

**LATE**

**HB 1695 HD 1, RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Testimony of Ryan Guerrero**

**Hearing: Tuesday, March 18 , 2014; Conference Room 016**

**State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

**1:30pm**

Good afternoon. My name is Ryan Guerrero. I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, pursuing a Masters in Social Work and doing my internship with the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. I am testifying today as a private citizen.

I **support** this bill. I believe that this bill is needed and that this is a step forward in improving the quality of care for adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes and certified adult foster homes.

I strongly believe that providing quality care in these homes is essential. This bill will help assist with the needs of the elderly, developmental disabled individuals, and others who seek care services within a home setting. Everyone knows expenses have been increasing and as people age, extra care is needed. It can be challenging to cater and care for these residents. Although the

caregiver receives the State Supplemental Payment, it barely covers expenses. Increasing the State Supplemental Payment for the care these residents receive is a must and should be considered.

I have family members who have certified adult foster homes. One family in particular has a resident who requires a lot of attention. This resident sees the doctor frequently because of his medical condition. My aunty, who is the caretaker of the resident, drives from Kapolei into town. Because of the gas prices increasing, this has taken a toll on my aunty's finances. The State Supplemental Payment for the residence **does not** cover all the expenses. It has come to the point where my family members are using their own personal finances in order to take care of the resident. My aunty has expressed that taking care of this resident has become a financial burden.

I also work for a non-profit agency that helps provide services for developmental disabled residents and I work at a certified adult foster home. From what I understand, residents who live at the home need to meet state requirements. The resident who receives care also requires a lot of attention. However, the State Supplemental Payment does not cover all the needs of this resident one of them being the food that the resident consumes. According to my supervisor, the resident should be receiving meals that have nutritious value. But with the limited State Supplemental Payment, it is challenging. It has come to the point where my supervisor has also used his own money to pay for the resident's food. Because of this, he too has become financially burdened.

I believe that if the State Supplemental Payment does not increase, it will become a serious problem within the near future. I believe that we will lose quality workers who provide excellent care to their residents. If we lose our quality workers, who in the future will be willing to take care of our elderly, our developmentally disabled, and other individuals who deeply need assistance?

Thank you for letting me testify.



HB 1695  
LATE

The United Group of Home Operators

1802 Wahine Placce

Honolulu, Hawaii-96819

Senator Susan Chun Oakland, Chair

Committee on Human Services

Testimony on HB 1695

1:30 pm., March 18, 2014

Conference Room 916

Good Afternoon Senator Susan Oakland, Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am Esther Pascual, of the United Group of Home Operators (UGHO). About 37 years now, the UGHO members have operated residential care homes that provide assisted living accommodations in a stress free small family atmosphere for the frail elderly, the mentally and the physically disabled residents .

The meager payment by the State to the Adult Residential Care Homes does not reflect the true cost to the operators, who in some cases are losing money for caring these residents placed in our homes. Some of us care home operators, are in a dilemma and not able to retire due to a sense of loyalty, dedication, and devotion that we have to our residents who have come to know us, as their only family and even refuse to move to another care home or to other community-based facility. Today, the State currently pays \$1,322.90 each Medicaid patient placed in ARCH's. This covers room and board, utility bills, mileage, taxes, liability business insurance , repair and maintenance, substitute care givers, and most of all the 24/7 care services provided to each individual resident. Summing up all the above expenses, we are truly underpaid which probably one of the lowest paid workers in Hawaii. If these residents are institutionalized, the government would pay the institution from about \$5000.00 to \$8000.00, a month for each patient compared to just only a fraction paid to Adult Residential Care Homes. I know that this may not be possible for the government to do so then, the Care Home Industry is one of the alternatives of saving millions of dollars each year for the State and the Federal governments which has been done over the years.

The last increase was six years ago in 2008. Inflation and the cost of living has also risen dramatically without a corresponding increase in payment to us care givers. Therefore, we strongly support HB 1695 that would increase the state supplemental payment and provides the annual adjustments to Adult Residential Care Home residents. I believe that Care Homes provide essential services to the people of Hawaii, the most affordable community-based facilities for the elderly and the dependent disabled patients. I am sure that we can make our Care Home industry more appealing to attract and encourage the opening of more Care Homes to meet the future needs of our Kupuna. In closing, we ask your

committee to please support and pass HB 1695 that would allow this valuable services to continue and thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Esther Pascual".

Esther Pascual

**BILL #1695 – INCREASE IN PAY DUE TO HIGHER COST OF  
LIVING/INFLATION**

GOOD AFTERNOON SENATOR OAKLAND, MEMBERS OF SENATE COMMITTEE, AND EVERYONE. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH YOU TODAY.

MY NAME IS ROSE SEBASTIAN, AND I'M HERE TO SUPPORT BILL #1695. MY MOTHER AND I HAS BEEN SERVING THE CARE HOME BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN HAWAII FOR OVER 30 YEARS NOW. WE TAKE CARE OF BOTH THE ELDERLY AND THE MENTALLY CHALLENGED PATIENTS. OUR JOB REQUIRES OUR CARE & ATTENTION 24/7 (365 DAYS A YEAR). WE GET PAID \$43.25 A DAY PER PATIENT –THAT'S LIKE \$1.80 PER HOUR. I UNDERSTAND, OUR MINIMUM WAGE IN HAWAII IS OVER \$7. SO THIS BILL SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. AS YOU ALL KNOW, OUR COST OF LIVING IN HAWAII HAS SOARED TREMENDOUSLY OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. MOST OF THE TIME OUR BUDGET IS BARELY MAKING IT UNTIL OUR NEXT PAYDAY AND IT CAN BE OVERWHELMING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH FINANCIAL STRESS AND AT THE SAME TIME TAKING CARE OF OUR PATIENTS.

WE ARE STILL IN THIS BUSINESS TODAY, BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME MY MOTHER'S LIFE! SHE HAS A SPECIAL, THE KINDEST WAY OF CARING FOR OUR PATIENTS. I WORK THE BUSINESS WITH HER BECAUSE I CAN DO THIS JOB AROUND MY FAMILY. HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO DO IN THE LONG RUN OR NOT IS SOMETHING I NEED TO EVALUATE FROM TIME TO TIME. JUST LIKE ANY OTHER BUSINESS, IT HAS TO BE FEASIBLE FOR US TO CONTINUE—ECONOMICALLY.

THE INCREASE THAT WE ARE ASKING FOR IN THIS BILL IS MUCH NEEDED AND IT WOULD HELP US A LOT. WE LOVE SERVING OUR ELDERS AND THE MENTALLY CHALLENGED; THEREFORE, I HUMBLLY ASK THAT YOU GIVE THIS BILL YOUR FULL SUPPORT.

I THANK YOU VERY MUCH IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

RESPECTFULLY,

  
ROSE SEBASTIAN