

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE  
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SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DAINTRY BARTOLDUS  
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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March 20, 2026

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** HB1668 HD1, Relating to Medicaid

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB1668 HD1, which requires the Department of Human Services to allow a full earned income disregard for individuals with disabilities when determining eligibility for Medicaid.

This measure is critically important to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who seek to work without risking the loss of essential health coverage. Income and resource limits can create significant barriers to employment, savings, and long-term financial stability, particularly for individuals who rely on Medicaid-funded home and community-based services to remain in their communities.

The Council also recognizes and appreciates the Department of Human Service's recent progress in this area, including federal approval to remove income and resource limits for certain working individuals with disabilities. This measure presents an important opportunity to codify, preserve, and build upon that progress in statute.

To strengthen the measure and align it with the State's current direction, the Council respectfully recommends the following amendments:

**1. Maintain and expand income disregards to include a full asset disregard**

On page 1, line 10, amend "earned income disregard" to read:

**"a full earned income and asset disregard for individuals with disabilities who are working and have earned income"**

The intent of this amendment is to ensure that individuals with disabilities who are earning income and would otherwise qualify for Medicaid are able to maintain eligibility. This amendment further ensures that individuals are not penalized for saving, investing, or building financial security while retaining access to Medicaid.

## **2. Remove the age limitation**

On page 1, line 11, delete the phrase:

**“who are between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four years”**

This amendment addresses the coverage cliff at age sixty-five while ensuring the State can continue to operate within the extent permissible under federal law and approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

These amendments are intended to maintain and expand upon the State’s current approach, not disrupt it. By grounding eligibility in disability status rather than age, and by reducing income and asset barriers, this measure more fully realizes the intent of Kal’s Law and supports individuals with disabilities across the lifespan.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB1668 HD1.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that despite the  
2 enactment of "Kal's Law" through Act 155, Session Laws of Hawaii  
3 2019, the goals of that law have not yet been met. Individuals  
4 with a disability who are already enrolled in medicaid and  
5 depend on medicaid home-based care are not able to advance in  
6 employment if they wish to retain their medicaid benefits. The  
7 legislature further finds that additional clarification is  
8 needed to achieve the intent of Kal's Law.

SECTION 2. The department of human services shall allow a  
10 full earned income and asset disregard for individuals with  
11 disabilities who are working and have earned income  
12 ~~who are between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four years~~ when  
13 determining eligibility for medicaid.

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020;  
14 provided that the earned income disregard program established  
15 pursuant to section 2 of this Act is approved by the Centers for  
16 Medicare and Medicaid Services.

**Report Title:**

Medicaid; Department of Human Services; Full Earned Income  
Disregard

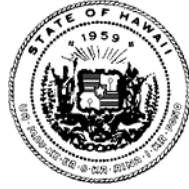
**De,s;cription:**

Requires the Department of Human Services to allow a full earned  
income disregard for individuals with disabilities who are  
between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four years when  
determining eligibility for Medicaid. Takes effect upon  
approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.  
Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*This is a summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



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



**RYAN I. YAMANE**  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

**JOSEPH CAMPOS II**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

**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

**TRISTA SPEER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

March 19, 2026

**TO:** The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**FROM:** Ryan I. Yamane, Director

**SUBJECT:** **HB 1668 HD1 – RELATING TO MEDICAID.**

**Hearing:** March 20, 2026, Time 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the bill's intent and offers comments. DHS is pleased to report that on March 17, 2026, the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) received approval from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for State Plan Amendment (SPA) 25-0016. SPA 25-0016 amends the current Ticket to Work Program by successfully removing both income and asset limits for individuals who meet the program's requirements. CMS also approved MQD's request to make this amendment effective as of January 1, 2026.

The MQD staff wish to express our appreciation for Kal, his family, the community, and the legislature for working with DHS to get these amendments submitted and approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure. Respectfully, we request the measure be deferred.



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

Ka 'Oihana Ho'oka'a'ike no ka Po'e Kīnānā

1010 Richards Street, Rm. 118 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

March 20, 2026

## TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### House Bill 1668 House Draft 1 – Relating to Medicaid

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1668 House Draft 1 – Relating to Medicaid. This bill requires the Department of Human Services to allow a full earned income disregard for individuals with disabilities who are between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four years when determining eligibility for Medicaid. This takes effect upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Effective 7/1/3000.

By expanding access to Medicaid, this bill will help individuals with disabilities achieve greater financial independence and access essential healthcare services, without the fear of losing coverage as they increase their earnings. It is a vital step toward ensuring that individuals with disabilities have the support they need to work and thrive in the community.

DCAB supports this bill to improve the quality of life and economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO  
Acting Executive Director

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:10:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We are in strong support of this Bill. One of the main goals of the disability movement is to integrate individuals with disabilities into competitive employment. While there are many barriers and challenges, one that has stood out is the potential loss of Medicaid waiver benefits that many of these individuals need in order to function properly in their day to day life.

We were very involved with the passage of Kal’s Law and we appreciate that that was a good step at the time. However, time has also shown that the law has limitations as it does not address what happens when the person with the disability achieves a higher level of success in their employment. At the time it was passed, capping the allowable earnings at a rate tied to the Federal Poverty Level may have seemed like a reasonable compromise. However, experience has demonstrated that the cap has created artificial limitations that prevent individuals from maximizing their potential. We know of cases where individuals operating under the Income Disregard have opportunities to earn higher salaries or receive promotions or otherwise advance their career. The goal and policy of the law should be to encourage that. Instead, the current law forces them into a difficult choice as they cannot afford to lose their valuable Medicaid benefits. They should be incentivized to be as successful as they can be- not penalized.

Lifting the cap on the Earned Income Disregard will go a long way towards fulfilling the promise of community integration for people with disabilities. We note in prior testimony that DHS was seeking approval from CMS to eliminate both the income and asset limitations. We very much support and applaud this effort and would concur with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities in urging that this Bill be amended to update Kal’s Law to include both a full income and asset disregard. The current two thousand dollar limitation is so restrictive that it is really inconsistent with the whole purpose of what this Bill is attempting to accomplish. The three thousand dollar cap for married couples clearly penalizes them and is an obvious barrier to one's pursuit of happiness.



The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** H.B. 1668, HD1 Relating to Medicaid

The Hawai'i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council supports HB1688, HD1.

This bill says that people with disabilities ages 16–64 can **work and still keep their Medicaid**, because their earned income would not be counted when deciding eligibility.

This is important because many people with disabilities need Medicaid for services that help them live safely at home — like personal care, nursing, medical equipment, and help with daily activities. Losing Medicaid can put their health and independence at risk.

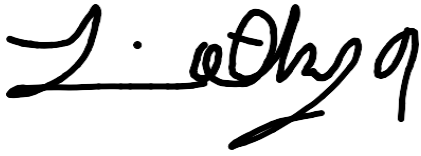
Right now, people can lose Medicaid if they earn even a little more money. This forces many people to turn down promotions, work fewer hours, or stop working completely. They are not choosing this — the system pushes them into it.

HB1688, HD1 fixes this problem. It lets people with disabilities work without losing the care they need. It supports independence, stability, and community inclusion.

It also saves money in the long run, because people who keep their services are less likely to need emergency care or institutional placement.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council strongly supports HB1688, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Renken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a stylized "R".

Timothy Renken,

President, Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:07:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Kilgore	Testifying for Full Life	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs and Members of the HHS and WAM Committees,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1688 HD1, which requires the Department of Human Services to allow an income disregard for individuals with disabilities when determining Medicaid eligibility.

We support numerous people with developmental disabilities whose families are terrified about their loved ones' dreams for full employment, because of the prospect of losing Medicaid due to income restrictions.

Many people with developmental disabilities require lifelong and life-sustaining services that are provided only through Medicaid. This includes home and community-based services, personal care, nursing services, medical equipment, and other supports that prevent them from becoming isolated in costly institutional settings.

Medicaid income eligibility requirements force people with disabilities to live in poverty, living without universal human rights such as an adequate standard of living, housing, education, employment, and ownership of property. People should not be forced to choose between an equitable standard of living and support services only covered by Medicaid.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

This testimony includes six individuals who are in support of HB1668 HD1

Hello Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Josh Goetz. I am a person with a developmental disability, and I use Medicaid services.

Medicaid helps me with the supports I need to live and work in the community. Without these services, it would be very hard for me to keep my job and stay independent.

Right now, I have to be careful not to earn too much money. If I make too much, I could lose my Medicaid. That makes it scary to work more hours or take a better job.

This bill would let people like me work and earn more money without losing Medicaid services.

I want to work. I want to grow. I want to be independent. But I also need my support.

Please pass this bill so people with disabilities do not have to choose between working and keeping the services we need.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.

Hello Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Michelle Muralt and I am in full support of HB1668 HD1, for Medicaid buy-in program.

The reason why I think Medicaid Buy-in program is important is because it allows more choices by letting individuals like me to live and work independently in our community making us feel like we belong.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1668 HD1.

Hello Chair and committee members

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I am a self-advocate who is in full support of HB1668 HD1. The reason why I think Medicaid buy-in program is important is because it will allow me to work and have access to durable medical equipment, like my electric wheelchair, that is often not available or not enough to meet my needs.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB 1668 HD1

Hello Chair and committee members,

My name is James Labrie and I am a self-advocate who is in support of HB1668 HD1.

The reason why I think the Medicaid buy-in program is important is because people like me who rely on Medicaid for all my needs for my electric wheelchair. I depend on the medical equipment that helps me to live and travel in my community. By allowing a buy-in program, I will be able to make a living from work and still not have my Medicaid be suspended or stopped because of my earned income. For people like me who need medical coverage through Medicaid, I rely on this program to have a better life.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 1668 HD1.

Hello Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Raymond Mamea and I am in support of HB1668 HD1.

The reason why I think a Medicaid buy in program is important, is that it will help me to rely on my Medicaid for my wheelchair and be able to live in my community without having to worry about losing my benefits if I decide to work and earn money. The last time my wheelchair broke down, I had to wait 4 months before it could be replaced by Medicaid. Without Medicaid, I would have been stuck at home and no way to get to my adult day health program.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB1668 HD1.

Hello Chair and members of the committee

My name is Celeste Kagimoto and I am in full support of HB1668 HD1

Medicaid is so important to people with disabilities and yet they are not able to earn money without reaching the Medicaid limit of \$2,000 and having their benefits stop if they go over that limit. This is a problem for people with disabilities keeping them living with less money and with no hope for a good life. A Medicaid buy-in program would take away that limit and allow people with disabilities to save money to help them build a better future and plan for a good life, while keeping their medical plan.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on HB1668 HD1.



[www.AlohaILHawaii.org](http://www.AlohaILHawaii.org)

Mar 20, 2026

#### MISSION

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) dedicated to providing independent living programs and services for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

We work together with the community and consumers to improve the quality of life through individual choices and access to services.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT:** HB1668 HD1 – Relating to Medicaid

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) respectfully submits testimony in **strong support of HB1668 HD1.**

HB1668 HD1 requires the Department of Human Services to allow a full earned income disregard for individuals with disabilities between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four when determining Medicaid eligibility. This measure addresses a structural disincentive that limits workforce participation among individuals who rely on Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services (HCBS).

Under the current framework, individuals with disabilities who depend on Medicaid home-based care often face a benefits cliff: earning additional income may result in the loss of essential healthcare and support services. As noted in the bill, despite the enactment of “Kal’s Law,” individuals remain unable to advance in employment without risking Medicaid eligibility. This dynamic discourages employment growth and constrains economic mobility for people with disabilities across Hawaii.

From a human services and Independent Living perspective, people should not be forced to choose between working toward their goals and keeping the basic services that allow them to live in their own homes. When Medicaid rules penalize increased earnings, they send the message that people with disabilities must stay poor to stay safe. HB1668 HD1 restores



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dignity and choice by allowing disabled individuals to pursue education, training, and employment while maintaining the supports they need to live in the community.

Home- and community-based services are foundational to employment and independent living for many individuals with disabilities. Without personal assistance services, durable medical equipment, and ongoing medical support, employment and full community participation may not be sustainable. Policies that inadvertently force individuals to choose between employment and healthcare undermine the State's commitment to person-centered, community-based, non-institutional care.

This measure also aligns with the State's Workforce Development Unified Plan, particularly Goal 4: Expand Inclusive Workforce Participation. Individuals with disabilities are identified as a key population within the State's inclusive workforce strategy. However, workforce inclusion cannot be fully realized if Medicaid eligibility rules penalize income growth. HB1668 HD1 strengthens policy alignment across departments by ensuring that healthcare eligibility structures support, rather than contradict, inclusive employment and Independent Living goals.

Importantly, preserving Medicaid eligibility for working individuals with disabilities also reduces the risk of unnecessary institutionalization. When people can keep their services while they work, they are better able to remain in their homes, maintain natural supports, and participate fully in community life. This is consistent with the Independent Living philosophy that people with disabilities should direct their own lives and live in the settings they choose.

AILH recognizes that implementation of this measure is contingent upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We encourage the Department of Human Services to work proactively with CMS to secure approval and to provide clear guidance to beneficiaries and community partners to ensure smooth implementation.

HD1668 HD1 removes a structural barrier to employment advancement, aligns with the State's inclusive workforce and Independent Living goals,



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#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Roxanne U. Bolden

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##### **Member**

Scott Suzuki  
Sheila Castaneda  
Jennifer Hartssock

and supports person-centered, community-based care for people with disabilities.

AILH respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director

17 March 2026

Dear Chair Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Community Members,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my story as a Hawai'i resident living with a disability and to explain how HB 1668 for a Medicaid Income Disregard, would be life-changing for myself and others with disabilities.

HB 1668 would require the Department of Human Services to allow a full earned income disregard for individuals with disabilities between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four years when determining eligibility for Medicaid. It would take effect upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. I am writing this testimony in support of HB 1668.

My name is Janelle Fiesta, and I was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. I was diagnosed with a rare neuromuscular disease called Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) at one year old. I am now 30 years old, and I have a lot more life to live.

As a result of SMA, I have lost most of my motor function and cannot perform many physical tasks independently. Activities such as getting out of bed, using the bathroom, bathing, dressing, and getting to work all require assistance. I use a power wheelchair to navigate the world, and I rely on caregivers every day to help me with activities of daily living.

Because of this, Medicaid is essential to my survival. Through Medicaid, I receive caregiving attendant services that make it possible for me to live and work in the community, and I am deeply grateful for this support. Despite my disability, I live a full and meaningful life. I am surrounded by supportive family and friends, have a loving partner, and hold hopes and goals for my future like anyone else.

One of my proudest accomplishments is my career as an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Specialist. I enjoy helping others and learning about disability law and policy. I am able to work independently using a computer and communicate effectively with colleagues and customers. I have been an EEO practitioner for nearly five years. I started as an EEO Assistant back in 2021. In 2025, I applied for a promotion and was selected for an EEO Specialist position in September. I love the work that I do and hope to continue growing professionally. However, employer-based insurance does not cover caregiving attendant services, and my income alone cannot support the cost of daily care without Medicaid.

Current Medicaid policy requires people with disabilities to remain at or near poverty-level income in order to maintain coverage. This places working people with disabilities in an impossible position: we must limit our earnings to preserve access to the services that keep us

alive. As a result, many are forced to reduce work hours, decline promotions, or avoid employment altogether. While this may not be the intent of the policy, it ultimately discourages workforce participation and undermines independence and stability.

For me, Medicaid is not temporary support; it is a lifelong necessity. “Getting off benefits” is neither realistic nor appropriate, because disability-related medical needs do not disappear with employment or modest income. Work provides purpose and opportunity, but it does not eliminate the need for essential care.

In prior testimony, the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS) was seeking approval from the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to not only eliminate the income limit, but the asset limit as well. At this moment of time, single individuals are only permitted to have \$2,000 worth of assets. Married couples are only permitted to have \$3,000 worth of assets. With the support of DHS and blessing from CMS, removing this asset limit in addition to the income limit proposed by HB 1668 would be groundbreaking for Hawai‘i’s disability community. There are certain workarounds, such as ABLE Accounts for people with disabilities, but this approach to the asset limit is only a temporary fix. It should not be considered a long-term or sustainable solution.

HB 1668 is about dignity, equity, and opportunity. It would allow people with disabilities who want to work and build careers to do so without risking the loss of critical Medicaid services. It affirms our right to earn income, plan for the future, and make decisions based on our goals rather than outdated eligibility rules.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to amend HB 1668 to also eliminate the current asset limit. Without this addition, many working individuals with disabilities will still face barriers. By also removing the outdated asset limit, you have the opportunity to make HB 1668 truly transformative by empowering our community not just to survive, but to build stability, pursue opportunity, and live with dignity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Respectfully,

Janelle Fiesta

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:55:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ANNETTE TASHIRO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. There are so many people with disabilities who are contributing to the economy of Hawaii by working hard at their jobs, yet the disincentives would be the loss of their medical and social supports because they earn over the threshold amount.

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 12:39:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaili	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Vice Chairs,

My name is Kaili Swan. I am in strong support of this measure. I have an intellectual disability, and I am on Medicaid. I like working my job at James Campbell High School as a cleaner. It gives me a sense of purpose, but right now I cannot work full-time, as it may affect my services. I want all of my friends to be able to work too.

Please pass this measure.

Mahalo,

Kaili Swan

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:44:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie N. Greenleaf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, and committee members,

My name is Natalie Nohealani Greenleaf. Mahalo for letting me share my testimony. I am writing in **strong support of HB1668 HD1**. I live in Lahaina, Maui. I am a member of Maui Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC), and a self-advocate.

This bill is important to me because I love to work, and I love my job with Malama Maui Nui. I do office work and clean up the aina. I like to work to meet new people and have new experiences out in the community. I love my boss because she treats me well and with respect, it doesn't matter how I look. I like to control my money, so I budget and can buy necessities for my health. I like to make and save money to go places and visit my Ohana on Molokai. When I have my own money, it makes me feel independent. It would be good for more people with disabilities to have their own money to have more control over what they buy and what they can do for themselves.

I am in **strong support of HB1668 HD1**.

Mahalo for listening and for your time,

Natalie

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:19:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Iris Xiao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, and Committee Members,

My name is Iris Xiao. Thank you for letting me share my testimony. I am writing in support of HB1668 HD1. I am a self-advocate with the Maui Self-Advocacy Advisory Council.

This bill is important to me because without the Medicaid Disregard, right now, working and making money makes me feel uncertain, and it feels unfair. I really would like to work a job so that I could be more a part of the community and can earn my own money. As someone with disabilities, I often need more support to help me work. If I were to work, it would matter how much money I make. If the Medicaid income disregard were passed, I would feel more secure, and I would be determined to earn money to support myself and have a more positive perspective on life.

I am in support of HB1668 HD1.

Thank you for listening and for your time,

Iris Xiao

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:33:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the House: I support HB1668 fully for individuals with confirmed disabilities who are entitled to Medicaid support. Individuals with disabilities are important members of our society and Democracy. In a society where the attitude is that "money" is "way ahead of what's in second place", Please pass HB1668 on behalf of those who are less fortunate from no fault of their own. Mahalo nui,

Kenichi Yabusaki, Ph.D.

3.20.2026

Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura Chair, Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair and committee members.

My name is Alexandra McClurg. I am from Waimea Easterseals, Kauai.

I support bill HB1668: Medicaid Income Disregard Program.

I use Medicaid benefits to visit my dentist, eye doctor and physician. I also use Medicaid to help purchase medical supplies, rent and SNAP benefits.

I work at Target and the mall Kiosk.

I enjoy having jobs that allow me to work. I need the benefits of Medicaid and the money from my jobs to pay my bills.

I worry that if I make too much in one month that my Medicaid benefits could be affected. This program will help me stay independent.

Thank you for allowing me to speak

Alexandra McClurg

4263 Kai Ikena Drive, Kalaheo, HI 96741

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 5:00:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic Gawrichevsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, and Vice Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, and Committee Members,

My name is Dominic Gawrichevsky. Thank you for letting me share my testimony. **I am writing in support of HB1668 HD1.** I live in Maui. I am a self-advocate with the Maui Self-Advocacy Advisory Council.

This bill is important to me because I have my own business, it is called Wood Burning by Dom, I am an artist, and I paint watercolors. I am very good at painting the world. I will also be writing a book about Hawaiian Culture, Energy, and King Kamehameha. Right now, I am concerned about making money. I am afraid of the state taking away my friends and my Medicaid benefits. I would like to take my business more seriously and make more money. The Medicaid Income Disregard will help me by giving me the chance to better my life, give to the community, and continue to share love through my art while keeping my Medicaid.

**I am in support of HB1668 HD1.**

Thank you for listening and for your time.

DG

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 8:51:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Urayanza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey, and Committee Members,

My name is Travis Urayanza. Thank you for letting me share my testimony. I am writing in **strong support of HB1668 HD1**. I live in Lahaina, Maui. I am a member of the Maui SAAC.

A full Medicaid Income Disregard would be very helpful for people with disabilities who earn more money and risk losing their benefits. The risk of losing your benefits is very stressful, and it is hard to always be on alert and worry about making too much money. For people who want and are able to work, they should have the option to do so. Working often helps to keep people motivated and gives them purpose. It is becoming difficult for people to live here in Hawaii, the price of paradise is high. I myself would like to work more, so this would alleviate the worry for my family that I cannot support and take care of myself. This bill would alleviate the stress of financial burden for people with disabilities.

I am in **strong support of HB1668 HD1**.

Thank you for listening and for your time,

Travis

**LATE**

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 2:17:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1668-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 3:03:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/20/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Kobayakawa	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Deborah Kobayakawa

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

State Capitol, State of Hawai'i

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 1668

My name is Deborah Kobayakawa and I serve as a parent on the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB 1668.

My 36 year old son with autism and an intellectual disability has been employed with Safeway for the past 15 years. When he started minimum wage was \$10.25 an hour, he's now earning \$16.35 per hour, so he's very close to the exceeding the current allowed income limit working only 24 hours per week.

Employment statistics for the disability population are dismal at best, with most folks like my son having to rely completely on government benefits and/or living with their family. We want to encourage people with disabilities to be employed without fearing the risk of losing their much needed Medicaid coverage and benefits. Most of our folks will need some of type employment supports to be successful.

The current income limits restrict employment hours, forcing individuals to choose between earning an income and maintaining healthcare. In the case of my son, he earns more money working than he receives in Social Security benefits AND he is paying taxes and into social security. He utilizes Employment Supports provided by Medicaid Waiver in order to successfully maintain employment. Without the Medicaid coverage he will lose his employment supports, threatening his job, his income, and his health insurance through employment. Most importantly he will lose the life he loves.

Without Medicaid health insurance his world will be turned upside down. He'll lose his housing in his group home, he'd be forced to move back in with us until we die and then what? He wouldn't be able attend his Day Program and access his peers doing what he enjoys. We worked hard as his parents to give him a strong work ethic and he loves his job, his customers and his home. He wants to work, have friends, and live as independently as he can, just like you and I.

Allowing a full income disregard supports financial independence for people like my son while ensuring continued access to critical health and long-term services. I humbly ask that you support this measure as it removes a major barrier to employment for people with disabilities.

Respectfully,

Deborah Kobayakawa

Parent/Guardian/Advocate

**LATE**

Dear Chair, Vice Chair & HHS Committee,

My name is Angela Melody Young. I work at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in fashion. Working is important to me because I want to make a living as I survive my health complications. There is no way I can afford my medical bills to keep up with going to see so many practitioners in various fields of healthcare such as for cardiology, orthopedics, vision, counseling & others. I receive QUEST/Medicaid services that help me receive basically free healthcare planning so I can get consistent diagnostic scans, services & treatment.

For people with DHS GA Financial assistance benefits & Social security income, we have to qualify for eligibility as being an individual living with disabilities with health complications, injuries or developmental disabilities. This requires us to go through many difficult trials & tests during the application of benefits from the State & Federal level.

When I started working, I knew I had to keep my income below a certain threshold because making more meant I would lose my benefits. Because I cannot work a full-time job for which a complete health care plan is provided, I have to worry about working a part-time job while keeping my QUEST integration plan to keep up with my healthcare routine. When I called QUEST, they didn't know anything about Kal's law or income disregard. They didn't know I have had disabilities for the last 6 years since I've been with Quest. There is a lack of communication and formal procedure in the QUEST division. The databases between QUEST & BESSD are not shared, although the offices have overlapping work. There needs to be more effort in policy direction for full implementation of income disregard.

HB 1668 would help people like me who need consistent medically necessary procedures who have health complications and are not able to work a fulltime job that has its own health insurance plan.

**Angela Melody Young**

