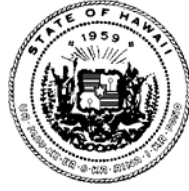


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

February 6, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 222 HD1**– RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

Hearing: February 7, 2023, 8:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconferencing, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: This bill 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. (HD1)

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 Representative Hashimoto on a similar bill HB 1438. Rates that do not have Medicare rates for equivalent services, such as all home and community-based waiver services, 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.

This measure also amends the budget medical care appropriation process. DHS's "medical care appropriation" budget request is to be based on the current Medicaid fee schedule. However, the majority of the Medicaid budget is for payments to health maintenance organizations and prepaid health plans referenced in (d); such a budget request would not reflect the total medical care appropriation needed.

Additionally, to provide more meaningful information in the report to the legislature, we suggest the report focus on the "provider rates determined by the department for services without Medicare comparisons to be reviewed on a consistent schedule." Since the other payment rates are tied to Medicare or are payment rates to managed care organizations, the remaining rates that may require a report would be the ones determined by the Department, which are added through this measure. Therefore, we respectfully request amendments (highlighted) to reflect the full budget medical appropriation request as well as a targeted report:

"(e) The Department shall prepare each biennial budget request for a medical care appropriation based upon the most current Hawaii medicaid fee schedule available at the time the request is prepared [-] and the payment rates pursuant to (d). The legislature shall consider the rates determined by the Department pursuant to subsection (c).

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)."

Finally, if the appropriation is to fund the result of the Home and Community Based Rate (HCBS) study conducted by the Med-QUEST Division and reported in the legislative report, SR 4 (SLH

2022), we note that HB 1341 provides a strong purpose statement and an appropriation of \$30.2M to fully fund the "High" scenario for the select HCBS services. If the appropriation is to fund rate reviews, we would note that American Rescue Plan Act, Section 9817 funds have already been designated for the upcoming fiscal year for this purpose. Therefore, the Department's reference would be to delete the appropriation in Section 2 and to support HB 1341 as long as it does not replace or reduce the priorities in the executive budget and forthcoming Governor's message(s).

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 | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature
House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
Conference Room 329, 8:45 a.m.

TO: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
RE: Support for H.B. 222 HD1 Relating to Human Services

Aloha Co-Chairs Mizuno and Belatti and Members of the Committees:

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 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.¹

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 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keali'i S. Lopez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keali'i S. López, State Director

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

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:36:06 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Sildora	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislature,

I strongly support the HB222-HD1 reimbursement rate. We haven't receive any increase in 14 years.

Moreover, having Foster Care in Our Home is a calling and need a lot of work. 24/7 of Geriatric care that we rendered to our patients. From assisting to total care from their ADL's. We caregivers opened our house to our clients and in return, clients will have a homey environment of care. But, through the years, we haven't have any increase in our pay. We caregivers also need to sustain our living expenses. The rate of \$41.06 per day is degrading to the line of work that we do, that is \$1.71 per hour. (24 hours) that is way below the minimum rate that DOL stated and yet with that rate, the line work that we do is in healthcare. In comparison, the facilities that do the same service and care that we do at CCFFH, get compensated 3 or 4 times more from us.

In conclusion, I plee for your understanding to All of us Adult Foster Home Operators/ caregivers that are struggling on budgeting the little amount that we are receiving for our clients and to our Family. Especially during this time of hardship that Our country is facing with the high inflation. I urge you guys to imagine and try to put yourself in our shoes. I hope that you open your ears and heart on our situation and give us the raise the we All truly deserved.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Mona S.

Dear Legislator:

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 14 years.

It has been so hard to keep my foster home open. I struggle to make my mortgage payments and other bills. I keep my home open because I care for my clients. It is not an easy job to take care of clients 24 hours. We bathe them, change their diapers, carry them during transport, exercise them, cook for them, feed them, entertain them, watch out for their safety, bring them to the doctors and everything else. We have to do this 24 hours a day, every day. We are responsible even at night, weekends, and holidays. We work hard to provide care. The cost of living is so high and we can not afford to pay Secondary Caregiver for the pay we are receiving right now which is \$44.16 per day.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amount we receive for the same care. Our clients live in our home and become our family. Please help us, we are struggling because the price for everything is going up.

Thank you for supporting HB 222-HD1.

[Name]


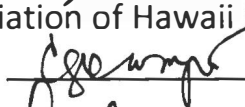

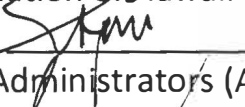
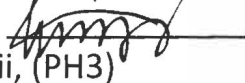
[Address]

[Telephone]

[Email – optional]

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB222, HD1 with Amendments

The Presidents of:

1.  Maribel B. Tan, President, Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawaii (AFHA of HI)
2.  Carina Ocampo, President, United Caregivers of Hawaii (UCH)
3.  Lemmy Maluyo, President, Community Homecare Association of Hawaii (CHCAH)
4.  Elma Tierra, President, Alliance of Professional Primary Care Administrators (APPCA)
5.  Menchie Dawang, President, Providers Helping Hands of Hawaii, (PH3)

We submit this testimony as a coalition in strong support for HB222, HD1, with recommended amendments. We are the Presidents from Five Organizations representing nearly 85% of the community caregiver industry with about 1800 members.

Our first suggested amendment is to provide a sound preamble in the bill, which displays the history and significance of the community based caregivers and care homes. Attached is the recommended preamble starting with **The Legislature finds...**

We request the preamble or introduction section of HB222, HD1 be amended to add the following:

The legislature finds that nearly one third of Hawaii's residents and half of all keiki are enrolled in Medicaid. Since the start of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in March 2020, Medicaid enrollment has increased forty per cent. However, timely access to

providers can prove difficult, especially in rural areas where health care providers are in short supply. In 2022, the State had a shortfall of more than seven hundred fifty full-time physicians and nearly four thousand nonphysician, patient-facing health care workers, such as nurses, technicians, and patient service representatives.

The legislature further finds that due to the significant number of Hawaii residents receiving Medicaid coverage, health care providers often receive less reimbursement from Medicaid than from Medicare or commercial insurances for the same service. While some providers are reimbursed at cost or at the same rates as Medicare such as large hospitals, large nursing centers, and providers who perform certain services most individual health care professionals, such as physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, community based caregivers, advanced practice registered nurses, nurses, certified nursing assistants, and nurse assistants are not. Lesser reimbursements contribute to the challenges providers face in sustaining practices, leading some health care providers to limit or refuse to accept Medicaid patients. If only the large hospitals and large nursing centers receive Medicaid reimbursement equal to the Medicare reimbursement rate, this will cause a substantial reduction of the number of community based care homes in the State who will receive significantly less than health

care providers at large hospitals and nursing centers. The potential closure of community based care homes which is a vital part of the State's long-term health care continuum and provides 24/7 care to over an estimated 12,000 patients many of whom are Medicaid patients will lead to a significant number of patients transferring from these community based care homes to large nursing centers and hospitals. The hospitals and nursing centers will not be able to accept the thousands of patients who may transfer after a significant transfer of patients. Therefore, the Legislature finds it is vital to ensure community based caregivers, such as be not limited to:

- (1) Community care foster family homes issued a certificate of approval pursuant section 321-483, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (2) Adult residential care homes type I licensed pursuant to section 321-15.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- (3) Expanded adult residential care homes licensed pursuant to section 321-15.62, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (4) Developmental disabilities domiciliary homes licensed pursuant to section 321-15.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

The legislature further finds that the department of human services med-QUEST division completed a study of home and community based rates paid for community care foster family homes, expanded adult residential care homes, and other home and community based services. The department of human services med-QUEST division

contracted Milliman, an actuarial firm, for a wide range of services and to conduct the study. The study commenced in July 2022, and the department of human services med-QUEST division issued the final report on December 30, 2022.

The legislature also finds that a key part of the rate study included stakeholder outreach and engagement with home and community based services providers and their associations, collecting provider cost and wage survey data, and getting provider feedback on draft rate calculations. Not surprisingly, the provider surveys showed significant wage pressure given the current labor market. The rate study methodology used wage and salary data for direct care staff and supervisors, employee-related expenses, transportation and administration, program support, overhead, and Bureau of Labor and industry wage indices to pay for employee benefits such as health insurance.

The legislature believes that the pandemic dramatically impacted healthcare and long-term care delivery systems. Many of these changes as they relate to patient preferences, facility staffing practices, and technology utilization will persist long after the pandemic abates. Accordingly, now is an opportune time to determine the long-term continuum of health care reimbursement and reviews ways that it can be objective

and fair to promote patient care quality, support livable wages for staff, and maximize efficiency.

The legislature further finds that the med-QUEST division should undertake rate studies to better understand how the pandemic has shaped long-term care providers. These studies should consider how patient preferences have shifted away from institutional settings and to home and community based care homes; how patient needs evolve with the aging population; the growing complexity of patient care; and what can be done to align Medicaid reimbursement with equal to such reimbursement to the large hospitals and nursing centers in Hawaii. Specific attention is also necessary on programs that reward high-quality care; incentivize accepting and caring for Medicaid beneficiaries, especially those with complex needs; pay wages necessary for the recruitment and retention of staff across the long-term care continuum; and consider the need to update the aging physical infrastructure of many of the State's facilities.

The legislature also finds that it is important to focus on home and community based services 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. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is also changing

payment methods for nursing facilities. State Medicaid agencies will need to adopt new reimbursement methodologies that align with the new federal payment system. These all create opportunities to revise how providers of long-term care are reimbursed to better meet current and future needs.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys for the achievement of fair and full funding, including estimate payment increases, of Medicaid home and community-based services.

The second amendment (Prior to SECTION 3) we suggest is on page 4, end of line 3 after the sentence "amount of money required to be appropriated to pay providers" add the following:

- (1) Community care foster family homes issued a certificate of approval pursuant section 321-483, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (2) Adult residential care homes type I licensed pursuant to section 321-15.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (3) Expanded adult residential care homes licensed pursuant to section 321-15.62, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
- (4) Developmental disabilities domiciliary homes licensed pursuant to section 321-15.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

According to the rates determined pursuant to subsection
(C).

On behalf of the Presidents and organizations of this coalition we thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony in support of HB222, HD1, with the suggested amendments,

February 6, 2023

Dear Legislature,

We are incredibly overwhelmed with gratitude that Congress is now listening to our petition for an increase in Medicaid-Home and Community Base Services pay.

We are foster home operators in the Waipahu area. Other than our AFHA Association, we share ideas and learn from each other in solving concerns and providing excellent care to our clients.

Our clients come to our foster home with underlying medical, physical, mental, and emotional problems. Caregivers embrace them and work hard to meet the client's needs when they are under our care in our homes.

Because of these clients' conditions, they are even more prone to getting sick, either related/unrelated to their current underlying conditions upon admission. During such, which happens very frequently, we, the caregivers, are on 24/7 to monitor the client, communicate with their doctors, case management in charge, and update their families with the client's current condition.

In addition, we hire our secondary caregiver for 4 to 6 hours at a rate of \$15 an hour to cover for us to bring our clients to their doctor appointments and shopping for their food, medicine, and other household needs.

Caregiver services also include charting/documentation and client's care, such as bathing, driving, meal preparation, household chores, laundry, and shopping. Though we commit to these tasks while they are under our care, a pay increase would definitely be a great incentive to provide more quality service and in making our home more of a "client's home away from their own home."

Respectfully,

Arceli S. Acio

(808) 772-9401

94-478 Kipou St. Waipahu HI 96797

rcel.acio@yahoo.com

Maricel Estorquia

(808) 429-6480

94-1241 Henokea St. Waipahu HI 96797

maricelmanuel11@yahoo.com

Joy Calma

(808) 492-6363

94-734 Kaiao St. Waipahu HI 96797

joycalma59@yahoo.com

Dear Legislator,

My name is Jolly Orozco. I have been a caregiver for the past 19 years and I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate; for which we have not seen a raise for over 14 years. As caregivers, we work tirelessly to provide more than adequate care services to the Kupuna of Hawaii. Our work duties include everything you could possibly imagine if you were to take care of your own parents or a child per say. This job is 24/7 365 days a year, and a reimbursement rate of \$44.16 a day does not adequately compensate for the blood, sweat, and tears we put into our profession of taking care of the people that came before us.

\$44.16 is not improper compensation for the hours and work put in, but the lack of raises also does not follow industry trends or the rise in inflation. Over the past 14 years, most other industries, along with the minimum wage in Hawaii, have increased to follow inflation. The lack of raises in our profession have made it difficult to keep up with the cost of living in Hawaii which makes it hard to be able to stay in this profession.

Facilities are making 3-5 more in compensation than we do for the same type of work. We are not asking for much. We are only asking to be adequately compensated for the work that we do. Please help us provide adequate care for our kupuna by supporting HB222-HD1.

Thank you for your support,

Jolly Orozco

94-1022 Kaloli Loop
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

(808)358-3571

josal97@gmail.com

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement raise. This is due to the current inflation in the country specifically the state of Hawaii, which has made the cost of living standards go up. We caregivers are struggling financially because of all the expenses. I strongly feel that we have earned this pay raise since the last 14 years.

The commitment, compassion, and sacrifice of caregivers working 24/7 spend countless hours to meet and anticipate the needs of our dear patients while balancing the pressures and responsibilities of our own family. Primary caregivers provide regular care to our patients and more difficult to the ones with the health concerns or disabilities.. We caregivers doing an important role in the quality of their life in a way that we are putting most of our time taking care of them.

We are receiving \$ 44.16 payment a day. Knowing how hard our work is compare to those working hourly rate. Facilities receive more than what we received knowing that we are giving the same care. . We barely have time to rest or even no time to go out with our own family because our priority is to look after our dear patient. Also we can't afford the payment of the SCG considering the hourly rate of SCG is much more than we received per day Helping them with their daily needs 24/7 is not an easy job

Your consideration is highly appreciated. Please here our voices Thank you in advance Waiting for favorable response

Yours truly
Charmaine Claudine M Ramos
938 Paaaina St. Pearl City HI 96782
808-202-6767

ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

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

Feb. 7, 2023

Maribel Tan
President

Testimony in Strong Support of HB222 – HUS/HLT – 2/7/23, 8:45 a.m., Rm. 211
(Testifier to Appear via Videoconference)

Chairs Mizuno and Belatti, Vice Chairs Amato and Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

The Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawaii (AFHA) **strongly supports HB222 HD1**, 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 and the challenges we face.

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.” (Emphasis added.)

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 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 to open a 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 1,000 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.

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 HD1.

Very truly yours,

Maribel Tan
President

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:52:54 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Charlotte Quitevis	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Leigislator,

I Maria Charlotte Quitevis, supporting HB222- DD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 14 years. I struggle to make my mortgage payments and bills. I keep my home open because I care for my clients. It's not an easy job to take care clients 24 hours. We bathe them, change their diapers, carry them during transport, exercise them, cook for them, feed them, entertain them, watch them for their safety, bring them to the doctors and everything else. We have to do this for 24 hours everyday. We care responsible even at night, weekends and holidays. We work hard to provide care. The cost of living is so high and we cannot afford to pay secondary caregiver for the pay we are receiving right now which is \$44.16 per day.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amount we receive for the same care. Our clients live in our home and become our family. Please help us, we are struggling because the price for everything is going up.

Thank you for supporting HB222-HD1.

Maria Charlotte Quitevis

94-524 Loaa St. Waipahu HI 96797

808-6275510

mariacharlottequitevis@yahoo.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:10:24 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gloria M Aves	Adult Foster Homecare Assn of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being a foster home caregiver has its advantages and disadvantages. Caring for 2 or 3 elderlies gives the convenience of staying home while rendering service to them and no need to dress up, drive to the workplace. The main disadvantage is its a very low paying endeavor. Comparing the compensation of the caregivers working in hospitals, facilities and other home setting care giving facilities, the payment of a foster home operator is very low. With a 24/7 job and responsibility, less than \$2 an hour is far from a decent compensation. The workload and the responsibility is too heavy.

A pay increase is badly needed especially at this time when the prices of all goods and services skyrocketed and the mere pay that we receive is just enough for survival.

Doing this job needs some destressing and relaxation. But with the reimbursement we are receiving, we cannot afford to pay a substitute who can come and take over so we can get out of our homes and recharge to keep our sanity and have some rest & relaxation. When we take an extended vacation , say a week or two, it is already very costly so many of us are burnout and thinking to give up.

Some of us foster home operators are even resorting to have the "unlicensed care homes" or having an "illegal addition of client" just to make both ends meet. If the compensation is good enough, I believe that the proliferation of unlicensed care homes will be curtailed.

We had been clamouring for the overdue pay raise for the longest time. Recently, there is a raise of meager \$3 a day. What can this insignificant amount do to help ease the burden? We hope that they can hear us this Session in the Legislature and take a look at the predicament of foster home caregivers.

Dear Legislator:

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increased for over 14 years.

It has been so hard to keep my foster home open. I struggle to make my mortgage payments and other bills. I keep my house open because I care for my clients. It is not easy job to take care is clients 24 hours. We bathe them, change their diapers, carry them during transport, exercise them, cook for them, feed them, entertain them, watch out for their safety, and bring them to the doctors and everything else. We have to do these 24 hours a day every day. We are responsible even at night, weekends, and holidays. We work hard to provide care. The cost of living is so high and we cannot afford to pay Secondary Caregiver for the pay we are receiving right now which is \$44.16 per day.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amount we receive for the same care. Our clients live in our home and become our family. Please help us; we are struggling because the price of everything is going up.

Thank you for supporting HB222-HHD1

Gudelia S Cruz, Foster Care Operator
91-1054 Haawina Street
Kapolei, HI 96707
Phone: (808)674-2706 Home
(808)728-2704 Cell

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:26:37 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Jane Lopez	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Dear Legislators, I strongly support HB222. To keep a foster how is a struggle considering how expensive cost is living right now. The increase of rate is very important to sustain our small business. I hope that you would take the bill into a very serious consideration. We appreciate everything that you do . Thank you very much! Mary Jane Lopez

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:40:01 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josie L Taylan	ADULT FOSTER HOME	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have yet to receive an increase in payment for over 14 years.

It has been difficult for me to keep my foster home open. I struggle to make mortgage payments and other bills. I have kept my home open for these past years because I truly care for my clients. Taking care of my clients, however, is not so easy. We have to take care of them 24/7, i.e giving them baths, changing their diapers, carrying and transporting them to different areas, exercising them, cooking, cleaning, as well as doing laundry for them. We also entertain our clients, watch for their safety, and most importantly we take them to doctor appointments. We constantly have to do this on an everyday basis. We have no off days, we take care of them during holidays, weekends, the day, and night. Though it is our responsibility and duty to do these things, we can't continue to support and care for our clients in this high-cost-of-living society. We are doing our best to work hard to provide for our clients. Meanwhile, we aren't able to afford to pay our Secondary Caregivers, which right now is \$44.16 per day.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amount that we caregivers receive for the same care. However, our clients become a part of our family as they are living in our homes. Because of this, we are asking for your help because of everything that is going on in our economy, we would gladly appreciate your support for this bill and for the raise of our reimbursement rate.

Thank You

Josie Taylan

94-538 Unit A Koaleo St. Waipahu HI 96797

(808) 232-4630

josie.taylan@yahoo.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:44:03 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BERNADETTE FIRME	UNITED CAREGIVER OF HAWAII-UCH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL IN ACCORDANCE OF ONGOING LIFE EVENTS RIGHT NOW LIKE PANDEMIC OF HIGH PRICES OF COMMODITIES. WE ENCOURAGE THE LEGISLATURE OVER SEE OUR NEED OF PAY INCREASE FROM HARDWORK AND EFFORT IN TAKING CARE OF OUR KUPUNA OF ELDERLY 24/7.

WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT THIS BILL BE GRANTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL CAREGIVERS IN THIS ISLAND .

THANK YOU AND ALOHA

February 6, 2023

Dear Legislator,

As a primary caregiver, I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 14 years.

We are getting paid only for \$44.16 per day. This rate has been the same over ten years and we are asking you for an increase. As a foster home caregiver, we are monitoring our clients 24/7. We are really underpaid for this rate and does not cover our expenses.

I humbly ask the legislator to support us by reviewing HB222-HD1 and granting our request.

Thank you,

Mercy Esteban

CCFFH PCG_CNA

Phone Number: 8087998497

Email: babypandan63@yahoo.com

Betty Vera Cruz

3611 Aliamanu St.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

February 06, 2023

Dear Legislator,

Paying our mortgage and other bills is a struggle for us to keep our Fosterhome open. Taking care of our clients 24/7 is not an easy job. I do respect and I do care our clients, that is why I still continue this kind of job. Doctor's appointments transportation, bathe them, changing of diapers, monitor their medications, cook food of what they want, feed them, do laundry, and watch for their safety even at night. We worked hard to provide their care. Paying a secondary caregiver costs us too much and we're only paid \$44.16 a day, whereas facilities are receiving 3 to 5 times the amount we received with the same care.

Our clients live in our house as part of the household and recognized them as a family. We are asking your help for us to live comfortably and not worrying too much to pay our mortgage, high costs of living, inflation as to say.

I strongly support HB222-HD1 Pay Increase Bill, which we haven't receive an increase for 14 years. And thank you also for supporting HB222-HD1.

Respectfully,

Marcela Briones
94-607 Kipou Street Waipahu, HI 96797
(858) 888-2964
egrace2590@yahoo.com

Patricia Nicolas
2008 Kealoha Street Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 741-1672
patricianicolas1@gmail.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:16:41 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marybeth Leano	Community Care Family Foster Home	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to increase the pay of the CCFFH caregivers due to their hardwork and sacrifices in taking care of our beloved kupunas. The increase will help the caregivers to pay their high mortgage/rents, utilities and other expenditures especially on foods.

Please pass this bill. Your help is highly appreciated. Thank you.

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:30:43 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carina Ocampo	United Caregivers of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

In behalf of the United Caregivers of Hawaii, we strongly support HB222-HD1 to increase our reimbursement rate.

For not having been received an increase for many years despite of the high cost and sudden rise of all commodities, utilities, and mortgages. We deserve to have our pay be increased.

We do our best to provide the best quality care to our kupuna with 24/7 services. They live in our home and we treat them as part of our family.

As we sacrifice and struggle with the situation. Please help us support HB222-HD1.

Sincerely,

Carina Ocampo

UCH President

To Hawaii State Legislature

From Madelyn Juliano , CNA

Kauai Caregivers CCFH owner/operator

Running a foster care home for the elderly is in many ways a joy and a higher calling.

Bringing comfort and security to the twilight years of my clients by providing them with basic needs as well as enrichment activities gives me a sense of purpose and the satisfaction of knowing I positively impact the lives of others. My job is to take care of my clients to the best of my ability and I am my own boss.

Running a foster care home for the elderly is also, however in many ways, a BIG challenge.

I can't leave my home without a substitute caregiver, which I can't afford due to the high cost of employee maintenance and inflation which means even basic errands and helping my kids is a constant source of worry, not to mention I haven't had a vacation for years.

I gross what would seem to many a fairly high amount of income each month, but the amount of food, electricity, laundry, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies the clients incur leaves me with barely enough to cover my mortgage, bills and certainly not enough to hire a substitute so I can have a life.

Under the current compensation system for 1 private and 1 medicaid, I have about enough per month profit, which goes to state and federal taxes, enough to spend on myself each month, which makes this a sustainable business, but not a profitable one.

And let's not forget as a self employed small business owner I have no medical dental or 401K anymore.(thanks to our significant other who include us with their employer benefits plan}

Some of my fellow CCFH owners have given up and gone back to working in hospitals again because there is simply no incentive to keep operating long term in the current economic climate.

The fact remains that our state needs us. You need us. We are front liners in our own right. Without us half the Kupuna we give care to would end up flooding long term care facilities and the other half would slip through the cracks and end up homeless. And we are talking about people who served their community for 30 years plus.

Therefore, I and my colleagues, my fellow caregivers , implore you with all legitimate urgency and humility, please increase our compensation with all due diligence and understanding this fiscal budget, now not later

Who knows... we might just be the one who takes care of you. We love our job as caregivers. It's just not enough compensation.

Respectfully,

Madelyn Juliano

CCFFH owner operator February 6, 2023

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:01:19 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rowena Daligcon	AFHA	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To Whom It May Concer:

I am writing to express my support of HB222-HD1 relating to "Raise payment of a Caregivers".

Caregivers is not an easy job. We work 24/7 for our patients/clients even we don't really feel good, we still need to get up and work because it's hard to afford to pay Secondary Caregivers. A lot of times, I missed eating 3X a day just to give my services to my patients especially when our patient is totally assists or very demanding.

I love being a Caregiver but there are times that I thought about closing my Home due to our pay of only \$1.84 per hour. The cost of living is very high. We are struggling beacuse the price for everything went up.

With this, praying and asking your help to please approve HB222-HD1 so we can continue to help/work our elderly. Thank you so much.

Very truly yours,

Rowena Daligcon

94-1134 Hoomakoa St, Waipahu, HI 96797

(808) 888-4415

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:02:27 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janeth Dulig	CCFFH	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

As one of the many foster home operators doing this job for many years, I strongly support HB222-HD1. With the inflation and the cost of living in Hawaii, the pay increase will help us immensely by providing safe and adequate care for our clients.

Adult foster homes in Hawai'i are the backbone of the community as we provide a more affordable service for qualified clients with their needs. And it is an alternate place for the elderly from going to nursing homes which would cost more money but would obtain the same care as any foster home.

As a foster home operator, my job requires me to work 24/7 not only as a caregiver but also manage everything from providing food, managing medication, driving clients to their doctor's appointments, and assisting them with daily living such as bathing, dressing/grooming, eating, and transferring clients. Nevertheless, we only get paid \$44.16 daily, which amounts to \$1,324.80 each month.

Due to inflation, the pay increase needs to be passed. The pay raise will help us provide a more quality service to our clients, help us with our needs for our family, and bills, and live comfortably. We deserve and extremely need this pay raise as we continue to provide for our clients.

Sincerely,

Janeth Dulig

45-626 Halelo Place

Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

808-393-1489

janethdulig@yahoo.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:10:21 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naneth Sue Pancipanci	CCFFH	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for giving us this chance to have our voices heard. Like the rest of my fellow caregivers, I strongly support HB22-HD1.

Due to the inflation which the Covid-19 contributed, foster home operators greatly need a pay raise. In addition, we have not had any pay increase in the last 14 years. The inflation has made everything we need to care for our clients increase in price. Nevertheless, we only get paid \$44.16 daily, which amounts to only \$1,324.80 monthly. Please help us continue providing safe and adequate for our clients by allocating a pay raise.

As you may know, adult foster home operators provide 24/7 care to our respective clients. We offer a safe environment by caring for our clients 24/7, including managing their medications, cooking for them, and with their activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and changing them. Not to mention, caregivers do not have any holidays but provide the same care as a nursing home would do at less price compared to them.

We severely need and deserve this pay raise to continue providing a safe and healthy environment for our patients.

Respectfully,

Naneth Sue Pancipanci

91-1062 Auhola Street

Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

pancipnd@gmail.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:45:24 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Joy B.Arzaga	AFHA	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To whom it may concern;

This letter is to support the HB222 HD1 Bill.I as a primary caregiver is asking an increase in our daily rate due to the high cost of living here in Hawaii right now specially the Mortgage/Rent,utilities and also the cost of foods, that a client needs also, with the \$44.16/day rate this is not really enough income to do this business but because I need this job for my family I am trying my very best to budget whatever I got as a payment for my service.In addition to caregivers expenses I am also paying a substitute caregivers a \$15.00/hr when I need to bring one of my client in their doctors appointment or when me as a primary caregiver is sick. Caregiving is not an easy job,we need to be healthy,stress free and also financially stable .for us continue giving the best care for our kupunas

I hope and I pray that you will consider the increase we are asking to help us (caregivers) to afford the cost of living that we have right now and also to have an extra to keep for our kids future.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Charlene Arzaga

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:56:04 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GEMMA SANTIAGO BAUTISTA	AFHA	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I/WE, THE CCFFH PROVIDER ARE STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PAY INCREASE BILL. AS WE ALL KNOW THE COST OF LIVING ALL OVER THE WORLD IS SO HIGH SPECIALLY HERE IN HAWAII. BEING A CAREGIVER, I/WE ARE KNOCKING EVERYONE HEART TO CONSIDER OUR REQUEST PLEASE. THE \$44.16 PAYMENT PER DAY IS REALLY NOT ENOUGH TO COVER OUR DAILY EXPENSES SUCH AS: FOOD, UTILITIES, MORTGAGE AND ECT. WE NEED TO BUY COVID-19 SUPPLIES FOR PROTECTION. THOSE THINGS ARE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES. BECAUSE OUR JOB IS 24/7, WE NEED TO GET A BREAK TOO. WE HAVE TO HIRE SUBSTITUTE CAREGIVERS TOO AND PAY \$15 PER HOUR WITH FREE FOOD AND USE OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY.

THANK YOU AND HOPING FOR YOUR KIND CONSIDERATION.

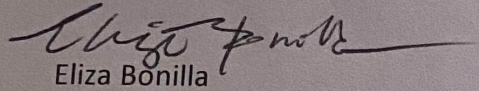
VERY TRULY YOURS,

GEMMA BAUTISTA

PRIMARY CAREGIVER

Dear Legislator:

I strongly support HB 222 - HD1 to support our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 14 years. It has been so hard to keep my Foster home open, struggle to make my mortgage payments and other bills. I keep my home open because I care for my clients. It is not an easy job to take care clients for 24 hours. We are responsible even at night, weekends, and holidays. We work hard to provide this care. The cost of living is so high that we can't afford to pay secondary caregivers for the pay we are received right now which is \$ 44.16 per day. So please help. Thank you for supporting HB222 HD1.



Eliza Bonilla

95-676 Lauawa St.

Mililani HI. 96789

(808) 840 9095

elizacbonilla10@gmail.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:12:46 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Canlas	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a caregiver who gives care to an individual/individuals and take in as extended family takes a toll on a person. Watching and caring for them 24/7 making sure we give them what they need. As with the high cost of living in Hawaii the pay we receive isn't enough to cover expenses incurred.

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to give us a chance to serve the community better.

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:33:01 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marcelina tito	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We Marcelina Tito and Josephine Tabucbuc have been a Foster Caregiver Home Operator for more than 15 years! We would like to give our testimony.

Ever since we became a FCHO for all those years, WE have been PROMISED A RAISE!!! BUT, to this day, their promise has been BROKEN both by the State and Legislators and those that were supposed to be helping us in obtaining the raise we have been waiting for!!!

May NOW be the year that they will DO what they PROMISED TO DO!!!

Thank you and God Bless us All!

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:14:05 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tyler green	Caring Hands Foster Home	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I,Tyler Green Green a Partner of Caring Hands Foster Home support Bill HB 222

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:10:39 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emylyn Barr	Adult Foster Home	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

Just submitting my feedback regarding justification for increase in payments for taking care of adult foster patients. Monthly payments of \$1.3K equates \$1.84 per hour for their 24hours/365 day care including feeding, showering, administering medication, etc.

That doesn't include all the expenses for housing, food, electric etc. which have increased significantly with inflation as you're aware. Also i have to spend significant amount of time preparing paper works to document care and associated requirements by state.

Thank you for letting me provide feedback

Sincerely,

Emylyn Barr

February 6, 2023

Dear Legislature:

I, Cynthia Gima, am sending you my testimony in STRONG SUPPORT HB222, PAY INCREASE which will be held February 7, 2023, 8:45am, Rm 211. We have not received an increase for **14 plus years**. I'm in this business because of my passion to help people who are not able to care for themselves, but it is becoming very hard to survive with the pay we are currently receiving for our services. As much as I love caring for the elderly it's becoming very difficult economically to maintain a balanced life, both to my patients and my family.

The following are just some examples of why we strongly need our pay increases:

- Cost of utilities, electricity, water, sewer costs that clients use.
- Property, general and income taxes
- Food and supply costs for clients.
- Gas used when bringing clients to their doctor appointments.
- Transportation costs for our clients who require assisted transportation, fees average \$70-\$120 depending on the distance.
- Car and Liability Insurance required in the home to follow state regulations.
- Normal way of living for the family is sacrificed with a foster home.
- Caregivers must budget/pay when we; take vacation, are sick (no sick leave), bereavement leave, take clients to their appointments, shop for client needs, attend special occasions, attend meetings, rallies, educational sessions, or just want to spend quality time with my family. We have to budget this on \$44.16/day, which is why we are asking for \$20 plus more per hour.
- Caregivers will work while sick due to not wanting to have to pay for a substitute and average way less sleep than health recommendations.
- Caregivers provide 24/7 care to their clients, we deserve a quality lifestyle also but it's impossible to do so with the pay that we are receiving.
- What type of job hasn't received an increase in pay in **14 plus years**, absolutely everything went up except for our pay and yet we still provide 24/7 care to our clients.

It's not hard to figure out the math, **\$44.16/day received but pay subs \$100 plus/day**, please let us know if there are any other people that you know of in the workforce that is faced with these types of numbers. It's basically we are paying anytime we are not with our clients.

Before you all vote, please put yourself in our shoes providing best care for our Kupuna 24/7 with a pay of \$44.16 daily which came to an effect January 2023. **Prior to January 2023 the daily service pay rate was \$41.06 and the attached document shows that rate effective January 1, 2009, which proves that caregivers were working for the same pay for over 14 years.**

I strongly believe that in order to maintain the integrity of our profession and to ensure that kupuna are cared for properly caregivers should be rewarded with pay that is indicative of the time, effort and care that they put in. Another key factor on the importance of this bill is to make sure quality caregivers are retained and stay in Hawaii instead of moving to the mainland to work for better pay.

For all these reasons, I strongly support HB222.

Thank you very much!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia Gima', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cynthia Gima
1320 Anapa Street
Honolulu Hawaii 96818
Cell: 808-271-0557
Email: ausash4@gmail.com

Medicaid Waiver Services
Residential Alternative Community Care Program
Case Management and Service Rates
Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Event Type	Place of Service	Procedure Code	Modifier	Type of Waiver Service	HPMMIS Procedure	Unit	Rate
WC	35	T2022	52	Case Management	Waiver Case Management, comprehensive, all inclusive, per day	Day	\$16.25
AF	35	S5140		CCFFH Level 1 Cost Share/Spousal & non-eligible SSI	Foster Care, Adult, daily	Day	\$52.65
AF	35	S5140	TG	CCFFH Level 2 Cost Share/Spousal & non-eligible SSI	Foster Care, Adult, daily	Day	\$68.73
AF	35	S5140	TF	CCFFH Level 1 SSI Recipients	Foster Care, Adult, daily	Day	\$24.98
AF	35	S5140	22	CCFFH Level 2 SSI Recipients	Foster Care, Adult, daily	Day	\$41.06
AR	35	T2033	U1	EARCH Level 1 Cost Share/Spousal & non-eligible SSI	Adult Residential Care/Comm. Supp. Living, NOS, per day	Day	\$52.65
AR	35	T2033	U2	EARCH Level 2 Cost Share/Spousal & non-eligible SSI	Adult Residential Care/Comm. Supp. Living, NOS, per day	Day	\$68.73
AR	35	T2033	TF	EARCH Level 1, SSI Recipients	Care/Comm. Supp. Living, NOS, per day	Day	\$24.98
AR	35	T2033	22	EARCH Level 2, SSI Recipients	Adult Residential Care/Comm. Supp. Living, NOS, per day	Day	\$41.06
OC	35	T2031	U1	Assisted Living Facility, Level 1	Adult Residential Care/Comm. Supp. Living, ALF, per day	Day	\$52.65
OC	35	T2031	U2	Assisted Living Facility, Level 2	Adult Residential Care/Com, Supp. Living, ALF, per day	Day	\$68.73

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:23:28 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roselle Catamping	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need increase due to high inflation and can't pay my substitute caregiver's demands compared to Hospitals and we work 24/7 just to take care our clients please help us its been years without any increase and it's about time thank you very much

Sincerely

Roselle Catamping

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:27:35 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Flordeliza Santiago Onaga	Adult Foster Home care Association of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 6, 2023

To our Legislature:

I am one of the Primary caregivers strongly support HB222 HD1.

We are knocking on your heart to please pass and approved the bill in our favor. This has been our clamor for so long . To this date , we are so hopeful that our prayer for our increase be answered.

Being a caregiver receiving a very minimal amount yet we never neglected our duties and responsibilities to take care our KUPUNA. We are working hard for 24 hours in a day 7 days a week . In most times, we even sacrifice for our self for the sake of our commitment to be with our patients to take care of. As caregiver. Its not an easy task as most people say and its true with all the time, effort, love and care cannot be paid by money alone.

WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT THIS IS THE TIME THAT WE WILL BE HEARD .

Thank you.

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:02:34 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARGARET IBUS	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Legislator

Aloha,

As a Ccfff provider, I am strongly supports the pay increase bill. We are the caregivers praying and hoping the our request wil be granted as soon as possible. The 44.16 payment we receiving right is not enough to cover our daily needs. Mortgae, food, utilities are so high. Please consider oir increase payment request. Thank you.

Very Truly Yours

Margaret Ibus

pcg

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 17 years.

It's been so hard to keep up with all the things that are happening in my life. Especially the mortgage payments and bills that need to be paid at the end of the month. Over the years, it was difficult to keep my organization (Ganancial Care Home, LLC) open. We keep it open because we care for each individual that falls under our care and many more in the future. But it isn't easy to take care of a client 24 hours of the day even when there's more than one under the same caregiver. We caregivers are responsible in the morning, afternoon, and night to ensure not only the safety of our clients but the physical and mental status in which they are under our care. We help them in every way possible such as transporting them, scheduling their doctor appointments, washing their bodies, entertaining them, cooking for them and everything else. Holidays and weekends aren't even an exception. We caregivers work hard and provide genuine care.

Please help us, we are struggling because the price for everything is going up.

Thank you for supporting HB 222-HD1

Daisy Ganancial
92-366 Waiomea St.
(808)232-4020
daisy.ganancial@yahoo.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:06:22 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Mangunay	AFHA	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I, Ashley Mangunay support the bill submitted on behalf of our organization based on pay increase for all our hard working caregivers due to the countrys current inflation. Most of the time us caregivers use our own money to cover clients other supplies and needs that most insurance doesn't. Our pay isn't enough to even survive our family and our clients daily needs. We put all our hard earned money back to our clients to make sure they are getting the best care possible. We hope and pray for this to at least consider our request as this will help a lot of us in this time. Thank you.

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:23:06 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nenita Gouveia	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my wholeheartedly support for HB222-HD1 to increase our reimbursement rate. For more than 14 years, there hasn't been an increase.

Keeping my Foster home open has been really difficult. I have trouble paying my bills, including my mortgage. Because I care about my clients, I keep my foster home open. Providing client satisfaction around-the-clock is a difficult task. We take care of everything for them, including bathing them, changing their diapers, carrying them during transport, exercising them, feeding them, entertaining them, watching out for their safety, taking them to the doctor, and more. Every day, all day long, we must perform this. Even on the weekends, on holidays, and at night, we are responsible. We make a great effort to give each person the care they need. The cost of living is so high that we cannot afford to hire a secondary caregiver because the salary we currently receive is only \$44.16 per day, which is less than the minimum wage. We would then be spending more money on the secondary caregiver than we are currently making.

Facilities get paid three to five times as much as we do for the same level of care. Our clients move into our house and became a part of our family. We need your assistance because we are struggling as a result of rising prices for everything.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nenita Gouveia

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:43:58 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
paul lacuesta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:07:33 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justine G Manera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I want to start by saying how I appreciate all my fellow Community care foster homes operators for such amazing work and being so reliable, very delegated towards our clients working 24/7 around the clock holding down all situations working hard at home. Our position not only as a caregiver but also micromanaging as a Nurse, Chef, Housekeeper, Administrative, and of course being their family as our own. All these positions require hard work. We are the ones who need to get the work done and jiggle our personal life at the same time while having to also take care of our clients' needs.

With inflation and the cost of living in Hawaii skyrocket and the minimum pay we are receiving is not helping us live at least comfortably. Hospitals and Nursing Rehabilitation Facilities are actually making way more than what us Community Foster Care Homes operators make. We deserve a huge amount of enhancement because we are in more than one position working as an operator.

The payments we are receiving daily is \$44.16. A whole month of \$1,324.80 "A MONTH". That doesn't cover our Home rent/mortgage, personal bill payments, or even child day care and not to mention "groceries". It's horrible that we actually have to pay out of our own pocket to pay our substitute caregivers. So honestly we are basically getting paid a negative balance. So we Community Care Foster Home Operators really need your help to help us live comfortably and help us to continue to care for our clients.

Thank you

Justine Manera, Caregiver (CNA)

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:42:50 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to increase Medicaid Providers compensation rate. This has been a very long awaited increase, I have been a caregiver since 2007 and I have not seen any increase since then.

What we were getting compensated of \$41.06 until just recently increased to \$44.16 per day as of January 2023 is not enough. We struggle to stretch this amount against our expenses to keep our foster home in operation. We keep our home open because we care for our clients. It is not an easy job to take care of clients 24 hours. We bathe them, change their soiled diapers, carry them during transport, cook for them, watch for their safety, feed them and there are also nights we cannot sleep if our clients become confused and agitated. The cost of living has been rising every year yet our compensation never moves. We cannot afford to pay a secondary caregiver to help us. We worked very hard, most of the time we put ourselves last just to provide care for our clients.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amount we receive for the same care. Our clients live in our home and become our family. Please help us, we are struggling because the price for everything is going up.

Thank you for supporting HB 222-HD1.

-Marylo Farinas-

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:52:03 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mannycel dela cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislator,

i am humbly appreciate all fosterhome , carehome operator for all thier hardworks and dedication for our elderly who needs cares and support and give all time, effort, love and attetion. Being a personl caregivers thats do all the works for 24/7. prepraring them ready every day , give and assist them an all activity daily living.from their meals , clean them up , assist medication .doing some errands for them . all this position is a hard work for us caregivers that we need more deserved pay . getting a \$44. per hours for 24/7 cares and services. cannot help us out for our cost of living, living cost here is so expensive , paying my rent , our bills and even getting groceries is cost a lot.

Hoping for the best that we hear a good response soon for all our testimony.,

mahalo,

mannycel dela cruz

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:24:58 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruthie Agbayani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HB222,HD1

February 6, 2023

To our Legislature:

Foster homes are closing. The rates of elderly people are rising. Cost of living is also rising, yet we have not received a raise in 14 years. We, as caregivers, are in desperate need of a pay increase. Other facilities receive 3-5 times the amount we receive for the same care, benefits, and more. We receive \$44.16 a day. A DAY!!! We live with our clients 24/7, 365 days a year with pay of only \$1.84 per hour for 24 hours.

I have 3 clients. One of them has been with me for 12 years, the others 6 years and 3 years. It is not easy taking care of them, but they have become family. I cook, feed, and medicate them. I make sure their blood pressure and sugar levels are stable. I bathe, change their diapers even in the middle of the night and early morning. I bring them to all of their doctor's appointments. I provide entertainment as well as bring them out for outings 4-5 times a week, all while ensuring their safety and well-being around the clock. As the years progress, their health declines demanding more care and attention. The cost of living is so high that I cannot afford to pay for a Substitute Caregiver with the rate of \$44.16 a day we are receiving.

Many of us not only take care of Hawaii's kupuna, but also have families of our own to care for. Please help us, so we can continue to help our elderly community.

I fully support HB222-HD1.

Marina L. Fernandez
1344 Hoolaulea Street
Pearl City, HI 96782
(808) 381-2386

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:34:19 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mari angelene d. maluyo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 14 yrs.

It has been so hard to keep my foster home open because ,I struggle to make my mortgage payments and my utilities and other bills.I keep my home open because I care and pity for my ct.It is hard to take care ct 24/7 specially if they are sick you can't sleep ,sometimes, feel anxious.We do the ADL like: bathe,change diaper,carry them,exercise,cook ,feed,entertain and watch them for their safety, bring them to their Dr's appt.We have to hire somebody to watch them when they have appt. and the CNA that we hire to watch them they want \$15 an hr. and we only receiving \$44.16/day The cost of living is high and we can't afford to pay SCG for the pay we are receiving right now.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amt. we received for the same care.Our ct live in our home and become our family.Please help us, we struggling because the price for everything is going up.

Thank you for supporting HB 222-HD1.

Mari Angelene Maluyo
2215 Auhuhu St Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
(808)358-8820
angiedumal@yahoo.coma

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:43:01 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Alcaraz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. It's been 14 years we didn't have an increase.

It has been so hard to keep my Foster Home open.I struggle to pay my mortgage and other bills.I keep my foster home open because I care for my clients. It's not an easy job to take care of clients 24 hours.We feed them, bathe them,change their diapers,carry them during transport, exercise them,take them to their Dr appointments,cook for them,wash their clothes,watch them for their safety, entertain them and etc.We have to do this 24/7.We work hard to provide care.The cost of living is so high and I can't afford to pay Secondary caregiver for the pay I'm receiving now which is only \$44.16 /day.

Facilities receive 3-5x the amount we receive for the same care. Our clients live in our home and become our family.Please help us, we are struggling because the price of everything is going up.

Thank you for supporting HB222-HD1

Jocelyn Alcaraz

91-1124 Kauiki St Ewa Beach HI 96706

(808)392-6357

jocelyn.alcaraz@yahoo.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:46:54 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlito P. Farinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB222-D1 to raise Medicaid Providers compensation. My wife is a provider and I've seen how hard they work, \$41.06 per day is far away enough to compensate the work they do. Please consider raising their daily rate and be fair to them. Thank you.

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:19:10 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Belinda Keliioholokai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In behalf of our President Ms. Carina Ocampo and all our colleague who in any way supported this cause,thus far, with the utmost commitment of our Representative John Mizuno , we humbly support this bill in our pursuit of equality of life towards our determination and effort of providing outstanding service to our elderly community.

Our sincerest regards to the approving committee in the Legislature.

Aloha & mabuhay!

Bell Keliioholokai, CNA

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:04:46 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claribel Cabantog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator:

As a caregiver for 15 years it's been so hard to keep our Foster Carehome open. There are times the client that we're getting is like for 2 to 3 people assist and our pay is not adequate for the work we do 24/7. Most of the caregivers struggle to pay rent, mortgage and pay bills (especially if they have kids that goes to college) My business is located at my home residence so I can take care of my parents, kids and work from home all at once. The cost of living here in Hawaii is too high and we cannot afford to pay substitute caregivers for the amount we get, \$44.16 per day. Can you please help us caregivers to get a raise for the work we provide for our Kupuna.

Mahalo for all your time and consideration for this matter.

Sincerely,

Claribel Cabantog - CCFFH PRIMARY Caregiver (808-469-5607)

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:09:04 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
abundia tagaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I am sending this testimony to support HB222-HD1.

Everytime people see me in a doctor's office with my client for his dr's appointment, their comment is you have a very difficult job, which is true. My client is a level 1 with 1 leg amputee, diabetic, with suprapubic catheter in place, incontinent of both bowel and urine. A picky person meaning he doesn't eat veggies. But he loves meat and processed foods. When I serve him stir fry veggies. He says, I'm not really hungry but if steak, adobo, and poke. He says, that was really good! With level 1 the daily services rate is \$26.54 for now. With the price of prime commodities going up, it is difficult to make both ends meet. We have mortgage to keep up and utilities plus our personal needs. It's high time to get an increase since it's been long time we did not get one!

Thank you for giving your time to our petition, tge HB222-HD1. More power and God bless you all Legislators!

Abundia Tagaro

92-522 Awawa St

Kapolei, Hi 96707

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:42:13 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myungsuk	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's something we have to take care of clients characters 24 hours a day. With \$44.16 per day, we can't afford all the service costs, including electricity bills, water bills, car oil, house mortgages, assistant nurse salaries, Groceley, Insurance, insurance lyss, licensing fees, etc. Please review it. It's something we have to take care of clients characters 24 hours a day. With \$44.16 per day, we can't afford all the service costs, including electricity bills, water bills, car oil, house mortgages, assistant nurse salaries, Groceley, Insurance, insurance lyss, licensing fees, etc. Please review it.

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:11:33 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Jane Makes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase over 14 years.

It has been so hard to keep my foster home open.I struggle to make my mortgage payments and other liabilities. I keep my home open because I care for my clients. It is not an easy job to take care of clients 24 hours. We bathe them, change their diapers,carry them during transport, exercise them, cook for them, feed them, entertain them, watch out for their safety, bring them to their doctors appointments, and everything else.We are responsible even at nights, weekends and holidays.We have to do this 24 hours a day, everyday. The cost of living is so high and we can not afford to pay a secondary caregiver for the pay we are receiving right now which is \$44.16/day.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amount we receive for the same care. Our clients live in our home and become our family. Please help us,we are struggling because the price for everything is going up.

Thank you for supporting HB222-HD1.

Mary Jane Makes

1034 Matzie Lane

Honolulu,Hawaii 96817

808-381-1445

jane_mades@yahoo.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:25:27 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LEONARDO FIRME	united caregiver of hawaii-uch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM STRONGLY IN SUPPORT TO THIS BILL . I AM A SUBTITUTE CARE GIVER AND I EXPERIENCE THE HARDSHIP BEING A CAREGIVER . AND OUR LIFE STYLE IN HAWAII FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS UP TO PRESENT DUE TO THE PANDEMIC ITS BEEN REALLY HARD. BEING A SUBTITUTE I WATCHED CLIENT ESPECIALLY IN FOSTERCARE HOME EXPANDED IS HARDLY TO SLEEP AND EAT REGULARLY. MY WIFE IS A PRIMARY I CAN SEE HER HARDSHIP IN BUDGETING MORGAGE AND ALL OUR UTILITIES BILLS ARE INCREASED. HOPE THIS BILLS BE GRANTED.

LEONARDO FIRME - SCG

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:26:37 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pasiana M Spellicy	Adult Foster Home Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislature. I would like to ask your full support to pass HB222. It is very important for us ; Adult Foster Home Operators in order to continue providing care to our Elderly in the Community. Thank you very much.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB222-HD1

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 – 8:45 am, ROOM 329

Please support HB222-HD1 (Pay increase bill)

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. Please help and pass HB222-HD1.

Thank you.

DATE 02-06-2023

MARITES ANACLETO

PRINT NAME

Marites Anacleto

SIGNATURE

3815 LAKEA PLACE LAWAI, HI 96765

STREET ADDRESS

808-652-2368

TELEPHONE NUMBER

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:27:22 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators!

As a relative of an elderly client in a community care foster family home, I strongly support HB222-HD1.

My 92-year-old aunt, Jeanette Yee, is currently residing in Grace Basilio's foster -care home @ 94-506 Loa'a St., Waipahu. Aunt Jeanette, currently a private pay since January 2022, has her Medicaid application pending since September 2022. We pray that she can stay in place as a Medicaid client in this caring home.

My aunt is wheel-chair bound, requires bathing/showering, dressing, standing, transferring, toileting, medication management, exercising, being accompanied to medical & dental appointments, and kept company. Whether as a private pay or Medicaid beneficiary, she requires care 24/7.

Please consider adjusting payments, appropriately, to these long term service providers who work tirelessly to provide a caring, healthy, safe and family-oriented environment where our medically, emotionally and financially fragile can continue to live and thrive.

Mahalo for supporting and passing HB222-HD1.

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:30:47 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Basilio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I, Grace Basilio, strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our pay rate. We haven't recieved an increase for over 14 years.

It's been difficult trying to keep my foster home open and running. I struggle to keep up with my mortgage and other bills I have to pay. I keep my foster home open because I care for all my patients. It isn't an easy job to supervise and help my clients everyday. We bathe them, change their diapers, carry them out during transport, cook their meals every single day, make sure their entertained, safe, and healthy. We have to do this 24 hours a day because I choose to help my clients. We continue our job even with all the milestones ahead of us. We work hard to provide care for them. Living costs a lot and we can't afford to pay the Secondary Caregiver for the pay we're recieving at the moment which is \$44.16 per day.

We ask you to help us since the price of everything has been going up ever since.

Thank you so much for supporting HB222-HD1.

Grace Basilio

94-506, Loaa St. Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

(808)-783-5778

gracebasilio11@gmail.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:42:31 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANET MARTIN JUAN Barrios	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator:

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 13 years.

It has been so hard to keep my foster home open. I struggle to make my mortgage payments and other bills. I keep my home open because I care for my clients. It is not an easy job to take care of clients for 24 hours. We bathe them, change their diapers, carry them during transport, exercise them, cook for them, feed them, entertain them, watch out for their safety, bring them to the doctors and everything else. We have to do this 24/7 every day. We are responsible even at night. Weekends and holidays. We work hard to provide care. The cost of living is so high, and we cannot afford to pay a secondary caregiver for the pay, we are receiving right which is \$44.16 per day.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amount we receive for the same care. Our clients live in our home and become our family. Please help us, we are struggling because the price for everything is going up.

Thank you for your supporting HB222-HD1.

Janet M. Juan Barrios

94-408 Ikepono St.

Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

(808) 224-3454

Email: janetbarriosjuan@yahoo.com

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:44:32 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gloria G Cueco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill for we all foster home care owner/ SCG too working so hard 24 hours to take good care of our Kupuna who don't have family to take care them.

We all get affected especially now that the pandemic effects and the inflation affecting us.

Our mortgage itself is high and same with the one who renting too and all that we need to use and foods are all high costs too.

Please hear us.....

It's also way back so low the rate we receiving long time and for they said it's been 14 years we never have increased....

Pls hear us....

Sincerely /Respectfully Yours,

Gloria G Cueco/Reynante Cueco

94-571 Kupuna Loop

Waipahu HI 96797

[808-392-8587]

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:58:24 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marysol Ganotisi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Foster CareHome owner and AFHA Member for more than a decade, I dedicated my a part of me in caring for our Kupuna, and I must say you need to have a lot dedication to do kind of work. And for the past decade I haven't received a raise. It is a very hard job and very rewarding at the same time. Caregivers works really hard amd give our very best to give our clients the best care they deserved. It would be a very rewarding for us if we can get the pay raise that we have been waiting for a long time. I beleive that our voices needs to be heard. I hope, whoever is concerned this will find i their hearts to give what all caregivers deserves, our PAY INCREASE. GODBLESS US ALL

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:32:22 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Necita Chaffin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. I've been a CCFFH for the past 12 years and rates have never gone up. As much as we love and care about our clients none of us do this strictly for the love, unlike child foster homes. We are like Care Homes that take care of clients that are generally more severe. We should be compensated fairly. We shouldn't have to struggle to pay our basic bills such as Rent/Mortgage, food, electricity, phone, and water. We care for our clients 24 hours per day. We feed them (Not just cook for them. We actually feed them), bathe them, take them to their appointments, make sure they take their medication at the correct time, trim their nails, cut their hair, and do whatever it takes to make them feel good about themselves. At this compensation rate I'm really contemplating closing down. I can make much more working a job that I don't have to be at for 24 hours 7 days a week. That I have weekends, holidays, and sick days off. We have to work through all of these. We're not asking for anything unreasonable. We just ask for something near fair compensation. Even if you double our compensation we'd still be paid less than 50% compensation for a resident in similiar condition in a Care Home. We're not asking for fair compenstation. We're just asking to pay something reasonable.

Necita Chaffin

94-1031 Mahoe Pl

808-676-4054

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:51:49 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maritess O Mercado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Maritess O Mercado I've been in Community Foster Family Home or adult foster home business for 14 years now & I don't even recalled any raise fee since then. Honestly, I can't even have savings from my check with my foster home because of inflation plus bills & my kids schooling. Plus paying substitute caregivers is a big deal also. Being a full time caregiver is a hard job imagine a 24/7 job from behavior to changing diapers to restless client etc. If you guys could realize & put your shoe in my shoe & probably you guys would understand that It's time for us to have a payment increase. Please consider my testimony. Thank you so much 🙏

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:59:24 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vicky Gonzales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am fully in support for the increase in the medicaid program due to the high cost of living.. Since everything went up (food, paper goods, utilities, gas, labor cost for secondary caregivers pay) this increase will help Foster home operators and clients to live comfortably. Since I started my Foster Home in 2002 there has been no increase in our services pay.

thank you and God Bless

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:37:57 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Editha de la Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help us to increase our payment for the elderly

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:23:16 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fely Barayuga	foster home operator member of AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fely Barayuga (Foster Home Operator) Testimony Ref: HB222-HD1

Aloha to our hard working Legislatures:

I have been a caregiver for 13 years. Throughout these many years, I have cared for all sorts of clients; difficult, easy, hospice, behavior and others and their daily rates are the same despite their conditions. Caregivers are very deserving to receive a much higher increase to help us maintain our foster homes, maintain reliable and caring substitute caregivers to provide the best services and care to our clients and their families. As you know, we have to care for clients 24/7 plus we drive/accompany clients to their appointments, plus we buy them food. If we need to go to our own appointments, grocery or just to go to the mall shopping or to relax, we have to hire substitutes. Finding a substitute is very hard because they are asking for higher pay. Substitute rates are going for between \$15.00 - \$20.00 sometimes more depending on the no. of clients you have and their conditions. This is not affordable for caregivers if the daily rates remain the same with very low yearly increases, if you have all medicaid clients. We may be lucky to admit private clients, but the majority of the time, they are private for only 3 or 4 months then convert to Medicaid. When clients become Medicaid, caregivers have to refund the excess paid when they were private from the month they were approved, so at the end, not a private, it's medicaid.

I fully support this bill HB222-HD1 and I ask for your SUPPORT, as well.

Thank you very much.

Fely Barayuga

1808 Beckley St.

Honolulu, HI 96819

Cel: 808-277-8789

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:46:39 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARIVEL BILLETE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 06, 2023

I support HB222 in the hope that caregivers as me continue to provide for the kupunas and or clients in dire need your supporting funds to help us caregivers navigate a pleasant environments with one on one quality care with direct quick response meeting objectives and goals on each individual care plans.

Quality care can be achieved to its utmost standards if we caregivers have the support we had been long waiting for from the state. Currently we depend on the new 2023 Room & Board amount of \$1515.90 and \$44.16 per day per Medicaid client. It may appear to be a lot of money but it with the uprising cost of mortgage, utilities, maintainance/repairs, operation insurance, transportation cost, nutritious foods, nursing supplies, office costs, and most importantly to pay a substitute who sets their pay per hour \$15-\$20. Many of us struggle because we have 1-2 residents only that we are burnt out trying to budget that we send our spouse to work to receive medical benefit and to make ends meet since we in turn receive zero benefit in return from the state and labor pay wage equating as back as the1970s. Please open your hearts and be empathetic to our lack of funds.

"A HAPPY HOME HAS HAPPY FAMILY" this I believe because our clients become part of the family.

Thank you!

Marivel Billete, CNA/CCFFH caregiver

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:00:12 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mylene Battulayan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"IT IS OUR RIGHT TO SPEAK AND HEARD"

Hard Work poured out in a foster home is underrated for quiet long time. Owners are unrepresented so we are in dire need of expressing ourselves regarding our much needed pay increase.

As Foster Home Owners, we cannot really defray all the expenses incurred while on our operations just to give quality service our elderlies deserve. It is our heartfelt responsibility to humanely treat our clients but this might result to poor execution of our mission and vision as caregivers because of the inevitable expenses in meeting and providing the necessities of our clients considering the hike of prices on our basic needs.

We do not want to reach a point that we are forced to close our foster homes due to lack of support. We are pleading for a pay increase to compensate our dedication and sacrifices in caring for our elderlies. The pay increase that we are demanding is for the betterment of our service. Please deepen your understanding on this to save the elderly community.

We look forward for your urgent action and positive response regarding this matter. On behalf of County of Kauai Foster Home Owners, we are earnestly pleading for a pay increase to cope with the high demand of foster home services.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Mylene Battulayan - FCH Owner

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:01:41 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilibeth Ramel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of the HB 222 HD1. I have been a caregiver for a handful of years and have been through many hardships. Some may say this is an easy job but there's so much that's happening behind the scenes that people don't realize. I genuinely love my job because I get to help and care for those in need. However, I've been finding it difficult to do my job to the best of my abilities. The cost of basic supplies and resources have increased to outrageous prices while my income remains the same. I want to provide the best care and make my clients feel 100% comfortable in my home but it is difficult to do so if I'm not able to afford the resources. I acknowledge that I don't do this job for the money but I can't do it properly without the right amount of funds. With this pay increase, I will be able to run my business where my clients and I can be satisfied. I will be able to pay my substitute caregivers without worrying if I will have enough for myself and my family at the end of the day. I will be able to feel more at ease knowing all my hard work and dedication to my community will be worth it. The caregivers of Hawaii work hard and are dedicated to the job. We deserve an increase in pay for everything we go through and everything we do.

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:32:50 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nina Angelica Dafun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator:

I strongly support the HB222 HD1 to raise our pay rate.

I am a primary caregiver for my fosterhome. Being in this industry, I noticed and realized that we caregivers, are overworked, stressed, burn out, and yet underpaid (\$44.16/day). We work 24/7, 365 days a year caring for our clients. Most of the time, we are prioritizing the needs of our clients that we even forget to attend to the needs of our own family. With the cost of living and prices are all going up, it is very challenging for us to keep up with all our bills and expenses. We care for our clients and treat them as family, but we need to survive also.

Thank you so much for understanding and for supporting HB 222 HD1.

Sincerely,

Nina Angelica Dafun

94-1017B Kahuailani St. Waipahu, HI, 96797

(808)497-5261

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:36:47 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorena Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator:

I strongly support HB222-HD1 to raise our reimbursement rate. We have not received an increase for over 14 years.

It has been so hard to keep my foster home open. I struggle to make my mortgage payments and other bills. I keep my home open because I care for my clients. It is not an easy job to take care of clients 24 hours. We bathe them, change their diapers, carry them during transport, exercise them, cook for them, feed them, entertain them, watch out for their safety, bring them to the doctors and everything else. We have to do this 24 hours a day, everyday. We are responsible even at night, weekends, and holidays. We work hard to provide care. The cost of living is so high and we can not afford to pay Secondary Caregiver for the pay we are receiving right now which is \$44.16 per day.

Facilities receive 3-5 times the amount we receive for the same care. Our clients live in our home and become our family. Please help us, we are struggling because the price for everything is going up.

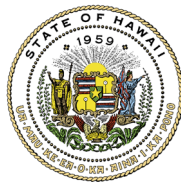
Thank you for supporting HB222-HD1.

Lorena Kawamoto

94-472 Alapine St.

Waipahu, Hi 96797

808-354-7786



Hawai'i State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023

Legislative Committee Hearings

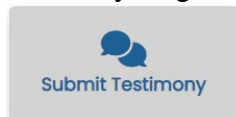
Photo ID is required for entrance to the State Capitol. Building hours are 7am to 5pm, Monday – Friday. This policy is subject to change and may be adjusted based on evolving COVID-19 guidelines.

- **Livestreams.** All Senate and House committee hearings and floor sessions will be streamed live on YouTube. Visit the Legislature's [Live & On-Demand Video webpage](#) to access the House and Senate YouTube channels.
- **Testimony.** House and Senate standing committees are accepting written, in-person, and remote testimony via Zoom.

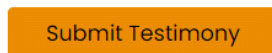
To testify on a measure scheduled for public hearing, please create an account on the Legislature's website, use the online testimony form, and follow the procedures outlined in this document.

- To register for an account:
<https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/account/register.aspx>
- To access the online testimony form: Sign in to your account then click on a testimony button.

Under My Legislature or Participate → Submit Testimony



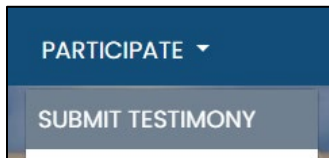
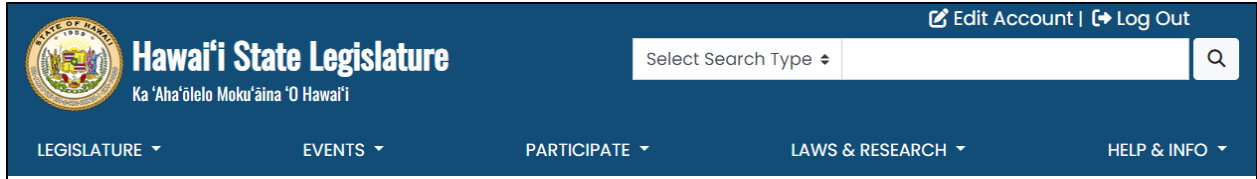
On measure status page:



If you do not have internet access or need assistance to create an account or navigate the testimony process, contact the Legislature's Public Access Room (PAR) at (808) 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov. You can also visit PAR's website (<https://lrh.hawaii.gov/par/>), which has video tutorials, step-by-step instructions, and reference information about the legislative process and how to participate.

To submit testimony, please visit the Legislature's website:
www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Create a free account, or sign in to an existing account, then click on the "Participate" drop down menu and select the "Submit Testimony" option to get started.



Enter the bill or measure number and click "Continue"

Enter Bill or Measure and click Continue

Examples: HB100 or SB123 (not case sensitive)

Double check that the measure number/title and hearing details listed are correct before proceeding.

Bill	Committee Room	Date/Time	
SB 2857 RELATING TO CHILD WELLNESS.	HMS	CR 225 & Videoconference Jan 26, 2023 11:53 AM	View Notice

Confirm that the name you enter in the "Testifier's Full Name" field is accurate and includes your first and last name. The field will initially show the name saved in your account information. Please edit the text if necessary.

Testifier's Full Name
(First and Last)

**If planning on testifying via Zoom, this name must match your Zoom name exactly.*

If you are testifying via Zoom, please note that the name in this field must match how you will identify yourself in Zoom.

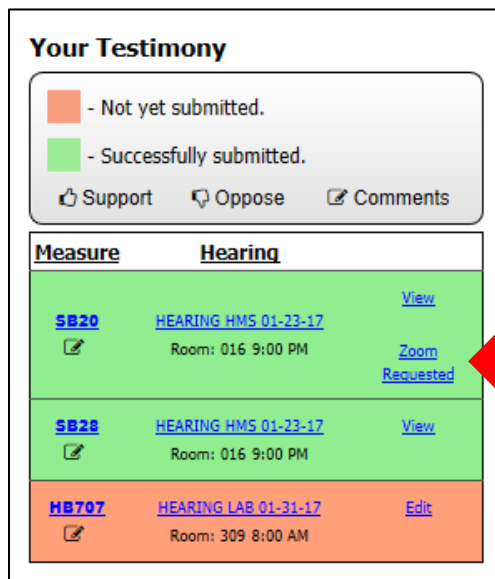
Please note the following:

- The website will automatically log you out of your account after 60 minutes of inactivity.
- All testimony received by the Hawai'i State Legislature is posted on our website and will be available to the public. Please do not include information that you do not want disclosed publicly.
- The number of testifiers and/or time allotted to each testifier may be limited by the Chair when necessary to adhere to the committee hearing schedule. Committees will accommodate as many oral testimony requests as reasonably possible during the time allotted for the hearing. However, we cannot guarantee that everyone who requests to testify orally will have an opportunity to speak during the hearing.
- In the **Senate**, you must submit your request to testify remotely at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing. Late requests to testify remotely via Zoom may be made by contacting the [committee](#) directly. Late requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- In the **House**, submission of testimony and requests to testify remotely 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing is strongly encouraged.

VIDEOCONFERENCE TESTIMONY PROCEDURES

After You Submit Your Request to Testify Remotely

When logged in to your account on the Legislature's website, you should see a note in the green "Your Testimony" section that says, "Zoom requested." This confirms that both your written testimony and your request to testify remotely have been submitted to the committee.



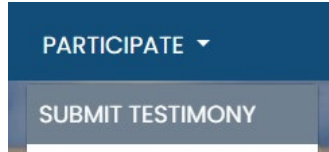
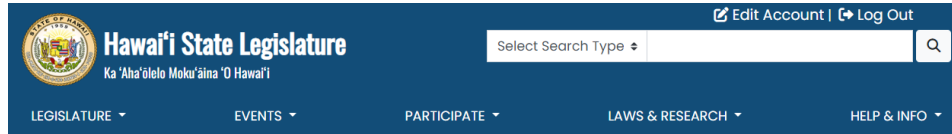
Your Testimony

■ - Not yet submitted.
■ - Successfully submitted.

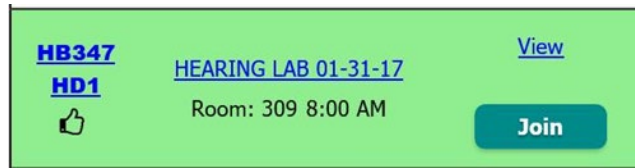
Support Oppose Comments

Measure	Hearing	
SB20	HEARING HMS 01-23-17 Room: 016 9:00 PM	View Zoom Requested
SB28	HEARING HMS 01-23-17 Room: 016 9:00 PM	View
HB707	HEARING LAB 01-31-17 Room: 309 8:00 AM	Edit

- If we can accommodate your request to testify via Zoom, you will receive access to the Zoom link for the hearing three (3) hours before the hearing begins.
 - To access the link, you will need to log in to your account on the Legislature's website, then click on the "Participate" drop down menu and select the "Submit Testimony" option to get started.



- The **Join** meeting link will be available to you in the green "Your Testimony" section on the left side of your testimony page.



- If we are not able to accommodate your request to testify, you will not receive access to the Zoom meeting link and the committee will notify you via email.
- If you requested to testify remotely but you are no longer able to attend the hearing via Zoom, please contact the [committee](#) directly to notify them.
- Zoom Meeting Schedules: There will be one Zoom meeting scheduled per committee timeslot. Therefore, the Zoom meeting link you use to testify remotely may apply to more than one "agenda" or hearing notice.
 - Click [here](#) for the **Senate** Committee Hearing Schedule.
 - Click [here](#) for the **House** Committee Hearing Schedule.

Before the Hearing

The Zoom meeting will begin 20-30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the hearing. Please join the meeting early so we can admit all participants from the waiting room before the hearing begins.

- Please join the Zoom meeting using the first and last name you provided when submitting your written testimony via the Legislature's website. This is how we will identify you in the waiting room. Only testifiers who follow the registration process outlined above will be allowed to join the Zoom meeting.

If you're not familiar with Zoom, please spend a few minutes reviewing the user interface ahead of time. This link may be helpful: [Joining a meeting](#)

During the Hearing

All testifiers must utilize their **computer audio** to participate and we strongly encourage you to share your video when testifying.

- This [link](#) explains how to test your computer speaker and microphone
- Please make sure your **CHAT PANEL IS OPEN** for the duration of the hearing and check it often.
 - Legislative staff will use the chat function to communicate with you during the hearing.
 - If you have questions or run into technical problems, you can use the chat feature to send a message to the host of the meeting.
 - Please keep the chat traffic to a minimum and to technical questions only. No comments about the subject matter, please. Our staff will do their best to assist you but may not be able to respond to all chat messages.
- During the hearing your mic and video camera should be muted/stopped unless it is your turn to testify. Legislative staff may mute participants or stop your video as necessary.
- Testifiers will not be allowed to testify while driving.
- When it is your turn to testify:
 - You will receive a request to share your video shortly before it is your turn. Please accept the request.
 - When the Chair calls on you, please unmute your microphone, pause for a moment, then begin addressing the committee.
- If you do not respond or encounter technical problems when the Chair calls on you, you may not be able to testify.

Additional Tips and Reminders

- To help ensure successful participation in the hearing, please test your audio and video before joining the meeting and check the chat panel frequently until it is your turn to testify.
- Your internet speed will affect the quality of your audio and video in the meeting. The Legislature will not be responsible for users' connection issues and technical problems. We recommend joining the meeting from a hard-wired broadband internet connection whenever possible.
- To prevent audio feedback, the sound for any livestream or cable broadcasts of the hearing you have running in the background must be turned off or muted when it is your turn to testify (There will be a 20 to 30 second delay from the Zoom meeting to the livestream).
- You are participating in a public event that is being broadcast live. The Zoom audio/video of the hearing will be part of the public cable broadcast and/or livestream via the internet. Please minimize background noise and consider what is visible in the background of your webcam.

- Please do not use a background, whether actual or virtual, showing any material that may be copyrighted, including material to which you own the copyright. Any such backgrounds may be in violation of YouTube policies and will result in your video being turned off or not allowing you to testify.

Help and Support

- For general help with navigating the legislative and committee hearing process, please contact the Public Access Room at (808) 587-0478 or par@capitol.hawaii.gov or visit PAR's website at <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>.
- For special assistance: If you need an auxiliary aid/service, other accommodation, or are unable to submit testimony via the website due to a disability, please contact the committee directly: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislature/committees.aspx?chamber=all>

HB-222-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:45:17 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SONIA PAGDILAO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Beloved Legislators,

I would like also to support this Bill. As everything are expensive now, we caregivers have hard time in budgeting our income. We provide the best care for our clients making sure they get enough to eat and have a good quality of life that we can offer 24/7. We put ourselves at risk both physically and mentally in doing our job, cannot even go out and relax sometimes because we only get paid for 44.16 daily and paying our substitute caregiver for 15.00/hour. I believe that it is hard to take care others when you can barely take care of yourself. There must be an equal oppurtunity for clients and Caregivers to enjoy life even in a difficult situation and increase payment would bring so much joy, strength and inspiration for us to continue the work with a joyful heart even how hard it is.

Thank you very much for your help and time in listening to our sentiments. May the Lord continue to bless us all.

Respectfully yours,

Sonia Pagdilao