



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2830 SD2**  
House Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing

Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Honorable John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
Honorable House Health Committee Members

Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Honorable House Human Services & Housing Committee Members

March 12, 2008, 8:00 am Conference Room 329

**RELATING TO CAREGIVING**

To: Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair and Honorable John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
Honorable House Health Committee Members

Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair and Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair  
Honorable House Human Services and Housing Committee Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2830 SD2. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

Hawai'i's caregivers make a significant contribution to a strong elderly and disabled health care system, providing quality, yet affordable long-term residential care for decades to the most vulnerable citizens of our Aloha State. The Coalition strongly supports the increase in Medicaid-waiver reimbursements rates to caregivers, a step in the right direction toward economic justice and parity for the vital cost savings these social entrepreneurs provide to society.

Thank you for discerning the merits and benefits of SB2830 SD2. Your help in its passage can save the residential caregiver industry from economic doom, while at the same time retain the family-oriented benefits of long term care. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma  
President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

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## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2830 SD2**

House Committee on Health  
Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
Honorable House Health Committee Members

House Committee on Human Services & Housing  
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Honorable House Human Services & Housing Committee Members

March 12, 2008, 8:00 am  
Conference Room 329

### RELATING TO CAREGIVING

My name is Amy Agbayani. I serve as Vice Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

The cost of doing business and the necessity of government regulations have not kept up with reimbursement rates to caregivers, who have made a lifelong commitment to caring for the sick. NaFFAA is proud to advocate for higher medicaid-waiver reimbursement rates for Hawai'i's caregivers. This investment is critical to the ability of caregivers to maintain a high standard of patient care, while at the same time provide for their own families.

Please support SB2830 SD2.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region XII

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# Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701  
E-mail: [namihonolulu@yahoo.com](mailto:namihonolulu@yahoo.com)

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2830 SD2 RELATING TO CAREGIVING

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FACDONA  
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Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

House Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing

March 12, 2008, 8:00 am, Conference Room 329

To: Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Honorable John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
Honorable House Health Committee Members

Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Honorable House Human Services & Housing  
Committee Members

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI  
(Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.)

My name is Beatrice Ramos Razon. I am speaking as the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 nurses, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawaii's people by addressing the global issues of a worldwide nursing shortage through the training and mentoring of foreign medical graduate nurses to pass Hawai'i's nurses board exams.

NAMI is in full support of this bill and all of its provisions to strengthen the elderly and disabled health care systems and assist care providers to make ends meet, while at the same time keep up with the actual 24/7 cost of running a business, as well as the cost of continuing education and training for the delivery of quality health care services.

We are grateful that your committee is hearing this bill, and respectfully ask for your support to enact it.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

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# OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

## Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential  
 Carehome Administrators  
 Aloha Saguibsib Cultural  
 Foundation, Inc.  
 Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii  
 Annac ti Batac  
 Annac ti Caoayan 2002  
 Annak ti Kailokuan iti  
 America  
 Annak ti Sinaït iti Hawaii  
 Asingan Organization of  
 Hawaii  
 Badoc-Pinili Aid  
 Association of Hawaii  
 Banna Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Bannatiran Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Batangas Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Bulacan Circle of Hawaii  
 Caballeros de Dimasalang  
 Cabugao Sons & Daughters  
 of Hawaii  
 Candonians of Hawaii  
 Caoayan ISAH  
 Cavitenians of Hawaii  
 Dingras Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Divine Word College  
 Alumni Association  
 FilAm Sports USA  
 Fil American Citizens  
 League  
 Filipino Business Women's  
 Club  
 Filipino Nurses Organization  
 of Hawaii  
 Filipino Women's Civic  
 Club  
 GUMIL Hawaii  
 GUMIL Oahu  
 Hawaii Filipino Women's  
 Club  
 Hawaii Council of Bilingual  
 Educators  
 ILAH  
 Ilocos Nortenians of  
 America  
 INCAT Alumni Association  
 of Hawaii  
 International Filipino  
 Society of Hawaii  
 Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.  
 La Union Circle of  
 Hawaii  
 Lingayen Gulf Club of  
 Hawaii

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2830 SD2

House Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing

March 12, 2008, 8:00 am, Conference Room 329

## RELATING TO CAREGIVING

To: Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
 Honorable John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
 Honorable House Health Committee Members

Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
 Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
 Honorable House Human Services & Housing  
 Committee Members

From: Franklin Borromeo, President  
 Oahu Filipino Community Council

My name is Franklin Borromeo, president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization comprised of sixty-two members (62) that represent a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

The Oahu Filipino Community Council strongly supports SB 2830 SD2 relating to the extension of the joint legislative committee on family caregiving (aging in place) and the important role of caregivers in strengthening the elderly and disabled health care system. This ensures the ability of care home administrators to continue to provide this much needed service as sole proprietors, with all the rights and responsibilities that they have diligently upheld to the best of their ability.

The Oahu Filipino Community Council appreciates your support to pass this bill. Thank you for considering its benefits to ensure that this much needed service for long term care of Hawaii's growing aging population remains affordable and accountable to both recipients and providers.

Sincerely,  
 Franklin Borromeo  
 President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

## Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Narvacan/San Antonio Club of  
 Hawaii  
 Nueva Vizcaya Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Pasuquinos Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Philippine Cultural Foundation  
 Philippine Nurses  
 Association of Hawaii  
 Piddig Association of Hawaii  
 Sanchez Mira Association of  
 Hawaii  
 San Manuel Pangasinan  
 Association of Hawaii  
 San Nicolaneos USA  
 San Nicolas Goodwill  
 Foundation  
 San Nicolas Teachers of  
 Hawaii  
 Santa Lucia Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Sarrat Association of Hawaii  
 Sarrat International Inc.  
 Sinaït Nt. High School Alumni  
 of Hawaii  
 Solsona of Hawaii  
 Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii  
 TPCP  
 Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.  
 Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii  
 Samar Leyte Association of  
 Hawaii  
 Sampaguita/Sunflower Club of  
 Hawaii  
 San Juan Association of  
 Hawaii  
 San Nicolas Nat. High  
 Santa Marians of Hawaii  
 School Alumni  
 Santa Nicolas Nat. High  
 School Bingao Annex  
 Tagalog Association of Oahu  
 United Bacarreneos of Hawaii  
 United Group of Home  
 Operators  
 United Pangasinan of Hawaii  
 United Urdaneta Club of  
 Hawaii  
 United Vintarinians of Hawaii  
 Vigan Association of Hawaii

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**2007-2008 OFCC OFFICERS & BOARD** President: **Franklin Borromeo** \_ 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: **Cirvalina Longboy** \_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: **Carlotta Ader** Secretary: **Jean Jeremiah** \_ Assistant Secretary: **Veronica Esteban** \_ Treasurer: **Faye Cudal** \_ Assistant Treasurer: **Dolly Ortal** \_ Auditor: **Mario Palma** \_ Board of Directors: • **Aurea Agas** • **Filemon Castillo** • **Maria Etrata** • **Louie Funtanilla** • **Jake Manegdeg** • **Estrella Pada-Taong** • **Danny Villaruz** • **Amado Yoro** \_ Legal Counsel: **Alfredo Evangelista**



Tessie Oculito, RN, President, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii  
(PNAH) 92-1269 Umana Street. Kapolei, HI 96707

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2830 SD2

House Committee on Finance

March 12, 2008, 8:00am, Conference Room 329

### RELATING TO CAREGIVING

To: Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Honorable John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
Honorable House Health Committee Members

Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Honorable House Human Services & Housing  
Committee Members

From: Tessi Oculito, President, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii (PNAH)

My name is Tessie Oculito. I am the president of the Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii (PNAH). As a national affiliate of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, our shared mission is to uphold and foster the positive image and welfare of our constituent members; to promote professional excellence and contribute to significant outcomes to healthcare and society. Our vision is to be an organization responsive to its constituent needs, and to be a force in the world arena of nursing.

I am providing this written testimony to support SB2830 SD2, which strengthens the elderly and disabled health care system in Hawai'i and recognizes the valuable service caregivers contribute to ensure high quality, affordable care. I fully support the increase in Medicaid-waiver reimbursement rates to caregivers.

We appreciate your help in its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

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# UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2830 SD2 RELATING TO CAREGIVING**

House Committee on Health and Human Services & Housing

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March 12, 2008, 8:00 am, Conference Room 329

To: Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Honorable John Mizuno, Vice-Chair  
Honorable House Health Committee Members

Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Honorable House Human Services & Housing  
Committee Members

From: Don Alvarez, Immediate Past President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

The United Filipino Council of Hawaii (the Council) strongly supports House Bill SB 2830 SD2 relating to caregivers.

Founded in 1959 to help Filipinos in Hawaii play a larger role in the State of Hawaii, the mission of the Council is to promote a sense of unity, friendship, camaraderie and mutual assistance among Filipinos in Hawaii while promoting and perpetuating the Filipino heritage and culture. Today, the Council consists of six Island Councils with jurisdiction over 100+ Filipino organizations and a combined membership of about 10,000 from every major island in the State.

As you know, Filipinos constitute an overwhelming majority of domestic care givers who receive social service payments through contracts with the Department of Human Services to provide such care. We support reimbursement increases. Care providers' out of pocket expenses to truly reflect the cost of long term care is threatening the care provider industry. The care providers are critical to ensuring an affordable, compassionate, and quality residential care of the most vulnerable individuals in our society.

Thank you very much for hearing this important bill and for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Your conscientious legislative work is much appreciated by the Filipino community. We are grateful for your consideration of this needed raise in reimbursement. Please vote yes.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Don Alvarez, UFCH Immediate Past President

\*2006-07

\*\*2007-08



**Date:** Tue, 11 Mar 2008 23:23:00 -1000  
**From:** "mila medallon" <milamedallon@gmail.com>  
**To:** "Agnes Malate" <armalate@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** SB 2830 Sample Testimony

March 11, 2008

Testimony in Support of SB 2830 ñ HLT/HSH - Mar. 12, 2008, 8:00 a.m., Rm. 329

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Hawai`i State Legislature:

The Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (HCCG) supports SB2830 SD2 relating to the extending the joint legislative committee on aging in place and appropriating necessary funds. HCCG supports efforts to strengthen the elderly and disabled health care system in Hawaii that recognize the contributions of caregivers and the benefits of their work conferred on the elderly and disabled.

As the legislature is well aware, Medicaid-waiver reimbursement rates have remained static for caregivers at a flat-rate of \$1,200 per month for 24/7 care 365 days a year, which calculates to approximately \$42 per day or \$1.67 per hour.

With these static and low reimbursement rates, the skyrocketing costs of providing care to the elderly and disabled make it nearly impossible to operate.

From this \$1.67 per hour, caregivers must pay for all expenses associated with caregiving such as mortgage, electricity, water, sewer, property taxes, general excise taxes, income taxes, food, automobile, gasoline, insurance, entertainment, and kitchen, bathroom, and laundry supplies. Under these circumstances, HCCG supports the work of the joint committee and office of aging in assisting caregivers in providing higher levels of service without raising the cost of providing services.

Moreover, providing higher standards of care to the elderly and disabled without increasing costs to caregivers would result in better health, safety, and welfare to residents unable to care for themselves.

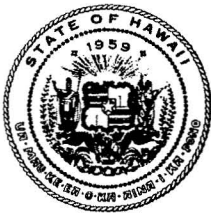
With the increasing number of elderly and disabled in need of long-term care, along with the rising costs of providing for such care, HCCG supports the joint committees efforts to strengthen and streamline the health care delivery system for the elderly and disabled that ultimately results in greater support for caregivers and better care for those in need.

Very truly yours,

The Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (HCCG)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 12, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

### TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

#### Senate Bill 2830, SD2 – Relating to Caregiving

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a statewide board with seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor, thirteen (13) of whom are persons with disabilities or family members. The Board's mission is to advocate and promote full integration, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society. This testimony represents a position voted upon by the Legislative Committee of the Board.

We support Senate Bill 2830, SD2 which is a comprehensive omnibus bill intending to provide support for family caregivers.

We recognize the importance of providing a wider range of options to enable individuals who are elderly and frail to remain in their homes or the community rather than seek institutional care. We recommend, however, that the definition of family caregiver be amended to remove the reference to persons age 60 years and older. There are many individuals under the age of 60 for whom the need for ongoing caregiving is identical to those age 60 years and older, and we believe that it is in the best interests of the state to make the system as seamless as possible in terms of caregiving resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICIA M. NIELSEN  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

000015



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

715 SOUTH KING STREET, SUITE 311 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • AREA CODE 808 • PHONE: 768-7762 • FAX: 768-7792



MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR

DEBORAH KIM MORIKAWA  
DIRECTOR

ERNEST Y. MARTIN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 12, 2008

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
The Honorable John Mizuno, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Health  
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing  
The House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Green and Shimabukuro, Vice Chairs Mizuno and Rhodes, and Members:

Subject: Support of SB 2830, SD2, Relating to Caregiving

The Elderly Affairs Division is an Area Agency on Aging designated by the State Executive Office on Aging under the Older Americans Act of 1965. We strongly support SB 2830, SD2, Relating to Caregiving.

SB 2830, SD2 would assist the Executive Office on Aging in partnership with the Area Agencies on Aging to increase the operating budget for the Kupuna Care program. These funds will allow the Area Agencies on Aging to increase the amount of services it can provide to meet the needs of the increasing number of frail elderly individuals in the community. We also strongly support the inclusion of the Kupuna Care Program and Caregiver Support funds as part of the base budget to reduce administrative costs of utilizing these funds and to maximize the framework of long-term care and caregiver services that already exist in each county.

We urge the committee to pass SB 2830, SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen K. Miyake".

Karen K. Miyake  
County Executive on Aging  
Elderly Affairs Division

CY:ab  
cc: Office of the Mayor

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March 11, 2008

Rep. Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Rep. John Mizuno, Vice Chair

House Health Committee  
Hearing Scheduled for: Wednesday March 12, 8:00 am, Room 329

From:

Robert C Durkin MD  
2721 Huapala St, Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808) 988-9731

Re: SB2160 SD2, HD1 Relating to Medical Liability

Last year, I almost lost my middle son, Aidan age 5, to acute encephalitis (severe brain swelling). Through the quick action of the doctors and specialists at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, he was revived after one week in intensive care on a breathing machine. He has made a complete recovery. Luckily, we were not traveling on the North Shore or visiting a neighbor island when he suddenly collapsed into a coma as his outcome would have been far worse. Any delay in life-saving care due to the lack of ready access to specialists in these areas would have left him severely compromised or dead. If the outcome had not been optimal, then I am sure the small but vocal special interest group represented by personal injury lawyers would have found some way to turn the blame to seek some magnificent settlement. But, frankly, what is most important to me is that my little boy is healthy and enjoying Kindergarten at Manoa Elementary School. I bet most residents and visiting guests to Hawaii would feel the same.

I strongly support SB2160 SD2, HD1 for the following reasons:

- *There is a very real shortage of physicians in Hawaii. Physicians in critical specialties are leaving or cutting back their practice, and every day more and more people do not have access to health care when they need it most.*
- *We can remove some of the uncertainty of practicing medicine in Hawaii and stop the exodus or scaling back of practices by doctors if the legislature will pass medical liability reform to bring medical malpractice insurance premiums under control.*
- *Research by the American Medical Association and Hawaii Insurance Commissioner has confirmed that medical liability reform will reduce malpractice premiums.*

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*- Medical liability reform based on the Texas model needs to be passed this session to stop the exodus of doctors and provide the access to health care that the people of Hawaii deserve.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Robert C Durkin, Manoa

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