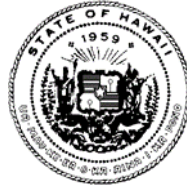


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

April 7, 2026

TO: The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2340 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES.**

Hearing: April 8, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & 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.

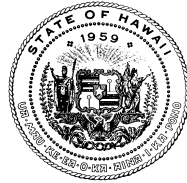
DHS cautions that CCFFH capacity is limited for individuals who meet NFLOC under the 1115 Medicaid waiver. Expanding access to CCFFH to individuals meeting ICF/ID level of care through the 1915(c) waiver is expected to further increase demand for this setting; as such, the authority to provide these 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.

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.

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



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
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Testimony COMMENTING on SB2340 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TODD, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date and Time: April 8, 2026, 2:00 p.m. Location: Room 308 & Video

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. DOH-
6 DDD appreciates the amendments made by the Senate, however, DOH-DDD still believes the
7 approach in this bill raises some concerns.

8 SB2340 SD2 HD1 intends to allow individuals with IDD participating in the Medicaid
9 1915(c) HCBS waiver to reside in CCFFHs, which are currently available to individuals enrolled in
10 the Medicaid 1115 HCBS waiver. The DOH-DDD appreciates the intent to expand residential
11 options for individuals with IDD and reduce transitions out of the 1915(c) waiver. The DOH-DDD
12 is already actively working to explore and implement other pathways to increase residential
13 capacity for individuals with IDD through a current waiver renewal and is committed to ongoing
14 collaboration with DHS and other stakeholders to discuss the requirements and implications of
15 allowing 1915(c) participants to reside in CCFFHs.

1 The Medicaid 1915(c) HCBS waiver for individuals with IDD is authorized under Section
2 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. The DOH-DDD and the DHS Med-QUEST division (MQD) work
3 in partnership to design and implement the 1915(c) waiver in compliance with requirements,
4 laws, and waiver standards. Individuals in the 1915(c) waiver needing residential habilitation
5 services may receive them in various licensed or certified settings, such as Adult Foster Homes
6 (AFHs) for individuals with IDD, DD Domiciliary Homes, and Adult Residential Care Homes. To
7 increase options for individuals with IDD, DOH-DDD has partnered with MQD to propose
8 additional services through a 1915(c) waiver renewal. The waiver renewal proposal includes
9 supplemental payments for agencies to establish new adult foster homes for individuals with
10 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 from
13 caregivers trained in supporting the needs of individuals with IDD through a wide array of
14 1915(c) waiver services.

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

21 As many of these efforts are contingent on waiver approval, DOH-DDD appreciates the
22 statutory changes in this bill taking effect upon approval of the waiver by CMS. This allows for
23 public comment and stakeholder engagement and acceptance in which issues can be vetted
24 and addressed.

25 Similarly, making the statutory changes effective upon revision of CCFFH standards by
26 the Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA), who has regulatory authority over CCFFHs, is

1 extremely beneficial. Placement in a CCFFH must comply with OHCA’s regulations, which
2 include, among other requirements, case management oversight which is different than the
3 case management currently provided by DOH-DDD. In addition, if a participant in the 1915(c)
4 waiver were residing in a CCFFH concurrently with an individual(s) in the 1115 waiver,
5 coordination would be required between the DOH-DDD administering the 1915(c) waiver and
6 health plans administering the 1115 waiver to avoid duplication of services and ensure
7 appropriate services are delivered. Allowing any regulatory changes to occur prior to these
8 changes to the statute ensures proper public input and that standards are in place.

9 DOH-DDD notes that challenges regarding training, contracting, and implementation
10 remain. Training CCFFH caregivers, contracting with CCFFH agencies, and implementing service
11 requirements present challenges. Caregivers in CCFFHs are certified nursing assistants or
12 registered nurses trained to support individuals with Nursing Facility level of care (LOC) needs.
13 The CCFFH caregivers and agencies that support them are not contracted as providers for
14 1915(c) services and are not trained to support individuals with Intermediate Care Facility for
15 Individuals with Intellectual Disability level of care needs. CCFFH caregivers would be required
16 to receive additional training to support individuals with IDD and the agencies they serve would
17 be required to contract as 1915(c) waiver service providers.

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

1 The DOH-DDD will continue to work closely with DHS, OHCA, and other stakeholders to
2 consider the implementation of the outlined regulatory and administrative pathways to allow
3 individuals with IDD to reside in CCFFHs to ensure the timeline and scale is feasible, data driven,
4 collaborative, and does not compromise access and quality of services for vulnerable
5 populations.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE
CHAIRPERSON

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
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April 8, 2026

The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2340 SD2 HD1 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB2340 SD2 HD1** 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 certified community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific Medicaid waiver program. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

This measure is important because it removes a systems barrier that currently forces some individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to make an unnecessary choice between where they live and which Medicaid waiver funds their services. SB2340 SD2 HD1 clarifies a simple principle: a person who meets an intermediate care facility (ICF) or nursing facility level of care should not be denied residency in a licensed Community Care Foster Family Home (CCFFH) solely because of disability status or waiver enrollment.

Why this bill is a practical, person-centered clarification

This measure does not require that everyone in the 1915(c) waiver move into CCFFHs. It simply opens an option for people and families who are seeking a small, home-like setting, especially on the Neighbor Islands, where choices are limited and "one-size-fits-all" residential models are not realistic.

The underlying issue is not whether CCFFHs can be safe for people with I/DD, Hawai'i already operates diagnosis-neutral residential models that safely serve mixed populations. For example, Adult Residential Care Homes (ARCH) routinely serves residents with a range of disabilities and age-related conditions. The concept of mixed populations is not new in Hawai'i; what is new is being explicit that waiver enrollment cannot be used as a categorical exclusion.

What is missing from the discussion: capacity growth can be unlocked

A key benefit of SB2340 SD2 HD1 is its potential to increase capacity without building a new system.

- Existing Adult Foster Homes (AFHs) and similar providers may choose to transition to a CCFFH model when appropriate, which can allow a home to lawfully serve up to three residents under CCFFH standards.

- That practical pathway creates the possibility of adding meaningful capacity statewide, potentially hundreds of additional beds over time, by enabling willing providers to operate under the licensing structure that matches the level-of-care needs of their residents.

In other words, this measure is not just about “moving people between waivers.” It is also about unlocking provider flexibility so Hawai‘i can grow community-based options, particularly in rural areas.

Populations are more similar than the current silos suggest

In real-world settings, the support needs of individuals in AFHs and CCFFHs can overlap significantly. Many adults with I/DD in community settings:

- take multiple medications,
- need assistance with activities of daily living,
- and may require intermittent nursing tasks (such as medication administration support and health monitoring).

This bill supports the reality that individuals with I/DD are living longer and often experience age-related health changes. People should be able to age in place rather than being forced into disruptive transitions simply because their health needs evolve or because the funding stream is treated as a gatekeeper to housing.

Choice includes how services are used, not only where someone lives

SB 2340 SD2 HD1 also supports another practical reality: not every person uses Medicaid-funded services in the same way. Some individuals may live in a licensed home setting supported primarily by their own income (for example, SSI and the State Supplementary Payment) and still rely on the 1915(c) waiver for day services, community participation, employment supports, or other out-of-home services. This bill helps preserve continuity and allows services to be tailored to the person, rather than forcing an “all-or-nothing” waiver shift tied to the address where they live.

This is not “for everyone”, and that is exactly the point

The Council agrees this option will not be appropriate for every individual. That is not a flaw; it is the purpose of person-centered policy. Hawai‘i needs a menu of community options so individuals and families can choose what fits, particularly when the alternative can be institutional placement, unnecessary transitions, or avoidable crises.

Addressing concerns about system capacity

Concerns have been raised about the limited number of CCFFHs and the potential for increased demand. It is our understanding that there are over twenty-five vacant slots in Adult Foster Home (AFH) on O‘ahu and a waitlist of more than two hundred individuals seeking to open AFHs. This demonstrates that the constraint is not solely the number of homes, but the regulatory silos between residential models. SB2340 SD2 HD1, does not simply shift individuals into CCFFHs; it creates flexibility that may allow appropriate AFH providers to transition to the CCFFH model and open an additional bed where appropriate. Rather than overloading CCFFHs, this measure can expand total community capacity by better aligning level of care, and person-centered placement.

Request

For these reasons, the Hawai‘i State Council on Developmental Disabilities respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB2340, SD2 HD1. This measure advances equity, continuity of care, and community integration by ensuring waiver enrollment is not misused as a barrier to housing choice.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB2340 SD2 HD1**.

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
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • (808) 204-2466 (VP)

April 8, 2026

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Senate Bill 2340 Senate Draft 2 House Draft 1 – Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2340 Senate Draft 2 House Draft 1 – 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 certified community care foster family home solely because of their disability or enrollment in a specific Medicaid waiver program. It is effective 7/1/3000.

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 Home Community-Based Services Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (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.

Senate Bill 2340 Senate Draft 2 House Draft 1 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

SB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:44:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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.



www.AlohaILHawaii.org

Apr 8, 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

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Member

Scott Suzuki
Sheila Castaneda
Jennifer Hartssock

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: SB2340 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii (AILH) respectfully submits testimony in **strong support of SB2340 SD2 HD1, with comments.**

SB2340 SD2 HD1 clarifies that individuals who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care and are eligible for services under either the 1915(c) Medicaid home- and community-based services (HCBS) waiver or the Medicaid section 1115 demonstration waiver shall not be denied residency in a certified community care foster family home solely based on disability status or waiver enrollment. This clarification removes a statutory ambiguity that has functioned as a barrier to housing choice and continuity of services for many disabled residents, particularly individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Under the current framework, individuals with I/DD who wish to reside in a community care foster family home have often been required to disenroll from the HCBS I/DD waiver and transition to the 1115 waiver. This requirement disrupts continuity of care, risks the loss of individualized supports, and places families in an unnecessary “either-or” situation between a home they choose and services they rely on. Housing eligibility should not be conditioned on relinquishing legally authorized waiver services.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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From a civil rights and Independent Living perspective, SB2340 SD2 HD1 reinforces the principle that individuals with disabilities have the right to live in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs, consistent with the Olmstead decision and the intent of home- and community-based services. When waiver enrollment becomes a disqualifying factor for residency in a licensed community-based home, it creates structural inequity between similarly situated individuals and can push people toward more institutional settings. Clarifying that waiver status shall not be used to deny residency advances fairness, equal access, and statutory consistency.

AILH appreciates the House amendments that clarify the applicability of the bill to individuals who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care, and that maintain references to both the 1915(c) waiver and the 1115 waiver. This focus appropriately targets individuals with higher support needs who are most at risk of institutionalization, while still affirming their right to live in small, community-based homes.

AILH respectfully offers the following recommendations for implementation and oversight:

- 1. Preserve person-centered planning and informed choice.** Individuals must retain meaningful autonomy in deciding where and with whom they live, including the option to remain in or move to a community care foster family home without being pressured to change waiver programs solely for placement.
- 2. Maintain robust oversight and quality safeguards.** Community care foster family homes should retain home-like, non-institutional characteristics, with clear protections for residents' rights, privacy, self-determination, and community integration. Strong monitoring will help ensure that increased access does not unintentionally lead to institutional practices in smaller settings.
- 3. Promote cross-disability equity.** While this bill addresses an urgent barrier for individuals with I/DD, the Legislature may wish to examine whether similar statutory or administrative barriers affect



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roxanne U. Bolden

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individuals with other disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care and receive services under alternative Medicaid pathways. Housing access and continuity of care should not depend on disability category or specific waiver enrollment.

4. **Ensure inter-agency alignment.** Alignment between the Department of Health and the Med-QUEST Division to harmonize waiver language, eligibility criteria, and provider qualifications will be critical to consistent implementation. Clear guidance to case managers, providers, and families will help avoid administrative inconsistencies that could undermine legislative intent.

For Centers for Independent Living, this measure is significant because it supports the fundamental Independent Living goal of enabling disabled people to live in the community, with control over their housing and services, rather than being steered into institutional settings due to program rules or technicalities. SB2340 SD2 HD1 strengthens statutory clarity, protects housing access, and promotes equitable treatment under Medicaid waiver programs for people who need higher levels of care.

AILH respectfully urges the Committee on Finance to pass SB2340 SD2 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Roxanne Bolden

Executive Director



The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State Capitol
State of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) strongly supports SB2340 SD2 HD1. 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 kept out of these homes for administrative reasons—not because of safety or care needs. SB2340 SD2 fixes this by clarifying that waiver enrollment cannot be used as a reason to exclude someone. This allows people to keep their services, stay in appropriate licensed homes, and avoid unnecessary moves.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council strongly supports SB2340 SD2 HD1.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Renken". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy Renken,

President, Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council

Following testimony has 5 individuals who support SB2340 SD2 HD1

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State Capitol
State of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2340 SD2 HD1 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is Josh Goetz, and I am in full support of SB2340 SD2 HD1, which relates to Community Care Foster Family homes. I believe this is important for people with disabilities to have a choice of where to live and who to live with. There are a limited number of foster homes available to people with disabilities and having more choices is always important to me and the friends I know who have no other choice than to live in a foster home.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB2340 SD2 HD1.

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State Capitol
State of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2340 SD2 HD1 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is Michelle Muralt, and I am in full support of SB2340 SD2 HD1, which is Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The reason why I think SB2340 SD2 HD1 is important is:

It allows individuals like me, who live in a foster home, to have foster home options without losing any type of services because it is difficult for me to do any daily living tasks and having limited foster care family home options will be a problem.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB2340 SD2 HD1.

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State Capitol
State of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2340 SD2 HD1 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I am in full support of SB2340 SD2 HD1, which is Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The reason why I think SB2340 SD2 HD1 is important is:

Because having limited access to community care foster family homes can be difficult for an person like me who is in a wheelchair and needs a caregiver foster home that can give me the right kind of care so that I can be healthy and safe. Not every foster home that I have been in has given me the right kind of care. I had to move to another foster home because the one that I was living in did not give me the right kind of care for my needs. I also think it is important for me to be able to travel and have a foster home that supports traveling with me. I want to return to Samoa to visit because I have been in hawaii for 40 years and have not had a foster home provide me with staff that can travel back to Samoa with me.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB2340 SD2 HD1.

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State Capitol
State of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2340 SD2 HD1 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is Raymond Mamea, and I am in full support of SB2340 SD2 HD1, which is Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The reason why I think SB2340 SD2 HD1 is important is:

I am a person with a disability and live in a foster home. The home that I live in now is safe and supports me in the things that I want at home. But it was not always like that. I have had trouble with other foster homes not allowing me to do certain things in the home, like when to go to sleep and wake up or what to eat or what to do on the weekends. Having more choices for foster homes is great because it allows people with disabilities to have a choice if they are unhappy about their foster home and caregiver.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB2340 SD2 HD1.

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair
House Committee on Finance

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State Capitol
State of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB2340 SD2 HD1 Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

My name is James Labrie, and I am in full support of SB2340 SD2 HD1, which is Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

The reason why I think SB2340 SD2 HD1 is important is:

It's important to me because I have been in a home where the caregiver did not provide food and had roaches bit my eyes, so I needed another home because of bad caregiver hygiene practice, but my options were limited because of different licensing. Having more CCFFH home options could have helped me be placed in a safe home environment. I have been having caregiver issues in the current home I live in and my case manager is having problems finding another foster home who will take me because of my electric wheelchair.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB2340 SD2 HD1.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2340 SD2 HD1

RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES

April 7, 2026

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

My name is Harlene Gacusana and I reside in Honolulu, Hawai'i. I am writing in strong support of SB 2340 SD2 HD1. This bill addresses gaps in Hawaii's long-term care system that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who qualify for an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care may reside in community care foster family homes without losing access to their Medicaid waiver services.

This measure will be essential in continued care, offering a smaller and more personalized setting for individuals who require 24-hour support. Foster Homes promote dignity, independence. However, under current practice, individuals enrolled in the Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) I/DD waiver are often required to disenroll from that waiver and transition to the Section 1115 waiver to live in a community care foster family home. This creates an unnecessary and harmful barrier. Such forced transitions disrupt continuity of care and limit the ability to choose where and how they live. This measure removes that barrier by making it clear that waiver enrollment status alone shall not disqualify an individual from residing in a certified community care foster family home. Importantly, the bill also supports system alignment by allowing certified caregivers in these homes to serve as providers under both the 1915(c) and 1115 waivers.

As a social worker who has worked with individuals with I/DD, it is important to me that they are properly advocated for. I want to ensure that they can continue to receive the care they deserve. Not all families are able to provide for or accommodate the needs of their loved ones, and it is already difficult to place them in a foster home setting. Ensuring that they can reside in community care foster family homes provides comfort and reassurance to both social workers like me and their families that they are well cared for. By removing systemic barriers and promoting flexibility across Medicaid programs, this legislation strengthens continuity of care and upholds the right of individuals with disabilities to make meaningful choices about their living arrangements. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harlene Gacusana

SB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:58:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Vice Chair,

My name is Kaili Swan. I am in strong support of this measure. I am a self advocate and I advocate for people with disabilities. I like living with my mom but other people with disabilities that want to live on their own should be able to. This measure gives people with disabilities more options to live where they want.

Please pass this measure,

Kaili Swan

The Honorable Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Committee Members:

SUBJECT SB2340, SD2, HD1 - Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

I am in support of SB 2340, SD2, HD1. My name is Deziree Tacub, I am a self-advocate from Kauai.

In the future I might need to live in a community care foster home. To live in one, I would lose my 1915c Waiver services. That would leave me without a direct support professional. I want to be able to live in my community and get the services I need to be independent.

This bill would allow me to have my services and still live in my community.

Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of SB2340, SD2, HD1.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

4.8.2026

The Honorable Rep. Chris Todd, Chair; Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and Committee members:

SUBJECT: SB2340 SD2 HD1 (HSCR1501-26) Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes.

Aloha:

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

I support bill SB2340.

Hawaii should allow myself as an individual 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 SB2340.

Mahalo

Randelle Lee
9819A Uuku Road,
Waimea, HI 96796

SB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:44:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairman Todd and Vice Chair Takenouchi:

I strongly support the passage of SB2340 to ensure all individuals (I/DD) with intermediate or nursing care are not denied access to licensed community care facilities. Moreover, these facilities must have properly trained/informed staff so they can give the best care to these individuals.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenichi Yabusaki, Ph.D.

SB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:03:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am **in strong support of SB2340 SD2 HD1**, which clarifies that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who meet an intermediate care facility or nursing facility level of care cannot be denied residency in a licensed Community Care Foster Family Home (CCFFH) solely because of their disability or Medicaid waiver enrollment.

Self-advocates from across the State went to the Capitol on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026 and testified in support of this bill, and it would be best for all of us if you supported them by passing this bill.

This measure removes an administrative barrier that forces individuals to choose between stable housing and the services that support their health and safety and is an important step towards equity for our disability community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jackie Keefe, Lahaina

SB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 1:22:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Natalie Nohealani Greenleaf. I am writing in **support SB2340 SD2 HD1**. Mahalo for letting me share my testimony.

I live in Lahaina, Maui. I am a self-advocate with a disability, a member of Maui Self-Advocacy Advisory Council, and I was awarded the Maui County Employee of the Year by DD Council.

This bill is important to me because it is important for people to live independently so they do things for themselves when they can. In these homes, people can still get support while living independently. When I am independent, I have more control and it's better for my mental health.

When I do things for myself, I feel more free, and learn how to support myself. This makes me feel excited, because I can do things on my own. I do not have a guardian, so living independently is important for me. I don't like other people are controlling my life because of my disability. I am able to be in control of my life. More than people think.

I am in **support of SB2340 SD2 HD1**.

Mahalo for listening and for your time,

Natalie Nohealani Greenleaf.

SB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 1:24:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iris Xiao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Iris Xiao. I am writing in **strong support of SB2340 SD2 HD1**.

I am from Honolulu, and I am self-advocate with autism, and I love to learn but sometimes it can be difficult for me.

SB2340 is important because I think it is important for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to have a choice in where they live. Living in the community is important for people with IDD for being independent, understanding new things, having self-determination, and being your own person, all while still having support. Living in the community is important so that you can be in charge of your own life and be an active member of the community.

One day I would like to live with my boyfriend and maybe get married, and it is uncomfortable to do that when you live at home. By living in the community instead of living at home, this will help us be more independent with our lives together.

I strongly support SB2340 SD2 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2340-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 10:54:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chanel Wahinepio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Support for SB2340, SD2, HD1

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Chanel Wahinepio, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of SB2340, SD2, HD1, relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes.

This bill is important because it helps ensure that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not excluded from community-based living options simply because of their disability or the Medicaid waiver program they are enrolled in. No individual should be denied the opportunity to live in a home-like setting due to administrative barriers within the system.

Community Care Foster Family Homes provide a meaningful alternative to institutional care. These homes allow individuals to receive support in a more integrated, person-centered environment that promotes dignity, independence, and overall well-being. For many families, this type of setting offers a safer, more stable, and more appropriate level of care.

By removing barriers to placement, SB2340 supports continuity of care, expands access to services, and upholds the principle of providing care in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the individual's needs.

As a nurse and a parent of a special needs dependent who understands how important individualized, respectful, and community-based care can be, I believe this bill is a meaningful step in the right direction for Hawai'i and for the families it will support.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your committee to pass SB2340, SD2, HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Chanel Wahinepio
Wai'anae, Hawai'i

