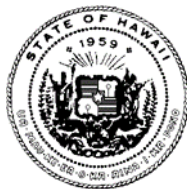


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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'OKELE

March 31, 2026

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

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HCR113/HR105 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO INCREASE COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOME ACCESSIBILITY FOR PRIVATE-PAY INDIVIDUALS.**

Hearing: April 1, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

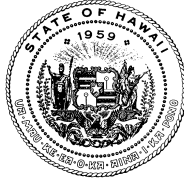
DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides comments on this resolution.

For the committee's information, the Department of Health, Office of Health Care Assurance has regulatory oversight of community care foster family homes (CCFFH). See Title 19, Health, Chapter 321, Part XXXVIII, Hawaii Revised Statutes . Consequently, DHS is not the appropriate agency to convene a task force to make the requested recommendations.

If a task force is established, DHS Med-QUEST Administrator or designee will participate in the task force.

Lastly, DHS requests that the task force evaluate options to increase CCFFH capacity for private-pay individuals without jeopardizing capacity and availability of CCFFHs for Medicaid recipients.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on HCR 113

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO INCREASE COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOME ACCESSIBILITY FOR PRIVATE-PAY INDIVIDUALS.

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

Hearing Date and Time: WED., April 1, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** There is no cost to the Department of Health (Department).
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments on this concurrent resolution relating
- 3 to convening a task force to increase Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH)
- 4 accessibility for private pay individuals.
- 5 **Department Testimony:** The Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) provides the following
- 6 testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 7 OHCA licenses, certifies, and monitors CCFFHs under Hawaii Administrative Rules
- 8 Chapter 11-800. This includes on-site inspections, complaint investigations, and ensuring
- 9 ongoing compliance with health and safety standards. CCFFHs traditionally serve Medicaid
- 10 recipients requiring a nursing facility level of care but are also permitted to enroll one private
- 11 pay individual per home when capacity allows.
- 12 Beginning in 2025, the Department and DHS Med-QUEST began working in tandem to
- 13 restructure community-based residential programs—including CCFFHs—to ensure alignment

1 with Med-QUEST waiver programs. This effort is part of a broader statewide transition plan, to
2 update administrative rules and regulations governing CCFFHs, adult residential care homes,
3 and expanded adult residential care homes.

4 This collaborative work already underway between the Department and the Med QUEST
5 Division to is expected to address many of the same issues and goals identified in this
6 resolution's proposed task force.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this concurrent resolution.



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

Apr 1, 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair / Sec
Valerie Yamada

Vice Chair
Zora Shove

Treasurer
Jonathan Yap

Member
Scott Suzuki
Sheila Castaneda
Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: HCR113 – Requesting the Department of Human Services to Convene a Task Force to Increase Community Care Foster Family Home Accessibility for Private-Pay Individuals

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) **supports HCR113** and offers comments to ensure the task force's work advances equity for people with disabilities who rely on both Medicaid and private-pay options.

AILH is a Center for Independent Living serving people with all types of disabilities statewide. Our mission is to support individuals to live in the community with maximum choice and control, consistent with Independent Living principles and the Olmstead mandate.

Community Living, Not Just “Beds”

Community care foster family homes (CCFFHs) provide 24-hour living accommodations for up to three clients and are regulated by the Department of Human Services. These homes are often a key alternative to institutional settings for disabled and aging adults who need significant daily support but want to remain in a residential, community-based environment.

Current statute generally limits CCFFHs to one private-pay client, with the remaining clients being Medicaid recipients, and allows two private-pay clients only when they are married or in a civil union and meet additional



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair / Sec

Valerie Yamada

Vice Chair

Zora Shove

Treasurer

Jonathan Yap

Member

Scott Suzuki
Sheila Castaneda
Jennifer Hartssock

criteria. This structure can make it difficult for some individuals in relationships to live together, and it can constrain the availability of private-pay options.

Balance Private-Pay Access With Medicaid Equity

The resolution correctly notes that allowing two unrelated private-pay individuals to live in the same CCFFH could improve access for part of Hawaii's aging population, but may reduce available care for Medicaid recipients. From an Independent Living and disability justice perspective, it is critical that any expansion of private-pay options does not result in fewer community-based placements for low-income disabled people who rely on Medicaid.

AILH supports convening a task force to examine:

- How to create a more expedient application process for married or civil union private-pay couples who wish to live together in a CCFFH.
- How to increase the overall availability of CCFFHs so that two unrelated private-pay individuals may live together without displacing Medicaid recipients.

We respectfully recommend that the task force explicitly analyze impacts on Medicaid access and propose safeguards to maintain or expand the number of Medicaid-funded CCFFH slots.

Include Disability and Consumer Voices

The resolution lists DHS, DOH, Med-QUEST, and provider organizations as members of the task force and allows the Chair to invite additional participants. To reflect Independent Living philosophy, AILH urges that the task force also include:

- At least one organization representing people with disabilities and their families; and



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair / Sec

Valerie Yamada

Vice Chair

Zora Shove

Treasurer

Jonathan Yap

Member

Scott Suzuki
Sheila Castaneda
Jennifer Hartsock

- At least one individual with lived experience residing in, or seeking to reside in, a CCFFH.

Including consumer and cross-disability voices will help ensure recommendations protect autonomy, cultural needs, and the right to live in the least restrictive setting.

Transparency and Data

AILH supports the requirement that DHS publish annual statistics on married and civil union private-pay couples applying to live together in CCFFHs and the outcomes of those applications. Transparent data will help policymakers monitor whether changes are improving access without unintentionally shrinking options for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Recommendation

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii supports HCR113 and respectfully requests:

1. Explicit direction that the task force protect and, where possible, expand Medicaid access to CCFFHs; and
2. Inclusion of disability and consumer representation on the task force membership list.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden
Executive Director