



Wednesday – February 12, 2014 – 8:30am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 2093 — Relating to Home Care Licensing

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116 member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 22093, which would extend the sunset date of the home care licensing law—which is set to expire on June 30, 2014—five years to June 30, 2019, to allow the program to begin operation.

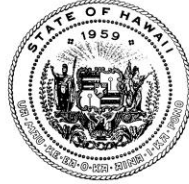
Home care agencies employ workers who assist a growing number of older adults and those with chronic illnesses or disabilities. Home care workers are referred to by a variety of job titles, including certified nursing assistants, care assistants, and home care aides. They make it possible for people with functional limitations to remain at home in a comfortable, familiar environment by providing a wide range of assistance with the activities of daily living. These activities include bathing, dressing, grooming, assisting with ambulation or transferring, toileting, feeding and providing assistance with self-medication. Home care workers also help with the daily living activities, including shopping, meal preparation, making medical appointments, transportation, laundry and housekeeping.

Because many elderly residents live alone and are often faced with declining mental and physical abilities, home care agencies are a critical resource in ensuring that Hawaii's kupuna are kept safe. Charged with such an important duty, the public must be assured that home care agencies are meeting minimum standards when delivering care. At present, at least twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia require licensure for home care agencies.

During the regular session of 2009, the legislature passed SB 415 SD2 HD1 CD1, which was enacted as Act 21 in the first special session of 2009. The purpose of Act 21 is to require home care agencies to be licensed, and the Act designates the Department of Health (DOH) as the home care licensing agency. DOH has collaborated with home care agencies, consumer advocates, and other stakeholders to draft administrative rules needed to implement licensing. These draft rules are in the last stages of the approval process.

HB 2093 is critical to extending the sunset date of Act 21, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, to June 20, 2019, to allow the home care licensing program to begin operation. After five years without funding—and with DOH set to publish rules relating to the home care licensing program—HB 2093 is crucial to ensuring the program the opportunity to begin operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2093.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

LATE

House Committee on Health

HB 2093, Relating to Home Care Licensing

Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Deputy Director of Environmental Health Administration

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** There are financial implications if this bill passes. Those implications are
3 addressed in HB 2094 and can be discussed later.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The department testified to the merits of the original bill. The licensing of
5 home care agencies is consistent with our goals and objectives to safeguard vulnerable populations and
6 ensure the safety of individuals receiving such care or services in their residence and, thereby, allowing
7 individuals to remain in their homes.

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

HB2093

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for HLT on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lilia P. Fajotina	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I strongly opposed HB2093 because agency should be licensed by DOH for consumer protection. All caregivers working for the Agency should have criminal background check, TB clearance, CPR/FIRST AIDE to protect the consumer that they are serving. Thank you for allowing me to testify! Lllia Fajotina President (ARCA)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HB2093

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for HLT on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramon Sumibcay	ARCA(Alliance of Carehome Administrators(Support	Yes

Comments: Chair Belatti and Committee members: I hereby extend my support to the measures HB 2093 and HB 2094; the former to extend licensing of the home care agencies and the latter to appropriate funds to enable the Department of Health to proceed with the licensing process. In 2009 Act 21 was enacted to require licensing of these agencies. These agencies are also required minimum standards of care in the delivery of services. The elders who are recipients of care services have to be protected through effective oversight. Oversight could be achieved with administrative rules. In this regard, the administrative rules have to be in full implementation by July 1, 2014. Furthermore, the Department of Health through the Office of Healthcare Assurance should impose licensing fees equitable to the proposed fees to the facilities licensed by Department of Health to ensure fairness across the board. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

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HB2093

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
WANNETTE GAYLORD	ARCA(Alliance of Carehome Administrators(Support	No

Comments: Chair Belatti and Members: I support the measures HB 2093 and HB 2094 in extending the licensing of the home care agencies. Act 21 of 2009 already mandated that these agencies to be licensed. However to ensure full protection of the elderly population, it requires effective oversight by fully implementing the administrative rules on or before July 1, 2014. Thank you very much.

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Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Health
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 8:30 A.M.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

LATE

RE: HOUSE BILL 2093 RELATING TO HOME CARE LICENSING

Chair Belatti and Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2093 relating to home care licensing.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

HB 2093 is critical to extending the sunset date of Act 21, First Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, to June 20, 2019, to allow the home care licensing program to begin operation. After five years without funding—and with DOH set to publish rules relating to the home care licensing program—HB 2093 is crucial to ensuring the program the opportunity to begin operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB2093

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

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LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Esther Pascual	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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