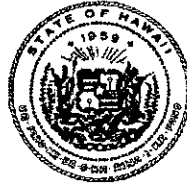


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LATE



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 28, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1396 HD 1 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES**

Hearing: February 28, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Department of Health to allow two private-pay individuals to be cared for in the same community care foster family home if certain requirements are met.

Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH) were created specifically for the Medicaid program for low-income recipients. CCFFH 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 who are at a nursing facility level of care. CCFFH allow recipients to remain in the community rather than go into a nursing facility, which is a major national goal and the personal preference for many individuals and families.

Currently, CCFFHs are licensed for two residents and may request for a third bed. One of the residents may be private-pay. Also, in order to obtain the third bed, it must be for a Medicaid recipient. This bill would permit the Department of Health to allow two private pay residents and only one Medicaid recipient if the enumerated conditions of the proposed part (1) (B) are met.

While currently, DHS does not anticipate a high number of individuals to seek this accommodation, a change in law may influence a change in behavior that was not anticipated at the time of the law's passage.

DHS notes that with this change, there remains some potential of reduced CCFFH beds for Medicaid recipients, which, in certain communities, 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. None the less, we believe the bill provides for sufficient protections in order to mitigate this risk.

DHS will continue to work with DOH and the Legislature to address the State's long-term care needs of the state's aging population, and maintain community based options for low-income elderly or people with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

While currently, DHS does not anticipate a high number of individuals to seek this accommodation, a change in law may influence a change in behavior that was not anticipated at the time of the law's passage.

DHS notes that with this change, there remains some potential of reduced CCFFH beds for Medicaid recipients, which, in certain communities, 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. None the less, we believe the bill provides for sufficient protections in order to mitigate this risk.

DHS will continue to work with DOH and the Legislature to address the State's long-term care needs of the state's aging population, and maintain community based options for low-income elderly or people with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

BRIDGET HOLTHUS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 28, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1396 HD 1 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES**

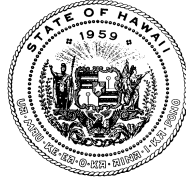
Hearing: February 28, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Department of Health to allow two private-pay individuals to be cared for in the same community care foster family home if certain requirements are met.

Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH) were created specifically for the Medicaid program for low-income recipients. CCFFH 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 who are at a nursing facility level of care. CCFFH allow recipients to remain in the community rather than go into a nursing facility, which is a major national goal and the personal preference for many individuals and families.

Currently, CCFFHs are licensed for two residents and may request for a third bed. One of the residents may be private-pay. Also, in order to obtain the third bed, it must be for a Medicaid recipient. This bill would permit the Department of Health to allow two private pay residents and only one Medicaid recipient if the enumerated conditions of the proposed part (1) (B) are met.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1396 PROPOSED HD1
RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES**

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT Y. NISHIMOTO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of H.B. 1396
3 HD1. The State has been addressing this matter for a couple of years and, closely working with
4 key legislators and the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health believes an
5 appropriate solution has been found.

6 The Department of Health supports amending the definition of a community care foster
7 family home (CCFFH). The amended definition provides the Department, in consultation with
8 DHS, with discretion to allow two private-pay individuals to be cared for in the same CCFFH.
9 Conditions are identified but the Department may consider other factors that the Department
10 deems relevant to reach its decision.

11 The Department believes that truly unique and rare circumstances should allow for
12 unique considerations. The Department believes that this bill provides an appropriate tool for
13 those unique and rare circumstances to be deliberated upon.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 6:13 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: louis@hawaiiidisabilityrights.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/24/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: We supported this bill last year as a humanitarian attempt to assist a particular elderly couple that wished to reside together. We were disheartened by the rigidity and lack of compassion demonstrated by the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services. The arguments they put forth made no sense at all. That individual case aside, this bill makes perfect sense as a matter of public policy in general. These isolated situations of married couples seeking to live together are few and rare and will do nothing to disrupt the Medicaid system or alter the number of beds that are available. For that reason, we hope that the Legislature will direct the Departments to allow these scenarios under reasonable parameters. While we welcome the support of the Departments for this HD1 version, we do think that some of the conditions required in the bill are too open ended and difficult to measure or enforce. Yet, this certainly is a step in a good direction.

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To: Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair, Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Date: 27 February 2017

Re: HB 1396 – RELATING TO COMMUNITY CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOMES

Aloha Chair Morikawa, and Vice-Chair San Buenaventura,

My name is Ramon Sumibcay. I am a Care Home Operator in Makakilo. I am in strong SUPPORT to the bill:

To simply put it, we need to consider providing exemption to couples who are married or in a civil union status. They are not that many in numbers, and they are in the twilight years of their lives. We just need to be more compassionate to have the regulations waived in their behalf.

Mahalo for your support and attention.

Sincerely,

Ramon Sumibcay, MHA, BSN, RN

ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

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

February 27, 2017

Maribel Tan
President
*Adult Foster Homecare
Association of Hawaii*

RE: **HB1396 – Testimony in Strong Support – JUD 2/27/17 – Rm. 325 2:00 p.m.**

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Buenaventura and Members of the Committees:

We **strongly support HB1396**, which allows for two private-pay clients in a Community Care Foster Family Home (foster homes) where the specified circumstances are met. This issue has been ongoing for years as manifested in many legislative bills and even lawsuits. This problem will continue and get even worse. There is obviously a failure in the system to address this problem, so it's time for a change to be made.

Medicaid clients will continue to have a place in our homes and will continue to be first priority. **There are a lot of vacancies in CCFFH homes.** Medicaid clients will not be turned away as there is sufficient capacity. There is no shortage of space for Medicaid clients in our program, but the inflexible rule of having only one private-pay client is often detrimental to non-Medicaid clients.

Indeed, the heart of the foster home program is the family. We take the elderly and disabled into our home and make them a part of our family. A sense of being part of a family is vital to any human being. Although we count our clients as part of our own family living in the home where we live, some clients would do even better if they could bring their own family into the home.

Clients who are separated from their own family often suffer severe trauma and depression. Outcomes would improve if they were able to live with their own family members like their spouse. Imagine being in a loving marriage or relationship for 50 years and then suddenly being separated. We want to admit clients who will fit well with our clients for their own well-being.

Private-pay clients need care just as everyone else. They should have a right to remain in our home if it is their free choice and the choice of their family. They deserve to be treated with dignity and have their choices respected.

For these reasons, we **strongly support** HB 1396.

Very truly yours,

Maribel Tan
President

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:47 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I strongly in support of this HB1396 for the reason of respecting the rights of the married couple in a place of their choice like the CCFFH . Let's give them a chance to live together and enjoy the happy moments of their lives. CCFFH is certified for two or three clients , one of whom is a private pay. But if there's in need of another private pay for a couple as long as we have a bed for a Medicaid client, why not give a place for a private couple . Anyway this kind of a case is very rear , so please allow this bill to happen on behalf of our citizens to whom this HB1396 is addressed to. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:01 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I am very supportive of this HB1396 to acknowledge the wishes of our kupunas whom this bill is intended to. Thank you to all of you who are in charge of this important document concerning this matter. And also thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit my testimony.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:51 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Martinez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Your honor please help this bill to pass ion behalf of the citizens whom this bill is addressed to. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:46 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francisca Parayno	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am supporting this bill because I want to help our elderlies whom this bill is intended to. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:43 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liberty Albano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for allowing me to send my testimony. Please help our Kupunas whom this bill is addressed to. MAHALO for your hard work

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:40 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grace Andres	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please help our elders whom this bill is addressed to . I strongly support this HB1396. Thank you for allowing me to send my testimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:37 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: cariagacora@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I am appealing to please help the married couple to live together in a place of their choice like the CCFFH. My mother has a client whose husband is in another CCFFH facility . This woman is always longing to see her husband because they seldom see each other . And if they meet it is very hard for them to be separated again. The woman cries but hard for her to visit her husband more often due to her health problems. Please I'm begging to all of you who are in charge of this HB1396 to allow it to happen. Thank you for reading my testimony.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:49 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: sabrinanguyen2010@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sabrina	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill - HB1396, HD1 is crafted well, because it allows the department of health working with the department of human services to determine if an exception shall be made to allow for two private pay clients to reside in the same community care foster family home - if certain conditions are met: the couple must be married or in a civil union, the private pay couple does not have the option of moving in another healthcare facility in the area, they cannot transfer out a Medicaid client just to accept the second private pay client, the department of health must work with the department of human services and they can review the history of the community care foster family home to determine if this is the correct position to take in allowing two private pay clients in the same CCFFH and the departments will be working with both the State Attorney General's Office and the federal department of health and human services to ensure that they remain in good standing regarding funding for Medicaid. If the foregoing can be met - this will allow two private pay clients who are either married or in a civil union to reside in the same CCFFH. This is all subject to availability and no Medicaid client can be transferred out just to accept another private pay client. The bill HB1396, HD1 is a good draft worked on by the Attorney General's office and both the department of health and the department of human services and thus I stand in strong support of passing this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:21 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: kananisouza@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017
Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1396, HD1 because it is the right thing to do - to allow a married couple of over 68 years to reside in the same community care foster family home if certain conditions are met: First if they have no other care home or healthcre facility in the area, scnd they must be married or in a civil union, third the department of health will work with the department of human services to determine if this situation warrants the married couple to live in the same Medicaid care home and finally both departments will work with the State Attorney General's office and contct CMS (Federal Department of Health and Human Services) to ensure that they are not violating any rule or law by allowing this rare exception - thus to ensure continued Medcaid funding for Hawaii. Finally, as a side note - if this bill were to pass into law the Kawamoto lawsuit against the state would be dismissed, because they would no longer have grounds to sue - as the law would allow them to reside in the same community care foster family home. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1396, HD1.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:17 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: alangarcia2017@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB1396, HD1 to allow in rare cases two private pay clients only if they are "married or in civil unions" to reside in the same community care foster family home. This will only happen if both the department of health works with department of human services, reviews all other options for the private pay couple and after checking with the State Attorney General's office finds this rare exception is proper and legal. This will also assure the State will not lose Medicaid funding from the federal government. Finally, if this bill becomes law, the current lawsuit by the Kawamoto family should be dismissed against the State of Hawaii, because they will no longer have standing, because the new law will allow the Kawamoto husband and wife to lawfully reside in the same community care foster family home together. In the end this will be a win-win for the Legislature, because they no longer have to draft legislation again for similar cases in the future, the department of health will work with the department of human services to ensure the integrity of the Medicaid care homes are not violating any Federal Law should they decide and agree in rare cases to allow for two private pay couples in a "marriage or civil union", and the Attorney General's office will review the case to ensure no violation of the Medicaid rules to ensure continued Federal funding of Medicaid for the State Medicaid system and clients in Hawaii. For all of the foregoing reasons, I support HB1396, HD1 - in its HD1 form, because it was worked on by all stake holders.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:07 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017
Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlina Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:06 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017
Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lovely Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:05 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olivia santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:04 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ernesto Tuliao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:03 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevie Tuliao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:01 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cresencio Sapla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:01 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rudy Arzaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:00 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noemi Arzaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 6:59 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1396 on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM*

HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Baker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: hsapla@yahoo.com
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HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for JUD on Feb 28, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert de la Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1396

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jocelyn de la Cruz	Individual	Support	No

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HB1396

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonnel Salom	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alejandro Salom	Individual	Support	No

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HB1396

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Apple Salom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1396

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jopher Salom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Romeo Salom Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1396

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Romeo Salom Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edna Salom	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pancho Sumoba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1396

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jayvie Sumoba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1396

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Sumoba Sapla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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ADULT FOSTER HOME OF THE PACIFIC
P.O. Box 971450 Waipahu, HI 96797

LATE

Re: HB1396 – Testimony in Support

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tueseday, February 28, 2017

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Good morning chair, vice chair & the committees, my name is **Elma Velasco Tierra**, owner of Eltierra Adult Foster Care. I strongly support **HB1396** because this is another version of SB190 in 2009 & was sunset in 2011.

In 2009 we had a patient named **Sidney Kaide**, he was a private pay. After 5 years his wife **Terry Kaide** had a back surgery so she could not take care herself anymore. At this point she wanted to join her husband in the same community care foster home. But the problem is she is not allowed because we, CCFFH can only have one private pay. When SB190 was introduced in 2009 the family worked hard to help passed the bill. The hardships that they went through was physically and emotionally draining. **Terry Kaide** in a wheelchair flew from Hilo to the State capitol wherever there was a hearing until the bill was passed. When Terry came to visit her husband from another adult foster home she said to her husband (bed bound) holding his hands, “we work hard for our savings thinking that when we get old we have money to support ourselves... and now we are being punished by the law for being able to pay for our care.. We are not asking money at this point, just to be together for the last days of our lives. Sixty three years we are together...it’s hard for me to understand why there is such a law that separate us when we get old”.

In April 2009, **Gov. Lingle** SB190 signed into law and she said “it ends an injustice for one family and it brings hope to families who may find themselves in a similar situation. It is about real people and their lives together”... While the governor was signing the bill **Terry Kaide** watched from her wheelchair and said “ I’m so happy I feel great so now we don’t have to get permission to live together”. We are free.

The SB190 after signing into law sunset in two years. The promises were gone!

In closing I sincerely ask to support the intent of **HB61396** that will give equality and justice for elderly, likes the Kaides once enjoyed.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Elma V. Tierra,pcg

Adult Foster Home of the Pacific