

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

LATE
Testimony

February 3, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 739 - RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY
HOMES**

Hearing: Thursday, February 3, 2011; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 739 amends previous caregiving requirements to specify that in Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH) approved for a maximum of three clients, the primary caregiver must be a certified nurse aide and the substitute caregiver must be a nurse aide.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) respectfully opposes this bill.

A substitute caregiver assumes the responsibilities of the primary caregiver whenever the primary caregiver is absent from the home. The substitute caregiver must have the same qualifications as the primary caregiver to adequately care for the needs of the clients, who are at a nursing facility level of care. For the health, safety and welfare of each client residing in the CCFFH the substitute caregiver must be as knowledgeable and competent as the primary caregiver.

Certified nurse aides are required to seek certification from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and must obtain recertification every two years. This process ensures that the individual is able to demonstrate a skills competency commensurate with the responsibilities of a CCFFH caregiver.

For these reasons DHS is opposed to the proposed changes in H.B. 739.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

THE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

P.O. Box 2441, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

LATE
Testimony

March 16, 2009

Testimony in **Strong Support of HB 739** - HUS - 2/3/11, 9:00 a.m.,
Rm. 329

Maria Etrata
President &
Founder

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Members of the Committee:

The Primary Care Providers (TPCP) **strongly supports HB 739**, which requires substitute caregivers in Community Care Foster Family Homes (foster homes) to be either Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) or Nurse Aides (NAs).

Requiring substitute caregivers to be licensed as CNAs or NAs results in better quality of care and safety for elderly and disabled residents of foster homes. Both CNAs and NAs require training in skills such as first aide bathing, feeding, toileting, turning and moving patients in bed, walking with various amounts of assistance, and transferring patients to a wheelchair or stretcher. They also receive training in taking body temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure and measuring intake and output. CNAs and NAs both have minimum educational requirements.

With these licensing standards, resident clients and their families can be assured of a minimum standard of care in foster homes. CNAs and NAs must be recertified every two years to ensure their skills are maintained.

Allowing foster home operators to use CNAs and NAs as substitutes would allow enough flexibility to ensure their continued operation. Reimbursement rates for home operators have been stagnant for many years. Without a third client, foster home operators have difficulty staying in business. The closure of these foster homes would result in a health care crisis as the population of Hawaii ages.

In summary, TPCP reiterates its **strong support of HB 739** requires substitute caregivers in foster homes to be either CNAs or Nurse Aides NAs.

Very truly yours,

The Primary Care Providers (TPCP)

By: Maria Etrata
About TPCP

TPCP's mission is unite the home and community based care giving industry to improve the quality of care provided to elderly and developmentally disabled clients in various home and community based programs, as well as to improve the state of the industry. Together, members of the four organizations have a membership of about 500 and comprise about 35% of the home and community-based caregivers in the State of Hawaii.



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FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

Promoting Hawaii's Business Community since 1954

LATE Testimony

February 2, 2011

Testimony in **Strong Support of HB 739** – HUS – 2/3/11, 9:00 a.m., Rm. 329

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Jordan, and Members of the Committee:

The Filipino Chamber of Commerce (FCCH) **strongly supports HB 739**, which requires substitute caregivers in Community Care Foster Family Homes (foster homes) to be either Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) or Nurse Aides (NAs).

Requiring substitute caregivers to be licensed as CNAs or NAs results in better quality of care and safety for elderly and disabled residents of foster homes. Both CNAs and NAs require training in skills such as first aide bathing, feeding, toileting, turning and moving patients in bed, walking with various amounts of assistance, and transferring patients to a wheelchair or stretcher. They also receive training in taking body temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure and measuring intake and output. CNAs and NAs both have minimum educational requirements.

With these licensing standards, resident clients and their families can be assured of a minimum standard of care in foster homes. CNAs and NAs must be recertified every two years to ensure their skills are maintained.

Allowing foster home operators to use CNAs and NAs as substitutes would allow enough flexibility to ensure their continued operation. Reimbursement rates for home operators have been stagnant for many years. Without a third client, foster home operators have difficulty staying in business. The closure of these foster homes would result in a health care crisis as the population of Hawaii ages.

As over 90% of foster home operators are of Filipino descent, foster home operators constitute the heart of the Filipino entrepreneurial spirit in Hawaii. The Filipino Community is extremely proud of foster home operators who provide 24-hour care 365 days of the year to elderly and disabled unable to care for themselves.

In summary, FCCH reiterates its **strong support of HB 739** requires substitute caregivers in foster homes to be either CNAs or Nurse Aides NAs.

Very truly yours,

Filipino Chamber of Commerce
By: Bryan P. Andaya