

**HB-2279-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 3:10:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Big Island Adult foster home operators	Support	Yes

Comments:

**I strongly support the HB 2279. Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.**

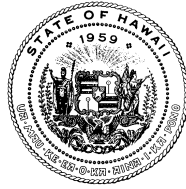
**HB-2279-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 3:21:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**LATE**

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2279, HD 1  
RELATING TO HEALTH.**

REPRESENTATIVE ROY M. TAKUMI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None identified.

2 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to COMMENT on this bill.

3 The Department provides opposition and support on certain provisions of H.B. 2279.

4 The Department is **opposed** to establishing and maintaining an online vacancy forum on  
5 the DOH website on behalf of the private sector. The Department previously testified that the  
6 idea of a vacancy forum is a good one and that the care home industry should undertake this  
7 private venture. This is not a governmental responsibility. Creating an online forum amounts to  
8 advertising, and advertising care home vacancies is essentially advertising for private services  
9 from private caregivers who collect private payments from private patients. In addition, the  
10 Department lacks staffing and IT hardware and software resources to create, implement, monitor  
11 and maintain a forum where non-state persons enter information. The Department would also be  
12 concerned about IT security and inadvertent IT viruses. This bill would appropriate funds to  
13 cover these costs, but the Department is unable to support appropriations which may negatively  
14 impact the Governor's budget package.

15 The bill would require the Department to convene a working group to discuss and obtain  
16 feedback on the implementation and maintenance of a forum. Unfortunately, a task force would

1 take away time and limited resources from other priority activities. As a result, the Department  
2 **opposes** this provision.

3 However, the Department does **support** the requirement that community care foster  
4 family homes (CCFFH), adult foster homes, and adult day care center be licensed or face  
5 penalties.

6 Should this measure move forward, the Department requests the legislature to use  
7 language currently in statute relating to the types of licensed or certified care homes.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**HB-2279-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 8:28:52 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lilia P. Fajotina	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2279 HD1

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

**LATE**

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: Ruthie Agbayani, Vice President, United Caregivers of Hawaii  
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 329  
Subject: Support for HB 2279, HD 1, Relating to Health

Aloha! My name is Ruthie Agbayani; my family and I have been Community Care Foster Family Home (CCFFH) providers since 1998. We are certified by Community Ties of America (CTA), the State of Hawaii Department of Health's agency on certification and licensure under the Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA), to care for up to three clients in our home, providing a family-like environment for the aging, rather than institutional nursing home settings. CCFFH is a program for Medicaid recipients, but private pay individuals can also be accepted into this program.

Aside from my family and business obligations, I volunteer my time in advocacy and lobbying with the United Caregivers of Hawaii (UCH). The mission of UCH is for caregivers, families, and communities to work together to achieve the common purpose of outstanding quality care for our kupuna.

We strongly support HB 2279, Relating to Health, which establishes a forum on the Department of Health website where state-licensed care facilities may post vacancy information to facilitate the placement of individuals, and requires community-based foster family homes, adult foster homes, and adult day care centers to be licensed and to face penalties for intentionally operating without a license.

We also support the amendments outlined in Part I of HB 2279, HD 1, which permits the Department of Health to maintain an online forum for posting of vacancies by State-licensed care facilities, which appropriates necessary funds of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for the implementation and maintenance of the Department of Health's website to support the posting of public notices regarding inspections, as well as vacancies for all facilities/homes, and assembles a working group to report to the Legislature about implementation and maintenance of the online forum. This act will be a great tool for licensed and certified community care facilities to post vacancies that the general public can access in order to make informed and satisfactory choices in their placement of care according to their individual needs.

Regarding inspections and posting public notices, we understand the necessity of oversight by the Department of Health. However, please take into consideration the amount of time inspections are conducted that they do not interfere with the regular and routine functions of the facility/home. In addition, it would be wise on the part of the Department to contemplate that unannounced visits could be a waste of time and funds if the resident(s) and/or caregiver(s) are not in the facility/home, perhaps they are at medical or business appointments, or out on trip/excursion.

Furthermore, we support the amendments outlined in Part II of HB 2279, HD 1, particularly on the emphasis of licensing requirements, as well as imposing penalties when not in compliance with licensing requirements. This is the healthcare field; everyone should follow the law mandating licensure and healthcare management as it serves as a protection for the kupuna we care for and as a protection for the people/entities providing healthcare services.

Everything needs to be fair and equal as we all work together in caring for our kupuna, setting statewide industry standards, making **patient safety and public safety** ultimate priorities, and making sure clients, caregivers, and case managers are satisfied with services and compensation.

We urge the committee to support and pass HB 2279, HD 1. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony online.

**HB-2279-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 10:47:19 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/14/2018 2:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Cambe	CHCAOH	Support	No

Comments: