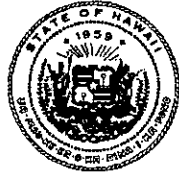


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA MCMANAMAN  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
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February 2, 2012

**TO:** The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services  
  
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Health

**FROM:** Patricia McManaman, Director

**SUBJECT: H.B. 2189 - RELATING TO MEDICAID**

Hearing: Thursday, February 2, 2012; 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to require medicaid home and community-based waiver programs to allow family members hired and directed by the waiver program individual to provide specific approved in-home care services to the individual..

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) respectfully opposes this bill as it is unnecessary and could create a future barrier to federal compliance.

DHS has already included the definition of "family members" allowed to provide services for their family member in its Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Medicaid waiver documents. The "family members" as stated in this bill are currently able to provide and be paid for care to eligible Medicaid recipients under the QUEST

Expanded Access (QExA) and the Developmentally Disabled/Intellectually Disabled Home & Community Based waiver programs.

Should DHS need to change the definition of “family member” in the approved waivers due to changes in federal regulations, it could result in the Department having to cover the in-home services without receiving the federal matching dollars until the State statute can be revised.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## **HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER**

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### **THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012**

#### **Committee on Human Services Committee on Health Testimony in of Support of H.B.2189 Relating to Medicaid**

**Thursday, February 2, 2012, 10:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 329**

Chair Mizuno, Chair Yamane and Members of the Committees:

I am Louis Erteschik, Acting Executive Director at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in support of this bill.

The concept of paying family members to be caregivers makes a lot of sense. Certainly, nothing compares to being cared for by a loved one, and even a well trained worker cannot provide the same intangible level of care. We have seen in some cases that family members work outside the home and so the result is that another individual is paid to come into the home and provide the care. In the scenario where that is occurring, it may literally be cheaper, as well as a higher quality, to simply pay the family member directly to provide the care.

In the DD Waiver, we have seen good experiences with the use of the "Consumer Directed" model whereby DD recipients can in fact hire family members to be their Personal Assistants. This has been a very cost effective program and we believe that this concept is worth expanding to other Medicaid programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

