

ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE
ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

P.O. Box 970092, Waipahu, Hawai'i 96797

LATE
Testimony

February 2, 2012

Thelma Ortal
President
*Adult Foster Homecare
Association of Hawaii*

RE: **HB2130 – Testimony in Support – HUS 2/2/12 – Rm. 329 10:00 a.m.**

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

Lani Akee
Immediate Past President
*Adult Foster Homecare
Association of Hawaii*

We **strongly support HB2130**, which provides for interest payments to Community Care Foster Family Homes (foster homes) where reimbursements are not paid within 30 days.

Untimely reimbursements have widely affected our membership adversely affecting their ability to provide quality services to elderly and disabled. We are struggling to pay our mortgage and the expenses associated in providing care. Meanwhile, we provide round-the-clock care 365 every single day with no holidays, vacations, or any time off. All we ask is for timely payment as any vendor would be treated.

For these reasons, we **strongly support HB 2130**.

Very truly yours,

Thelma Ortal
President

About AFHA

The Adult Foster Home Association of Hawaii (AFHA) is the industry trade association of providers under the Community Care Foster Family Home program under the Department of Human Services, State of Hawaii. With a membership of almost 750 providers, AFHA's mission is to promote the interests of providers as well as resident clients. AFHA members provide 24-hour care to resident clients 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

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Good Morning Chair, Vice-Chair and Members:

My name is Lilia Fajotina, President of ARCA, the Alliance of Residential Care Administrators.

I fully support the intent of the HB 2130.

As a caregiver myself, I know how hard it is to work with our residents. I am not complaining because that's what I chose to do as my career in life. But it is so disheartening when you are already working so hard, sometimes neglecting my husband and children, and I still have to struggle with my pay from the State because of always late payments. And I just don't mean, days. I have to wait months for my paycheck.

Right now, I have 3 residents from the Adult Mental Health Division and 2 residents under the State. Recently, I was not paid for 3 months from the Adult Mental Health Division. If I did not seek the help of one of our representatives to help me, I'm sure that it would have taken them longer to pay me. Some of us in our industry, sometimes don't get paid for 6 months. We only have but so much money in savings to pay for our mortgage. And mortgage is not all what we have to pay. We have to feed our residents, pay utilities, buy gas to bring them to their doctor's appointments; in the meantime, we may be losing our homes. There are caregivers who now have lost their homes because of late payments of the State. When we are behind with our mortgage payments, the banks or lending institutions charge us interest and penalties by the thousands. When the State was late in paying me for more than 3 months recently, they paid me a mere \$14.00 for their late fee.

For the care homes, we are paid \$1299.90 a month per one resident from the State. That comes down to \$42 a day in a 30-day month; which gives us a mere \$1.68 per hour. My late payment penalty is more than the \$1200 payment of my one resident.

We are asking the legislature to please look into this matter, as we would also like to be paid on time like everyone else that works for the State. Please ask your selves..."How would I feel if I was in her shoes..? I go to work so I can be paid, so that I can eat and survive..."

I strongly support the bill and with high hopes that the State legislators will really look into the heart of the matter... Thank you for allowing me to testify.

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Testimony for HUS/HLT 2/2/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2130

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Scott Wall

Organization: Individual

E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

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February 1, 2012

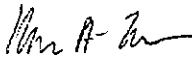
Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2130 – HMS 2/2/12 10:00 a.m. Rm. 329

To the Honorable Members of the Committee:

I, Norma Tan, Vice President of Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawai'i with more than 700 members strongly support **HB 2130 requiring** the state to pay interest on late payments to an operator of an adult day care facility, community care foster family home, or adult residential care home because we caregivers like every body else, we also have commitments and bills to pay and if we don't pay on time we are obligated to pay interest. You must understand that most of us are home bound caregivers and taking care of our clients 24/7. A lot of us don't have any other means of income aside from what were getting from this business. There are several instances that our payment is delayed for 3 months and if this continuous to happen it will result in closure of foster homes and other facilities. I urge your support.

This bill is not only the right thing for the caregivers but also to the increased aging population. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Respectfully,



Norma Tan

94-1076 Haalau St.

Waipahu, HI 96797

Ph: 677-7492

Lehua Kinilau

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:21 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2130 on 2/2/2012 10:00:00 AM

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Testimony

Testimony for HUS/HLT 2/2/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2130

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments: