



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 6, 2015

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 600, HD1, SD1 - RELATING TO COMMUNITY
CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES**

Hearing: Monday, April 6, 2015; 9:05 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Health to allow two individuals in a relationship with each other as a married or civil union couple to be cared for in the same community care foster family home if certain requirements are met.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and provides comments on this bill. The DHS supports the availability of community-based resources for residents and believes the SD1 providers provisions to alleviate some of the issues, but DHS remains concerned that an unintended consequence could displace or reduce the availability of community care foster homes for Medicaid recipients.

The Community Care Foster Family Home (CCFFH) was created specifically for the former Medicaid waiver program of the same name. The foster family home was, and

still is, an integral part of the long term care continuum of care for the Medicaid program and provides a less restrictive community-based home for Medicaid recipients at a nursing facility level of care. The CCFFH allows recipients to remain in the community rather than go into a nursing home. Currently CCFFHs are licensed for two residents and may request for a third bed. In order to obtain the third bed, it must be for a Medicaid recipient. This bill would remove that requirement by allowing two private pay residents and only one Medicaid recipient if the two private pay individuals are married.

While we recognize that a CCFFH operator needs to be able to have sufficient income and there is a preference to keep married couples together, the DHS advocates for the need to ensure the availability of CCFFH beds for Medicaid recipients who do not have the means to privately pay for housing. Without the availability of CCFFH beds for Medicaid recipients, it could result in individuals having to remain, for longer periods of time, in an acute hospital bed until a community-based bed becomes available or going into a more costly nursing facility.

The DHS defers to the Department of Health on licensing issues. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Arlene Hanks CCFFH
Jonathan & Arlene Hanks
44-124 Mikiola Drive
Kaneohe Hawaii, 96744**

April 4, 2015

**THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair**

HEARING ON HB 600

**DATE: Monday, April 06, 2015
TIME: 9:05am
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.**

Testimony:

Aloha, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Jonathan P. Hanks, My wife Arlene and I run a Community Care Family Foster Home. My wife has been a certified CCFFH operator continuously for the last fourteen years. I've been caring for elderly in our home for the last nine years. I am also certified as an Adult Residential Care Home Operator. I am a member of the Windward Homeless Coalition since 2012. For the past two years I have volunteered my time to "State of Hawaii's Point in Time Homeless Count". Adult Residential Care Homes originally began in Hawaii as "Boarding Homes" and they have changed and adapted over time. I believe that caring for Hawaii's Medicaid recipients is everyone's responsibility and should not lie solely on the backs of the CCFFH's. As our elderly population is increasing and the "Baby Boomer" generation is beginning to need care, I feel we need as many options as possible for our elders in long term care. We are currently caring for a veteran who served the United States in the 100th battalion, 442 Regimental Combat Team. He swam in the Natatorium as a teen ager. He was working on the Docks on Nimitz Highway when the Japanese flew over and bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He fought in Italy in World War II for the freedoms we enjoy today. His name is Noboru Kawamoto. He has been married for 67 years to his wife Elaine; this is the first time he has been separated from his wife for any long period of time. Marriage is a fundamental right and there is no legitimate reason to keep this couple apart. Both Noboru and Elaine wish to be together in happiness and live out what time they have together at our Community Care Family Foster Home in their home town of Kaneohe. Please pass this Bill HB 600, and allow 2 private pay clients in the same CCFFH. I stand in Strong support of HB 600. I humbly thank this Committee for this opportunity to be heard.

Jonathan P. Hanks

From: Christine Matsumoto, Individual Citizen
Submitted on: April 4, 2015

Testimony in support of HB600 HD1, SD1, Relating to Community Care Foster Family Homes

Submitted to: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date of Hearing: Monday, April 6, 2015

9:05 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Matsumoto, and I support HB600 HD1, SD1 because there is a need to provide accommodations, not only for Medicaid recipients, but also for private pay individuals who share a long-term relationship. As the cost of long term medical care continue to rise, even private pay individuals are having great difficulty affording the cost of long term care, leaving this population also with limited options. HB600 HD1, SD1 would allow the department of health flexibility to permit two private pay individuals to be cared for in the same community care foster family home, so that those couples who are married can live out their final years together. I believe that marriage is a fundamental right, and as such, this bill needs to become law.

Sincerely,
Christine Matsumoto
Phone: (808)623-5849

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kkkikuka@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB600 on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 9:27:03 PM

HB600

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen K Kikukawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: House of Representatives Committee on Human Services Rep. Dee Morikawa, Chair Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair Rep. Della Au Belatti Rep. Jo Jordan Rep. Richard P. Creagan Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro Rep. Mark J. Hashem Rep. Beth Fukumoto Chang Hearing on HB600 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Testimony: I am friends with the veteran who is currently in this situation and have read some of the support and opposition to this bill. It pains me to think that we have made it a situation with the various wording of the original bill that called for this bill to be presented. But we are for the people and by the people and we should make it work; especially for the ones that put their lives on the line for us. Unfortunately I am also a caregiver for my 91 year old mother, who is a veterans widow and unable to be present to testify. I hope that you will take this testimony in SUPPORT of this bill to allow them to be together. Much Mahalo, Karen Kikukawa

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jonathan_hanks@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB600 on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM*
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 10:13:46 AM

HB600

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noboru Kawamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 3:56:32 PM

HB600

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strong agree to support this HB600 to respect the rights if the married couple. Thank you for allowing me to testify on line.

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Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 3:59:38 PM

HB600

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 4:00:32 PM

HB600

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 6, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frances Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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