

HR-78

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 9:27:08 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2024 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| roma magnaye | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To all committee,

I Roma M Robles, strongly supporting the 78 HR REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF INCREASING THE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENT RATE FOR HAWAII'S COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES AND EXPANDED ADULT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR MEDICAID CLIENTS.

We are knocking, to be heard and considered our voices, most of us being details on why and how we our begging to get what we deserve.

This time, we (I) strongly believe that it will happen, we will get our BILL. We believe whoever will be involved on decisions making will be blessed with our Almighty Lord.

Sincerely and thank you!

ROMA M ROBLES

CAREUNIQUE LLC

HR-78

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 11:11:28 AM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2024 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Marylo Farinas | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Being a caregiver is not easy very challenging we always put ourselves last just to provide quality service for our Kupunas. What we currently getting compensated of \$44.16 per day for a level 2 medicaid client which is below the state minimum wage. We pay our own health insurance coverage, we don't have paid holidays or vacation, as matter of fact we pay SCG to cover for us if we need to leave our home at a rate of \$20 per hour. In addition we also pay license fees, liability insurance, continuing education and pay taxes. With that said, I request to please consider passing this bill for our long overdue pay rate increase. Thank you.

HR-78

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 3:09:17 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2024 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nenita Gouveia | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Nenita Gouveia, and I have been a caregiver for 18 years. Throughout my years of experience in this field, I have seen firsthand the struggles and challenges faced by caregivers. We are responsible for providing care and support to those who are unable to fully care for themselves, whether due to old age, illness, or disability. It is a job that requires not only physical strength but also a great deal of compassion and emotional resilience. However, despite the importance of our role, caregivers like myself often receive inadequate compensation for our work.

This is why I wholeheartedly endorse HR78, a bill that aims to increase the wages of caregivers. As a caregiver myself, I know firsthand the financial struggles that come with this job. The current compensation is simply not enough to cover all our expenses, from bills to food, housing, and other necessities. With the high cost of living, it has become increasingly difficult to make ends meet, let alone save for the future.

Caregiving is not just a job for me; it is a calling. I am passionate about helping others and making a positive impact in their lives. Like many caregivers, my main goal is not financial gain. However, this does not mean that we should be exploited and undervalued. We deserve to be fairly compensated for the essential work we do.

As caregivers, we are expected to provide high-quality care to our clients. This requires a great deal of skill, patience, and dedication. We are responsible for their well-being, and we often go above and beyond our duties to ensure that they are comfortable and happy. However, how can we deliver such quality care when we are struggling to make ends meet? It is not fair that we are expected to perform our duties with such excellence, yet we are not given the compensation we deserve.

Furthermore, being a caregiver also comes with a great deal of responsibility and accountability. We are entrusted with the safety and health of our clients, and any mistake can have serious consequences. We undergo extensive training and continue to update our skills to ensure that we are able to provide the best care possible. Our compensation should reflect the level of expertise and commitment that comes with being a caregiver.

HR78 is not just about increasing our wages; it is about recognizing the value of our work and the sacrifices we make. It is about acknowledging the vital role that caregivers play in society

and giving us the respect and dignity we deserve. It is time for the government to prioritize the well-being of caregivers and ensure that we are adequately compensated for our hard work.

In conclusion, I urge the government to pass HR78 and increase the wages of caregivers. As someone who has dedicated 18 years of my life to this noble profession, I can attest to the need for fair compensation. Let us not forget that behind every caregiver is a person who has chosen to put others before themselves, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are properly taken care of as well. It is time to give caregivers the recognition and support they truly deserve.