



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
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February 6, 2026

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Takayama and Marten, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1731 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB1731**, which clarifies that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care shall not be denied residency in a licensed community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific Medicaid waiver program

This measure is needed because current policy forces individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to make an unnecessary and harmful choice between where they live and the Medicaid services that support their health, safety, and independence. Although, per HAR §11-800-7(a), Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFHs) are certified to serve individuals at an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care, individuals with I/DD are often excluded from these homes solely because they are enrolled in the 1915(c) waiver. This exclusion is not based on health or safety concerns, but on administrative interpretations of waiver eligibility.

Existing rules already provide a strong framework for safe, regulated, home-like care. HAR §11-800 is diagnosis-neutral, focuses on functional need rather than funding source, and includes training, oversight, and service planning requirements that align with home- and community-based services standards. CCFFHs already serve private-pay individuals and Medicaid 1115 waiver participants at comparable levels of care. The barrier preventing

individuals with I/DD from residing in these homes is therefore not regulatory, but programmatic.

By clarifying that waiver enrollment cannot be used as a basis for exclusion, this measure removes a systemic barrier to community living. It allows individuals to retain their 1915(c) waiver services while residing in an appropriate, certified setting, promotes continuity of care, expands inclusive housing options, and prevents unnecessary discharges and transitions. This is a targeted clarification that aligns policy with practice and supports the State's commitment to integrated, community-based living for people with I/DD.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **strongly supports HB1731**.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



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
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February 6, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

House Bill 1731 – Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1731 – Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes. This bill clarifies that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care shall not be denied residency in a licensed community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific medicaid waiver program.

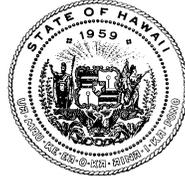
Community care foster family homes provide an important service for individuals who need twenty-hour support. Currently, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are enrolled in a HCBS I/DD waiver program who wish to reside in a community care foster family home must disenroll from and transition into the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver Program. This requirement disrupts continuity of care and may result in the loss of essential, individualized services.

House Bill 1731 will eliminate this requirement and allow them to remain in the HCBS I/DD waiver program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

KRISTINE PAGANO
Acting Executive Director



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKOLE

Testimony COMMENTING on HB1731

RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE LISA MARTEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: February 6, 2026

Room Number: CR329

1 The Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division (DOH-DDD) appreciates
2 the intent of this bill and offers comments. The DOH-DDD agrees that there is a need for
3 increased residential options for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
4 (IDD), especially in rural areas of the State. DOH-DDD is collaborating with the Department of
5 Human Services (DHS) to improve access to residential settings for individuals with IDD and
6 notes that the request to expand access to Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFHs) for
7 individuals enrolled in the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) 1915(c) waiver for
8 intellectual and developmental disabilities raises several concerns.

9 HB1731 intends to allow individuals with IDD participating in the Medicaid 1915(c)
10 HCBS waiver to reside in CCFFHs, which are currently available to individuals enrolled in the
11 Medicaid 1115 HCBS waiver. The DOH-DDD appreciates the intent to expand residential
12 options for individuals with IDD and reduce transitions out of the 1915(c) waiver. The DOH-
13 DDD is already actively working to explore and implement other pathways to increase
14 residential capacity for individuals with IDD through a current waiver renewal and suggests
15 collaborating with DHS and other stakeholders to discuss the requirements and implications of
16 allowing 1915(c) participants to reside in CCFFHs.

1 The Medicaid 1915(c) HCBS waiver for individuals with IDD is authorized under
2 Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. The DOH-DDD and the DHS Med-QUEST division
3 (MQD) work in partnership to design and implement the 1915(c) waiver in compliance with
4 requirements, laws, and waiver standards. Individuals in the 1915(c) waiver needing residential
5 habilitation services may receive them in various licensed or certified settings, such as Adult
6 Foster Homes (AFHs) for individuals with IDD, DD Domiciliary Homes, and Adult Residential
7 Care Homes. To increase options for individuals with IDD, DOH-DDD has partnered with MQD
8 to propose additional services through a 1915(c) waiver renewal. The waiver renewal proposal
9 includes supplemental payments for agencies to establish new adult foster homes for individuals
10 with IDD. These efforts promise to increase housing capacity for individuals with IDD without
11 competing for limited resources intended for the current CCFFH beneficiaries. Furthermore,
12 these new services and incentives allow individuals with IDD to continue receiving services
13 from caregivers trained in supporting the needs of individuals with IDD through a wide array of
14 1915(c) waiver services.

15 The bill cites the need to transition out of the 1915(c) waiver and into the 1115 waiver to
16 access CCFFHs. Data suggest the actual number of individuals transitioning from the 1915(c)
17 waiver to the 1115 waiver is very low, and even lower for the purpose of requiring residence in a
18 CCFFH. Data spanning approximately the last five years (FY22 to FY26) report an average of
19 only 14 participants per year (0.46% of 3001 participants in the 1915(c) waiver) transitioned
20 from the 1915(c) waiver to the 1115 waiver. All causes were included in the analysis, and few of
21 these transitions were due to need for CCFFH placement.

22 The DOH-DDD recognizes the importance of ensuring continuity of care for 1915(c)
23 participants. Although the total number of individuals transitioned to the 1115 waiver remains
24 very low, the DOH-DDD is working in partnership with MQD to reduce this number further.
25 The renewal adds waiver services such as personal care assistance and residential care supports
26 to promote participants with IDD to age-in-place while continuing to receive 1915(c) services
27 and avoid transfer to the 1115 waiver.

1 The approach in this bill also raises several concerns outlined below.

2 **Concerns with Allowing Individuals in the 1915(c) Waiver to Reside in CCFFHs**

3 **1. Adding CCFFH as a 1915(c) Waiver Service Requires CMS Approval**

4 The 1915(c) waiver currently requires an individual to meet Intermediate Care Facility
5 for Individuals with Intellectual Disability (ICF-IID) level of care (LOC) (as
6 defined in 42 CFR § 440.150). This means that without services to facilitate living in home and
7 community settings, the individual with IDD would require institutionalization. Eligibility for
8 the 1115 waiver requires an individual to meet Nursing Facility level of care (NF LOC) (as
9 defined in 42 CFR § 440.40 and 42 CFR § 440.155). The 1115 waiver is designed for individuals
10 at risk for nursing home admission and provides skilled nursing and complex medical needs
11 services to prevent or delay institutionalization and allow individuals with nursing level needs to
12 live in their home and community settings. The 1915(c) waiver has been granted approval by the
13 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide waiver services to those meeting
14 ICF-IID LOC, but does not have CMS approval to provide services for individuals with NF
15 LOC. Moreover, the 1915(c) waiver does not include CCFFH as an approved waiver service.

16 The DOH-DDD has identified two pathways to allow individuals in the 1915(c) waiver to
17 access CCFFHs. The first pathway would be to add CCFFHs as a waiver service through an
18 amendment. This would require a rate study and development of service standards; in addition,
19 CCFFH agencies would need to be contracted as waiver service providers. The second pathway
20 would be to add NF LOC to the designation of eligible individuals in the 1915(c) waiver. The
21 decision to grant waiver service access to individuals of a different type of institutional level of
22 care without an analysis of feasibility and impact on the mission of the 1915(c) waiver is a
23 concern. Both pathways require CMS approval through a waiver amendment.

24 **2. Training, Contracting, and Implementation Challenges**

25 Training CCFFH caregivers, contracting with CCFFH agencies, and implementing
26 service requirements also present challenges. Caregivers in CCFFHs are certified nursing

1 assistants or registered nurses trained to support individuals with NF LOC needs. The CCFFH
2 caregivers and agencies that support them are not contracted as providers for 1915(c) services
3 and are not trained to support individuals with ICF-IID level of care needs. CCFFH caregivers
4 would be required to receive additional training to support individuals with IDD and the agencies
5 they serve would be required to contract as 1915(c) waiver service providers.

6 The LOC determinations were created to ensure individuals in specific populations
7 received targeted services. For example, many people with IDD do not have skilled nursing or
8 complex medical needs and instead require habilitative supports to meet their life goals in home
9 and community settings. In contrast, elderly people with advancing medical needs require skilled
10 nursing support, not habilitative support, and may be better served in a setting that provides
11 skilled nursing to address those needs. Allowing individuals in the 1915(c) waiver to access the
12 limited number of CCFFHs will reduce CCFFH access for populations such as the elderly and
13 those with nursing home level of care in the 1115 waiver. The impact and cost of this is
14 unknown.

15 Moreover, the Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) has regulatory authority over
16 CCFFHs. As such, placement in a CCFFH must comply with OHCA's regulations, which
17 include, among other requirements, case management oversight which is different than the case
18 management currently provided by DOH-DDD. In addition, if a participant in the 1915(c) waiver
19 were residing in a CCFFH concurrently with an individual(s) in the 1115 waiver, coordination
20 would be required between the DOH-DDD administering the 1915(c) waiver and health plans
21 administering the 1115 waiver to avoid duplication of services and ensure appropriate services
22 are delivered.

23 In summary, for participants in the 1915(c) waiver to be allowed to reside in a CCFFH,
24 initial research by the DOH-DDD has identified the following requirements: 1) amendments to
25 the 1915(c) waiver and approval from CMS, 2) training of CCFFH caregivers in supporting
26 persons with IDD, 3) assessment and implementation of OHCA requirements for CCFFHs, 4)
27 contracting of CCFFH agencies to provide 1915(c) waiver services, and 5) assessment and

1 implementation of processes to avoid duplication of waiver services. A study of the cost and
2 effect of implementing this bill, such as reduction in CCFFH access for 1115 waiver participants,
3 has not been done. Furthermore, a legislatively mandated timeline to execute this bill may not be
4 feasible due to circumstances outside of the DOH-DDD control such as CMS approval for
5 waiver amendments.

6 The DOH-DDD proposes an alternative pathway to legislation that involves evaluation of
7 the impact of proposed waiver renewal services, which are set to begin July 1, 2026, if approved.
8 These waiver renewal services are designed to increase residential capacity and services while
9 participants remain in the 1915(c) waiver. The DOH-DDD will continue to work closely with
10 DHS and stakeholders to consider the implementation of the outlined regulatory and
11 administrative pathways to allow individuals with IDD to reside in CCFFHs but proposes to act
12 on a timeline and scale that is feasible, data driven, collaborative, and does not compromise
13 access and quality of services for vulnerable populations.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TRISTA SPEER
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
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 5, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2009 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES.**

Hearing: February 6, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill to allow individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) enrolled in the 1915(c) waiver to reside in Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH) without losing access to other 1915(c) services, offers comments, and requests amendments.

DHS agrees that there is a great need to increase community capacity and options for Hawaii's residents who require residential care and delay the use of more costly institutional care. DHS is actively working to expand access to Adult Foster Homes (AFH), which offer community placement options for individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities, and notes that it has already requested CMS approval to increase AFH compensation on the Neighbor Islands to support the retention of existing providers and expand capacity.

Currently, only a subset of individuals with I/DD who additionally qualify for the Nursing Facility Level of Care (NFLOC) are eligible to reside in CCFFH. This is because CCFFHs are

licensed to provide residential care only to individuals meeting NFLOC. To access CCFFH residential services, individuals with I/DD are typically disenrolled from the 1915(c) Medicaid waiver and enrolled in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) under the 1115 Medicaid waiver, thereby losing access to existing and specialized HCBS available only through the 1915(c) waiver. This is because the 1915(c) waiver, which serves individuals at the Intermediate Care Facility/Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) level of care, does not include CCFFH services.

The bill would require updating CCFFH licensure standards to accommodate individuals at the ICF/ID level of care, and the 1915(c) waiver would need to be amended to include CCFFH services. DHS defers to the Department of Health on CCFFH licensure standards and is willing to seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to add CCFFH services to the 1915(c) waiver.

DHS cautions that CCFFH capacity is limited for individuals who meet NFLOC under the 1115 Medicaid waiver. Expanding access to CCFFH to individuals meeting ICF/ID level of care through the 1915(c) waiver is expected to further increase demand for this setting; as such, the authority to provide these services may not translate into increased access for individuals with I/DD while further compromising access to CCFFH services for NFLOC 1115 Medicaid waiver individuals, who are mostly kupuna.

Furthermore, to appropriately care for individuals with I/DD who only meet the Intermediate Care Facility/Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) level of care, CCFFH home operators would require additional training. As such, funding is likely needed to train CCFFH operators and their staff to support the placement of individuals with I/DD. DHS is willing to provide updated budget requirements to incorporate these additional costs as the bill proceeds.

DHS respectfully requests an amendment deleting the language on page 8, lines 1-3, "provided that each resident of the home is enrolled in only one waiver and receives services in accordance with that waiver's rules and requirements." This phrase constrains the regulatory pathways through which DHS may seek CMS approval for these services. Also, DHS respectfully requests an amendment adding language stating that, if passed, the bill is contingent upon and enforceable upon revision of CCFFH licensure standards by the Department of Health and

approval of the 1915(c) waiver updates by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

This bill addresses a complex issue: increasing residential capacity for individuals with I/DD. Implementing this measure as drafted would require multiple changes, approvals, and additional training for providers and may not necessarily result in an overall increase in residential options. DHS recognizes that to develop a comprehensive pathway to achieve the goal of increasing residential capacity for the 1915(c) and 1115 Medicaid waiver populations requires a collaborative approach that includes members of the legislature, families and stakeholders, the Department of Health (DOH) Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD), the DOH State Council on the Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), and DHS.

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

HB-1731

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 6:06:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We support this Bill. It will expand housing and community integration opportunities for individuals in the ID or DD population. Our understanding is that this is a particular problem on the neighbor islands, where homes that are specially designed for individuals with developmental disabilities are in short supply . Yet there are Community Care Foster Homes that could admit these individuals but for the current maze of regulations that govern different types of care homes. We have seen cases where individuals were forced to relocate to Oahu when they could have remained in their community had they been allowed to be placed in a Community Care Foster Home. The result is they are uprooted from their community and placed further away from their family. The hope is that this measure will provide some flexibility so as to minimize those occurrences. Ultimately, the goal is to increase the capacity, especially on the neighbor islands, to care for this population.

HB-1731

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:57:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
suzie	Arc of Maui County	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please allow the ID population to have Foster Care homes as a possible residence in HI.

HB-1731

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:43:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Marsh	Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

LATE



The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature, State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Takayama and Marten, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1731 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The Hawai'i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council(SAAC) strongly supports HB1731. The bill makes sure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities cannot be denied a place in a Community Care Foster Family Home just because of their disability or because they use a specific Medicaid waiver.

Right now, some people with I/DD are blocked from these homes for administrative reasons—not because of safety or care needs. HB1731 fixes this by making clear that waiver enrollment cannot be used as a reason to exclude someone. This allows people to keep their services, stay in appropriate homes, and avoid unnecessary moves.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council strongly supports HB1731.

Timothy Renken,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Renken", written in a cursive style.

President, Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council

Following testimony has 5 individuals who support HB1731

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

The Thirty-Third Legislature

State Capitol

State of Hawai'i

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

LATE

Dear Chairs Takayama and Marten, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1731 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is Josh Goetz and I am in full support of HB1731, which relates to Community Care Foster family homes. individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care shall not be denied residency in a licensed community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific Medicaid waiver program

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1731.

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Takayama and Marten, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1731 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is Michelle Muralt and I am in full support of HB1731, which relates to Community Care Foster family homes. individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care shall not be denied residency in a licensed community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific Medicaid waiver program

The reason why I think HB1731 is important is:

If I needed to change my foster home placement to another home, I would have more options and not worry about not having no place to live in which will cause me more stress and anxiety in my health.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1731.

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Takayama and Marten, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1731 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I am in full support of HB1731, which relates to Community Care Foster family homes.

The reason why I think HB1731 is important is:

Because having limited access to community care foster family homes can be difficult for an individual like me which is unsafe, rather than having a safe place that helps me with my needs.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1731.

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Takayama and Marten, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1731 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is Raymond Mamea and I am in full support of HB1731, which relates to Community Care Foster family homes.

The reason why I think HB1731 is important is:

There would be more options for housing placement where people with disabilities have caregivers that provide good and moral care and not bad caregivers who only do the job for money, which I have experienced.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1731.

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairs Takayama and Marten, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1731 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is James Labrie and I am in full support of HB1731, which relates to Community Care Foster family homes.

The reason why I think HB1731 is important is:

Case managers who need options to place their participants into foster homes will have a lot more choices to have with the available community care foster family homes. My case manager had a hard time looking for a foster home for me because of limited options, but with these community care foster family homes, there would be a lot more choices and matching of caregiver and participants.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1731.

HB1731 Testimony

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My name Iris Xiao.

Thank you for letting me share my testimony.

I am writing in support of HB1731.

I live in Oahu.

I am a self-advocate.

This bill is important to me because:

There should always be changing tables available for adults and kids. We should not discriminate against who can use changing tables in the community. Oftentimes, adults with disabilities who need to be changed are changed in the ground of restrooms. This is not right, and it is unfair because they should be treated with the same respect. Adults with disabilities must have clean access to being changed.

I am in support of HB1731.

Thank you for listening and for your time,

Iris Xiao.

LATE

Aloha

Representatives Gregg Takayama, Chair House Committee on Health and Lisa Marten, Chair House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, Vice Chairs and Committee members:

SUBJECT: HB1731 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes.

My name is Randelle Lee. I am with Easter Seals Waimea, on the island of Kauai.

I support bill HB1731.

Hawaii should allow myself as an individual that in the Home and Community Based Services Waiver program the ability to also choose the option to live in a Community Care Foster Family Home if that is the best place for me to live. This would allow current residents to remain on the Waiver to best fits their needs. It is very important for people like me to have housing choices that would allow us to age in place.

Please support bill HB1731.

Mahalo

Randelle Lee
9819A Uuku Road,
Waimea, HI 96796

LATE

HB-1731

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:25:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANNETTE TASHIRO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care and need residency in a licensed community care foster family home because of their disability or enrollment in a specific medicaid waiver program should not be denied this service.

LATE

HB-1731

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:54:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Elento	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Having had recent negative and positive experiences with the waiver programs, I believe our state plan for the waiver programs are driven by both the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services and further confused by medicaid health care plans.

All inflexibilities need to be identified and addressed. I believe a legislative audit is necessary not a list of prescribed laws.

Thank you for your consideration.