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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [chinlee@hawaii.edu](mailto:chinlee@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2415 on 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:36:38 AM

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Testimony for WAM 3/29/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2415

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: CHin Lee  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [chinlee@hawaii.edu](mailto:chinlee@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

I am writing to express the strong support for HB 2415 HD 2 SD 1. HB2415 HD2 SD1, will ultimately allow Department of Human services to design and implement a Medicaid Buy In program in Hawaii. Medicaid Buy In program has been implemented in 45 states for over 10 years. The Medicaid Buy In program will allow person with disabilities to seek employment without the fear of losing their healthcare, work toward financial independent, and be a contributing member to the society.

The Medicaid Buy in program, if implemented in Hawaii, will allow person with disabilities to join the workforce, and will allow employers to tap into this untapped talent workforce pool.

Mahalo,  
Chin Lee



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
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March 29, 2012

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Ige and Kidani and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2415 HD 2 SD1 - RELATING TO MEDICAID

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS HB 2415 HD2 SD1**. The purpose of this bill is to identify and remove barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities.


The Task Force described in the bill would serve to assist the Department of Human Services in the development and implementation of a Medicaid buy-in program for working individuals with disabilities. The implementation of a Medicaid buy-in program would provide incentives for people with disabilities to work while maintaining their Medicaid benefits. As noted in the bill a Medicaid buy-in program could generate up to \$300,000 in the first year and a total of \$2,500,000 over the first five years.

We support the inclusion of the Council as a member of the task force as indicated on page 4, line 4, and look forward to working with the Department of Human Services and other named members to design and implement the Medicaid buy-in program for working individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting HB 2415 HD 2 SD1.

Sincerely,

  
Liz Ann Salvador  
Chair

  
Waynette K. Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TO: Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Melissa Gibo, Program Director  
Developmental Disabilities Waiver Services Program

DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2012 (9:00 a.m., Room 211)

SUBJECT: **IN SUPPORT of HB 2415, HD 2, SD 1, Relating to Medicaid**

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a private, 501(c)(3) organization that has provided social services for people in need in the State of Hawai'i since 1947. CCH has been providing Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver services to individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities (DD/ID) since 1995. **CCH is in support of HB 2415, HD 2, SD 1.**

Individuals with disabilities face many barriers to employment in addition to the lack of work opportunities in today's challenging economic climate. Of particular concern to many individuals with DD/ID and those who support them, is the impact of earnings on Medicaid benefits.

Individuals with DD/ID often need the supportive home and community based services provided under Medicaid benefits in order to remain integrated in the community. The fear of losing the health benefits and community based support services that prevent them from being institutionalized often prevents individuals with DD/ID from seeking employment. As a result, although competitive employment has many positive benefits (e.g. increases self-esteem and self sufficiency, fosters the development of natural support systems), currently, less than 4% of individuals with DD/ID in Hawai'i are competitively employed.<sup>i</sup>

The Medicaid Buy-In program will provide an incentive to encourage individuals with disabilities to work by allowing them to pay premiums for Medicaid coverage when they would otherwise be deemed ineligible for Medicaid due to higher earnings thereby addressing concerns about the loss of medical and support services benefits.<sup>ii</sup> Additionally, the establishment of a Medicaid Buy-In program will offer Hawai'i an opportunity to promote employment and increase self-sufficiency for individuals with DD/ID.

**Catholic Charities Hawai'i asks for your support of HB 2415, HD 2, SD 1.** Please feel free to contact me at (808) 527-4721 or via email at [melissa.gibo@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:melissa.gibo@catholiccharitieshawaii.org) if I can provide any additional information. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

<sup>i</sup> State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, 2008

<sup>ii</sup> Liu, S. & Ireys, H. (2006) *Participation in the Medicaid Buy-In Program: A Statistical Profile from Integrated Data*. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

