that for the increase to be ongoing, the appropriations will need to be added to the HMS 401 base budget in the executive budget bill. Conversely, if this appropriation is via this measure, the increase will only apply in state fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 and will not be ongoing, which would necessitate future budget requests.

Finally, we would note that the committee report requests the Committee on Ways and Means consider funding the services at the low range, and then cites \$9.86 million. The \$9.86 million is the “low scenario” for In-Home services only. If the low-range were considered for all of the home and community based services in the report, the general fund/A funds needed would be \$15.71 million (figures highlighted in the table above).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, April 6, 2023  
Conference Room 211, 10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

RE: Support for H.B. 222 HD2, SD1 Relating to Human Services

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

**AARP supports H.B. 222 HD2,SD1** which adjusts the method by which the department of human services shall calculate payments to providers of medical care and long-term supports and services.

AARP appreciates the inclusion of long term care support and service providers who care for many kupuna needing assistance whether in an institutional setting or in their home which is their preference. In a 2021 quantitative research study among Hawai'i residents age 45 and older, an overwhelming number of individuals expressed a desire to remain in their homes and community as they age. 83% of those surveyed said that it is extremely or very important for them to stay in their home as they get older, and 75% said it was important to have affordable long-term care options in their community. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Hawai'i residents age 45+ are extremely or very concerned about being able to age in place.<sup>1</sup>

AARP feels strongly that Hawaii should expand funding for a wide range of home and community based services (HCBS) through Medicaid, and that state should fund the services needed to meet individuals' long term care services and support needs and allow them to remain in the community. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support **H.B. 222 HD2, SD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i S. Lopez".

Keali'i S. López, State Director

<sup>1</sup>AARP VITAL VOICES: Issues That Impact Hawai'i Adults Age 45 and Older, October 2021

# ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

P.O. Box 970092, Waipahu, Hawai'i 96797

April 4, 2023

Maribel Tan  
President

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB222 HD2 SD1** – HRE/PSM, WAM – 4/6/23,  
10:00 a.m., Rm. 211

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and  
Members of the Committees:

The Adult Foster Home Care Association of Hawaii (AFHA) **strongly supports HB222 HD2 SD1**, which adjusts the method by which the department of human services shall calculate payments to providers of medical care and long-term supports and services.

Community care foster family homes (CCFFHs), which supplies over 2,000 beds statewide to elderly and disabled Hawai'i residents, have not seen any increase in reimbursement for over 14 years. We've borne the brunt of inflation and other cost increases. 14 years – we are at a loss for words.

We applaud the state for commissioning the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rate Study Report by Milliman last year. Finally, someone has validated what we have been saying for the last 14 years. For years, it's as if no one has taken us seriously, taking us for granted. Finally, someone is recognizing our plight as an industry.

Based on the Milliman Report, the Department of Human Services, Med-Quest Division (Med-Quest) concluded: "It is also important to focus on HCBS providers who serve groups with high utilization of services and who have gone the longest without a rate update such as case management agencies, **community care foster family homes**, and adult day health and day care centers."

Ironically, the recognition of our hardship comes from an outside consultant from out-of-state. Perhaps a broader national perspective accentuates how far behind CCFFHs lag behind and how we are undervalued. We emphatically join Med-Quest in their observation that it is time "to revise how providers of long-term care are reimbursed to better meet current and future needs." Now is the time!

We were already the lowest paid in the nation – below even the "low" end of the spectrum according to Milliman. Inflation, which spiraled out-of-control, has exacerbated the challenges. Our industry and profession is one in which the younger generation in our country have little interest. Rarely does a young person today have ambitions to become a CCFFH or other type of care home. We need to set a solid foundation for the future.

## About AFHA

The Adult Foster Home Association of Hawaii (AFHA) is the industry trade association of providers under the Community Care Foster Family Home program under the Department of Human Services, State of Hawaii. With a membership of almost 1000 providers, AFHA's mission is to promote the interests of providers as well as resident

clients. AFHA members provide 24-hour care to resident clients 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Testimony of AFHA in Support of HB222 HD2 SD1

April 6, 2023 – WAM

Page 2 of 2

With our aging population and as “patient preferences have shifted away from institutional settings to home- and community-based” settings, this is an issue that will potentially lead to a crisis in the future. We implore you to support this measure for the future of Hawaii.

Please SUPPORT HB 222 HD2 SD1.

Very truly yours,

Maribel Tan  
President

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB222, HD2, SD1

**Chair Donavan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees:**

We, the Presidents of the five Associations of Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH's) in the State of Hawaii representing nearly **85%** of the community caregiver industry, which are under Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawai'i (AFHA of HI), United Caregivers of Hawai'i (UCH), Community Homecare Association Of Hawai'i (CHCAH), Alliance of Professional Primary Care Administrators (APPCA) and Providers Helping Hands of Hawaii (PH3), humbly requests your support to increase the reimbursement rates for CCFFH's in the State. Reimbursements to CCFFH in Hawai'i have not increased since 2008, fourteen (14) years ago. Meanwhile, we provide 24/7 care 365 days a year for a flat- rate, which calculates to **\$1.71** per hour - no overtime, no benefits -just **\$1.71/hr** for 24-hour care.

While we have had no increase in reimbursement rates, our costs have escalated. It's just so difficult financially, especially with the cost of housing and living in Hawaii as it is one of the highest in the nation. Caregivers must pay their mortgage for their homes, medical insurance, not to mention electricity, water, and sewer costs that residents use; property taxes, general excise taxes, and income taxes; food, and kitchen, bathroom, and laundry supplies consumed by residents; the cars and gasoline used to bring their clients to the doctor; the insurance they are required to carry; any entertainment they are expected to provide their residents. We help our residents preserve their dignity **giving** them the feeling that they still belong in the community.

Even through the worst pandemic in the history, CCFFH's maintained high standards with very few cases of COVID transmission and deaths. All this for **\$1.71** per hour, or **\$1231.80** per month, which was just increase to **\$1324.80** per month equivalent to **\$1.84** per hour starting last **January 1, 2023** but with the current inflation rate, It is **not enough**. **We request an increase in accordance to the Milliman Study which was submitted to DHS/Med-Quest Division last December 30,2022.** It's time for us to show some Aloha for our CCFFH's, most of whom are immigrants.

One thing is for sure. We save the State of Hawai'i a lot of money providing our services at these rates. The system would breakdown without the CCFFH program, which has over 3,500 beds. Private facilities, whose main objective is to get private as opposed to Medicaid clients, would be unable to handle the additional capacity. It's time for the State of Hawai'i to do what's right— support us so we can continue to take care of the elderly and disabled.

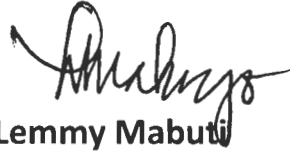
**On behalf of the Presidents and organizations of this coalition we thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony in support of HB222, HD2, SD1.**



**Maribel B. Tan**  
**President**  
**AFHA of HI**



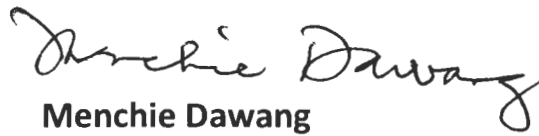
**Carina Ocampo**  
**President**  
**UCH**



**Lemmy Mabuti**  
**President**  
**CHCAH**



**Elma Tierra**  
**President**  
**APPCA**



**Menchie Dawang**  
**President**  
**PH3**



**LATE**

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:20:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                        | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Carina Ocampo       | Testifying for United Caregivers of Hawaii | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

On behalf of our caregiver members, we humbly urge this committee to support and pass this measure because it is long overdue. There has not been a viable pay increase in our industry in over 14 plus years. Even with the combination of state and federal funds for Medicare and Medicaid in long term care services, caregivers are underpaid, delayed paid, and many times not paid.

Hawai'i is a high cost of living state. As we slowly, but quickly come out of the past 3 years of COVID-19 pandemic, the inflation on everything for our basic needs have skyrocketed. Before and during the pandemic, as well as presently, caregivers successfully cared for our kupuna through the most stressful plague of our times the whole world over. We continue to keep our elderly and adults with physical and mental challenges healthy and safe. Thus, we deserve to be compensated justifiably in order for our clients and our families to continue to survive.

Please again, we humbly request your urgent attention in passing HB222 HD2 for the sake of current and future caregivers in the home and community based programs industry.

Carina Ocampo, President

United Caregivers of Hawai'i

**Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Ways and means Committee:**

**TESTIMONY IN SRONG SUPPORT OF HB222, HD2-CAREGIVER'S PERMANENT PAY INCREASE**

**Hearing Date April 6, 2023 – 10:00am-Room 211**

My name is Leticia Dagulo, one of the Community Care Foster Family Home Operator. I strongly support HB222, HD2 to raise the rate services rendered to Medicaid clients. We, the caregivers, have not received an increase for over 14 years.

We live with our clients, providing care 24/7, 365 days a year. We get paid \$1.84 per hour for 24 hours totaling \$44.16 a day and there's no incentives (No health Insurance, no sick leave, no vacation leave, etc.). We are the lowest paid in the nation.

We provide various services, including but not limited to: assisting clients with their activities of daily living, prepping/serving their meals, feeding, bathing, brushing hair/teeth, dressing, nail care, toileting, transferring in and out of their bed/walker/wheelchair, repositioning/turning in bed every 2 to 4 hours, incontinence care, daily skin checks, taking them to medical appointments/shopping/family gatherings, ensuring they take their right medication/dose/time, laundry, taking vital signs= Blood Pressure, Temp, Pulse, Respiration & check glucose, making their bed, changing linens, & entertaining them. We do so much as well as, treat them like a family, and give them all of our love so they can have some dignity in the final phase of their life.

We work hard to provide care to our Kupunas. The cost of living is so high and we cannot afford to pay our Secondary Caregiver for the pay we are receiving right now which is \$44.16 effective January 1, 2023 per day.

Thank you so much for listening and your continued support to pass our bill HB222, HD2. We are struggling because the price for everything had gone up.

Thank you in advance for supporting HB222, HD2.



Leticia Dagulo  
95-528 Wailoa Loop  
Mililani, HI 96789  
Tel. # 808-383-9106

Community Home Care  
Association of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 971450, Waipahu HI 96797

To: **Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair and Members of the Committees:**

From: Lemmy Mabuti, President of the Community Home Care Association

Subject: **HB 222, HD2 – RELATING TO CCFFH**

Hearing: Thursday 6, 2023, 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Timeslot: WAM

**TESTIMONY: STRONGLY IN SUPPORT – HB 222, HD2**

On behalf of the Community Home Care Association, strongly support HB-222, HD2. We provide 24/7 care 365 days a year for a flat-rate I've also learned and convinced that, with the work we provide for our elderly I truly believed that we are NOT gone up a single cent, yet we are asked to pay fees such as Medicaid provider's registration fee. In addition to fees, we also pay for fingerprint, APS/CAN, eCrim including adult household members every two years, CPR/First Aid, In-service training for 12 hours every year, and most of all we pay our Health Insurance. Please note, we are only getting compensated \$41.06 per day (\$1.71 hourly) for a level 2 client.

The skyrocketing costs of providing care to the elderly and disabled make it nearly impossible to operate. Caregivers must pay their mortgage for their homes, most of which is used by the residents. Caregiver must also pay for utilities, food, laundry supplies consumed by residents; gasoline used to bring residents to the doctors' appointments. How do you stretch \$1.71 per hour for all these costs and still make a living?

It takes a great deal of commitment, dedication, patience, and love of the job to be able to keep working 24/7 in caring for our clients. Duties are included but not limited to tending to client for safety ensuring medications are taken or administered every day, preparing and cooking their foods 3meals a day including spoon-fed to our clients, assistance in and out of bed to wheelchair and going to the bathroom, changing their diapers, bathing, linen change, maintaining cleanliness to their rooms, recording, and maintaining all pertinent medical record and files.

Again, all these duties for \$41.06 per day and to think about it that this amount are not enough compared to a nursing home rate. This rate has been for a decade now. (14 years)

I humbly ask to all authorities to grant our request.

Very truly yours,

Lemmy Maluyo-Mabuti, president  
Community Home Care Association

## **HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair**

**Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 24, 2023, 11:30 am**

**Re: [HB 222, HD2](#) - RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

**Aloha Chair Yamashita and Committee Members.**

**My name is Linda Dorset, a resident of Wailuku, Maui. I thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the above referenced legislation. I strongly support HB222 which will ensure the achievement of fair and full funding of medicaid medical care and long-term supports and services providers.**

**In a 2021 study among Hawai'i residents age 45 and older, an overwhelming number of individuals expressed a desire to remain in their homes and community as they age. Apparently the majority of the Medicaid budget is currently for payments to HMOs and prepaid health plans and not for adult foster care homes. Since I see that many foster care caregivers have testified that they have not received a pay increase in over 14 years and are having difficulty continuing to provide care, I feel this is in direct negligence to the needs of our seniors.**

**Hawaii should expand funding for a wide range of home and community based services (HCBS) through Medicaid, and that state should fund the services needed to meet individuals' long term care services and support needs and allow seniors to remain in the community.**

**Linda Dorset**

**Wailuku Resident**

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 10:37:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dan Gardner         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Senator Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee - I ask that you please support HB 222 HB2 SD1. It will provide for a better reimbursement program for providers of medical care and long-term supports and services. Providing this additional funding will enable senior citizens to continue to reside longer in their homes, a highly desired outcome for a large majority of this population. Please back this critical legislation. Thank you.

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:41:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cards Pintor        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Hearing:** Thursday, April 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 222, SD1  
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

**To:** Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair;  
Committee on Ways and Means

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of **HB 222, SD1**, Relating to Human Services. We need to adequately compensate physicians and providers of medical services so they can continue to care for our Kupuna.

**HB 222, SD1:** Adjusts the method by which the Department of Human Services shall calculate payments to providers of medical care and long-term supports and services. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/2024 (SD1)

I urge you to support **HB 222, SD1**.

Anna Filler  
Senatorial District 12,  
Email: [afiller@twc.com](mailto:afiller@twc.com)

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 12:41:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa Smith          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB222, HD2, SD1. Our community caregivers provide 24/7 care 365 days a year for a flat-rate of approximately \$41.06 per day (\$1.71 hourly) for a level 2 client. If these patients were in hospitals it would cost the state millions to provide such long-term healthcare. Therefore, I support this bill for a pay increase for community caregivers.



**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 12:44:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jasmine Ramos       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB222, HD2, SD1, because our community caregivers have not received a pay increase for 14 years. This bill is fair as we work to provide adequate wages for our healthcare workforce.

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 12:48:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tiffany Sims        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB222, HD2, SD1, because this will provide fair wages for our community care home operators who provide 24/7 healthcare to our Kupuna and disabled.

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 12:51:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Garcia         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB222, HD2, SD1 as this will provide a small pay raise for Hawaii's community caregivers who dedicate their homes and 24/7 service to ensure our elderly are provided with great health care services.

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 1:14:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mike Ching          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB222, HD2, SD1 as this will provide a pay increase for our community caregivers.

**LATE**

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 4:21:20 PM  
Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| claribel cabantog   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB222 HD2 SB2 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 15 years. It has been hard to keep my Foster Carehome open. I'm struggling to pay for my mortgage payments and other bills. I keep my home open because i really care for my clients. It is not an easy job to take care of clients 24hr/7 days a week. The cost of living is so high and we can not afford to pay Substitute caregiver for the pay we are receiving right now, which is 44.16 a day. Please help us get an increse. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Claribel Cabantog - Primary Caregiver/ CNA for 16yrs

**LATE**

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:03:49 PM  
Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Gloria M Aves       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB222.

A long overdue reimbursement/pay increase for foster homes is needed for them to have a decent lifestyle. It is imperative because the cost of living is soaring due to inflation and caregivers need to be fairly compensated for the service they are rendering. The State is saving a lot of money because if we compare the amount the State is paying for Medicaid clients in nursing homes (around \$7k per month) compared to the community homes or foster homes (around \$1,300 per month).

Please pass this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:38:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Beatriz Borres      | Testifying for Foster home operator | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB222 bill to increase payments, because we do 24/7 care. I have a dementia client restless and agitated during the night and my other client have dementia and confused wandering around the house during the day and after midnight. Even I need help to care and secure their safety I cannot afford to hire a substitute caregiver to watch for their safety at night as I need to rest too. Please increase our payments so we can afford to pay substitute caregiver to ensure our client 24/7 safety and care. Thank you

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:50:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Inam Rahman         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

HB222 HD2SD1

Aloha!

My name is Ikeda Rahman Perreira. I am a medical doctor with a private practice in Honolulu for 30 years.

I am submitting my testimony in support of HB 222 HD2 SD1 which will allow Department of Human Services to adjust Hawaii Medicaid fee schedule equal to Medicare fee schedule

I believe passage of this bill is important as it will eventually help our elderly, poor and vulnerable communities, healthcare businesses as well as State.

We have growing elderly population in Hawaii which require more Adult-care homes and Foster-care home services to take care of them properly. Unfortunately there is a shortage of these services due to many Adult-care and Foster care Homes being closed and not enough new ones opening to meet the demand.

Foster-care homes and Adult-care homes are not able to sustain their businesses due to underpayment by the State.

I believe that increasing the Medicaid payment equal to medicare will not only benefit our elderly, poor and vulnerable community but also help the businesses from closing down to provide essential services to our elderly

Additionally, it will benefit State to save million of dollars not forcing it to find very expensive alternate entities to take care of our elderly. The cost of alternate will be much high to State.

The same scenario applies to all health care providers including physicians, Nurse practitioners, psychologists and others which are in very much shortage and many are not willing to take medicaid patients due to

Low payments.



I respectfully submit that this bill should be approved for the benefit of our community, State and tax payers

Respectfully,

Inam Ikeda Rahman Perreira MD

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 10:45:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>       | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Mahalo!

**LATE**

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2023 5:51:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ruthie Agbayani     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha! I am in full support of this measure. Home & community based programs providing healthcare services for our kupuna & adults with complex health conditions, physical disabilities & mental challenges who are Medicare & Medicaid recipients are long overdue for a pay increase that is conducive to quality services & survival with Hawai'i's cost of living & inflation increase post COVID19 pandemic challenges. Please give your utmost attention to this matter for the sake & future of this much needed industry in the overall healthcare system. Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2023 9:07:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Marites Anacleto | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear WAM Committee,

We need your help. We make only \$47.06/day to care for elderly and disabled clients who are unable to take care of themselves. In addition, we provide 24/7 care 365 days a year.

The level of care we provide is difficult, especially on top of meeting the needs of our families.

For instance, our care for our clients includes cooking, cleaning after themselves, bathing them, assisting and helping them to use the bathroom, dressing them, taking them to medical appointments, ensuring they do not miss any doses of their medication, washing their laundry, entertaining them, redirecting them, and giving them all of our love and attention so they can have dignity in the final phase of their life.

However, given our current pay, we are at a breaking point. We are struggling to even care for ourselves anymore at this pay level. We want you to understand our situation and help us secure a pay raise. We have to pay our rent or mortgage for the place where our residents live.

We also pay for electricity, water, and sewer costs that residents use; for property taxes, general excise taxes, and income taxes; for food, and kitchen, bathroom, and laundry supplies all for our residents. We also have to maintain our cars and buy gasoline used to bring our residents to the doctor. Finally, we are required to maintain insurance.

Furthermore, we have not received an increase in 15 years. With the approval of HB222, this will be an honor in itself as it will bring a positive impact to us caregivers tremendously.

Please help us and pass HB222. Thank you in advance for your time!

Aloha,

Marites Anacleto

**LATE**

**HB-222-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2023 9:33:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| WANNETTE<br>GAYLORD | Testifying for ARCA-<br>ALLIANCE OF<br>RESIDENTIAL CARE<br>ADMINISTRATORS | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I SUPPORT THIS BILL FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR KUPUNA COMMUNITY.