

# LATE TESTIMONY

## ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

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

January 30, 2012

Thelma Ortal  
President  
Adult Foster HomeCare  
Association of Hawaii

389-1847

RE: HB1208 - Testimony in Opposition - HUS 1/31/13 - Rm. 329 1:30 p.m.

Chair Rep. Mele Carroll, Vice Chair Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

The Adult Foster HomeCare Association stands in opposition of HB1208, which proposes to institute various fees, including licensure fees for Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFHs or foster homes) and for nurse aide recertification.

As you know, foster homes operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Operators earn far less than the current minimum wage rate and are left to fend for themselves with regard to all expenses associated with providing care.

We cannot afford any new fees at this time. As it stands, many homes have had to close and discharge patients because operators lack medical insurance and other basic necessities.

The family serves as the foundation for the foster home program, which allows those who are unable to care for themselves to remain in the community. This bill threatens the stability of the family by stretching us too the brink. We are the least able to afford these fees. Clients in foster homes maintain their dignity by leading as normal of a life for as long as possible in a family setting. This bill would be detrimental to quality of care for our kupuna.

For these reasons, the Adult Foster HomeCare Association of Hawaii opposes HB1208.

Very truly yours,  
*Thelma Ortal*  
Thelma Ortal

### 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.