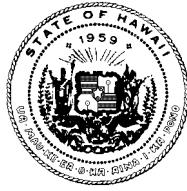


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

January 29, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2215 – RELATING TO MEDICAID.**

Hearing: January 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill, provides comments, and requests an amendment. Notably, DHS requests the Legislature support the Governor's budget that includes the department's request for an appropriation that would accomplish similar goals as this bill proposes. Having the appropriation included in the DHS base budget will ensure the increase will continue for more than one year.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to increase funding of certain Medicaid home and community-based services, including case management services for home and community-based case management agencies and residential services offered in community care foster family homes and expanded adult residential care homes; requires DHS services to obtain the maximum federal matching funds available for the expenditure, which will result in a larger impact on reimbursements received by service providers.

DHS appreciates the intent of this bill to appropriate \$5,750,000 to increase reimbursement rates for certain Medicaid community-based services, specifically for

community care foster family homes (CCFFHs), expanded adult residential care homes (E-ARCH), and case management agencies. Of note, this amount is the equivalent amount requested in the Governor's budget bill to increase rates for CCFFHs and E-ARCHs as well as for another type of home and community-based service (HCBS), Adult Day programs. The latter are different than the Case Management Agencies specified in the bill.

The department's preference would be for the Adult Day program increases to be funded in alignment with the Governor's request. The amount in the Governor's budget bill is from the "low scenario" options for the Community Residential and the Adult Day Program included in Phase I and II HCBS rate studies commissioned by Med-QUEST Division (MQD) and completed by Milliman in December 2022 and December 2023, respectively. DHS would prefer that the appropriation be included in the executive budget bill as opposed to this bill so that the appropriation can be recurring and the increase ongoing.

Finally, the bill requires DHS to pursue all funding sources known to the State, including private grants, prior to expending any general revenues. However, federal Medicaid rules are quite restrictive regarding the source of state funds, including a prohibition on most private grants regarding funding for Medicaid services such as home and community-based services. Consequently, DHS requests an amendment to strike this portion of the measure (see page 4, line 3 – line 7, "~~provided further that the department of human services shall pursue all funding sources known to the State, including private grants, prior to expending any general revenues appropriated pursuant to this Act~~").

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 5:42:23 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Isabel Infante	Community Care Foster Family Home	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Isabel Infante, caregiver for 19years,I won't be able to continue taking care our elderly if you will not give us increase because the cost of living here in Hawaii is to high compare before, everything went up plus we are supporting our family also.

Sincerely,

Isabel Infante

Isabel Infante Foster Family Home

1537 Haloa Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii

(808)888-0661

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 2:31:19 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Milagros Ronidel	ARCA/AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Milagros Ronidel, caregiver for 5 years. I am support of HB2215. I cannot continue doing this kind of business if you will not give us additional increase because of inflation is getting higher and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Yours truly,

Milagros Ronidel

Ronidel Care Home/EARCH

94-407 Kahualena St Waipahu Hawaii 96797

808-7246101



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawaii](https://twitter.com/AARPHawaii)  
[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
House Committee on Human Services  
Tuesday, January 30, 2024  
Conference Room 329, 9:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i  
RE: Support for H.B. 2215 Relating to Medicaid

Aloha Chair Marten and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez, and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

**AARP supports H.B. 2215 appropriating funds to increase the funding of certain Medicaid home and community based services including case management services and residential services offered in community care foster family homes and expanded adult residential care homes.**

Most people prefer to age in their homes or in a home and community based setting (HCBS) provided by Hawaii's 1,600+ foster family and adult residential care homes. These HCBS providers are the backbone of the state's long term care delivery system – their services are cost-effective, high quality and support people's preference to age at home or in a home-like setting. Hawaii is already facing an acute shortage of health care providers. The HCBS providers such as case management agencies, community care foster family homes, and others have gone the longest without a rate update. We need to attract, retain, and compensate them properly so that they can continue to care for our most vulnerable populations including kūpuna. Increasing the Medicaid payments will help improve the overall access to care for all people in need.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2215.



**Marylo Farinas**

*Dbas: CMC Kafamilya Adult Foster Home*

Re: **HB2215 – STRONGLY SUPPORT** \_

Aloha,

My name is Marylo Farinas, a foster home operator of CMC Kafamilya Adult Foster Home for over 16 years now. I dynamically support **HB2215** due to the following reasons:

Currently, Adult foster home is being paid an average amount of \$2,859.00 for level 2 client per month this include \$419.00 room and board, therefore pay for caregiving service is only \$2,440.00. This payment comes from 2 different sources \$1,515.90 from Social Security Office plus \$1,343.20 (\$44.16 per day @ 365 days/12months) billed to insurance.

Calculations (average):

365days per yr @ 24hrs per day = 8,760hrs yr / 730hrs monthly

\$2,859.00 / 730 hrs = \$3.92hourly

\$ 3.92 @ 24hrs = \$68.45 per day

Above rate has been since I started year 2008, cost of living gone up every year. From what I remember bag of 25lb rice was \$7.00 back then, not only bag of rice had gone up but everything else except our pay-- very sad. Being a caregiver for over 16 years has always been very challenging and I've learned a lot. Caregivers work very hard, from wiping clients mess in whatever condition to tolerating clients with mental bad behavior. Caregiver's patience is extraordinary, caring and loving, we put ourselves last most of the time just to make sure our clients are well taken care. In addition to labor works we do in taking care our clients, we are required to secure documents such fingerprinting, APS clearance, and eCrim. Continuing education is also required which is fine because this improves our performance as caregiver. Please note, all of these requirements are NOT free they all paid from our pay rate of \$3.92 per hour. We also pay GET tax and liability insurance, recertification fee and we also have to purchase our own medical coverage as well. In my own opinion, it appears that the system in this industry is very unfair.

I would like to request this Committee to please take a deeper look, review, study and consider giving us a rate increase and be competitive to current State of Hawaii Minimum wage per hour. Thank you.

Marylo Farinas

CMC Kafamilya Ault Foster

Ph: 808-228-6858

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:55:26 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suerte Grace Agcaoili	CCFFH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Suerte Grace Agcaoili, caregiver. I am in support of HB2215. Please support us because I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase because everything price increases and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families and pay our mortgage.

Sincerely,

Suerte Grace Agcaoili

Grace Foster Home

91-1122 Kuhina St., Ewa Beach Hawaii 96706

[\(808\) 384-8832](tel:8083848832)

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:59:10 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janeth Dulig	CCFFH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

January 30, 2024

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Janeth Dulig, caregiver for 23 years. I am in support of HB 2215. Could you please provide us with an increase? Everything has gone up.

Sincerely,

Janeth Dulig

45-626 Halelo Place

Kaneohe, HI 96744

808-393-1489



# ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

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

Jan. 29, 2024

Maribel Tan  
President

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB2215** – HUS – 1/30/24, 9:00 a.m., Rm. 329  
(Testifier to Appear via Videoconference)

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committees:

The Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawaii (AFHA) **strongly supports HB2215**, which appropriates funds to increase the funding of Medicaid home and community-based services including community care foster family homes (CCFFHs).

CCFFHs supplies over 2,000 beds statewide to elderly and disabled Hawai'i residents. We have not seen any increase in reimbursement rates for over 15 years. We've borne the brunt of inflation and other cost increases. As we repeat in chorus every year, it is becoming impossible to provide the services we provide at the current reimbursement rates.

A few years ago, the State of Hawaii commissioned the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rate Study Report by Milliman. Nothing has been done. This report from an independent neutral party hired by the state validated what we have been saying for the last 15 years. It's as if no one has taken us seriously. Our voices have landed on deaf ears.

Based on the Milliman Report, the Department of Human Services, Med-Quest Division (Med-Quest) concluded: "It is also important to focus on HCBS providers who serve groups with high utilization of services and who have gone the longest without a rate update such as case management agencies, **community care foster family homes**, and adult day health and day care centers." (Emphasis added.)

Ironically, the recognition of our hardship comes from an outside consultant from out-of-state. Perhaps a broader national perspective accentuates how far behind CCFFHs lag behind and how we are undervalued. We emphatically join Med-Quest in their observation that it is time "to revise how providers of long-term care are reimbursed to better meet current and future needs." Now is the time!

We came very close last year reaching conference committee. For reasons that we are still unaware, the bill was killed. Why? Please let us know what we can do so that our caregivers and families who provide 24/7 care to our kupuna and disabled can earn an adjustment in compensation so that we can afford to feed our families and stay in business. We are working hard taking care of the state's responsibilities. The responsibility for our kupuna and disabled clients are ultimately the state's responsibility.

## 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 1,000 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.

We are helping and caring for them. What do we need to do for the state to care for us caregivers?

Even at a time with a budget surplus, our bill last year was killed. Yet, no one has testified against adjusting our compensation that has not been increased for 15 years. Please let us know because we will soon be at the end of the road.

Please SUPPORT HB 2215. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MT', with a period at the end.

Maribel Tan  
President

January 29, 2024

Chair, Representative Lisa Marten

Vice Chair, Terez Amato

And Members of the Committees

HB2215 Medicaid Pay Increase

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Good morning to the House Committee of Finance, Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Members. My advance thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Carina Ocampo. I am a Community Care Foster Family Home Primary Care Provider since 2006 and I am currently the President of the United Community Healthcare of Hawaii organization.

On behalf of our caregiver members and our families, we humbly urge this committee to support and pass this measure because it is long overdue. There has not been a viable increase in our healthcare industry in over 20 plus years. Even with the combination of state and federal funds for Medicare and Medicaid in long term care services, caregivers are underpaid, delayed paid, and many times not paid.

How can it be justified getting paid less than \$47 a day per client? For 24 hours a day, 7 days a week service, that's less than than \$2 an hour per client. In times and cases where we need to hire Substitute Caregivers, they expect to be paid the usual wage rate of Certified Nurse Assistant, the average salary for a nursing assistant is \$23 per hour in Hawaii. Basic math at the top of our head says this does not add up; in fact, it does not make sense and is cruel towards our professional standing.

Hawaii is a high cost of living state. And as we slowly but quickly come out the past 4 years of COVID19 pandemic, the inflation of everything for our basic needs have skyrocketed. Before and during the pandemic, as well as presently, caregivers successfully cared for our kupuna through the most stressful plague of our times the whole world over. We continue to keep our elderly and adults healthy and mental challenges healthy and safe. Thus, we deserve justified compensation for our clients and our families to continue to survive.

Please, again, we humbly request your urgent attention in passing HB2215 for the sake of our current and future caregivers in the home and community-based programs industry. We are grateful for the opportunity to testify on this matter today.



CARINA OCAMPO, President

UNITED COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE OF HAWAII

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:38:21 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith	CCFFH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairperson Lisa Marten and all Committees,

My name is Judith Sanchez, a certified CNA Caregiver who has worked in the Mililani area for approximately 10 years.

We caregivers take our job very seriously, and I am very close to my patients.

There are times when admitting new patients; the insurance company for Medicaid takes up to 6 months to process the paperwork, leaving us caregivers with no pay. Just imagine doing this kind of work for up to 6 months without getting paid.

From the very first day we admit them, they require a high level of care. There are moments when they can get very disruptive, noisy, and very irritable to all people and surroundings.

We're doing the work 24/7 and want the very best for our patients. By doing this, we end up covering all the costs for food, snacks, and any medical supplies needed at any given moment.

With the economy's inflation being high we are less able to hire backup caregivers to give us time outside of our care homes. We have our family's needs as well, not to include our rent or mortgage payment, electric, water, and all other necessities just to operate comfortably without exhausting all our working funds and savings.

We hope that you can see our commitment to our delicate, sensitive kind of service we provide to our patients every day.

Thank You.

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2215

**Chair Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair Rep. Terez Amato and Members of the Committees:**

We, the Presidents of the Six Associations of Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH's) and Expanded Adult Residential Care Homes (E-ARCH's) in the State of Hawaii representing nearly **90%** of the community caregiver industry, which are under Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawai'i (AFHA of HI), United Community Healthcare of Hawai'i (UCH), Community Homecare Association Of Hawai'i (CHCAH), Alliance of Professional Primary Care Administrators (APPCA), Association of Residential Care Administrators (ARCA) and The Primary Care Providers of Hawaii, humbly requests your support to increase the reimbursement rates for CCFFH's in the State. Reimbursements to CCFFH in Hawai'i have not increased since 2008, fourteen (14) years ago. Meanwhile, we provide 24/7 care 365 days a year for a flat- rate, which calculates to **\$1.71** per hour - no overtime, no benefits -just **\$1.71/hr** for 24-hour care.

While we have had no increase in reimbursement rates, our costs have escalated. It's just so difficult financially, especially with the cost of housing and living in Hawaii as it is one of the highest in the nation. Caregivers must pay their mortgage for their homes, medical insurance, not to mention electricity, water, and sewer costs that residents use; property taxes, general excise taxes, and income taxes; food, and kitchen, bathroom, and laundry supplies consumed by residents; the cars and gasoline used to bring their clients to the doctor; the insurance they are required to carry; any entertainment they are expected to provide their residents. We help our residents preserve their dignity **giving** them the feeling that they still belong in the community.

Even through the worst pandemic in the history, CCFFH's maintained high standards with very few cases of COVID transmission and deaths. All this for **\$1.71** per hour, or **\$1231.80** per month, which was just increase to **\$1324.80** per month equivalent to **\$1.84** per hour starting last **January 1, 2023** but with the current inflation rate, It is **not enough**. **We request an increase in accordance to the Milliman Study which was submitted to DHS/Med-Quest Division last December 30,2022.** It's time for us to show some Aloha for our CCFFH's, most of whom are immigrants.

One thing is for sure. We save the State of Hawai'i a lot of money providing our services at these rates. The system would breakdown without the CCFFH program, which has over 3,500 beds. Private facilities, whose main objective is to get private as opposed to Medicaid clients, would be unable to handle the additional capacity. It's time for the State of Hawai'i to do what's right— support us so we can continue to take care of the elderly and disabled.

On behalf of the Presidents and organizations of this coalition we thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony in support of HB2215.



**Maribel B. Tan**  
President  
AFHA of HI



**Carina Ocampo**  
President  
UCHH



**Lemmy Mabuti**  
President  
CHCAH



**Elma Tierra**  
President  
APPCA



**Wanette Gaylord**  
President  
ARCA



**Medy De Lara**  
President  
TPCP

**LATE** **LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:42:04 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
roma magnaye	AFHA \ CAREUNIQUE LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

CHAIR LISA MARTEN AND TO ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

I AM ROMA M ROBLES,OWNER AND OPERATOR OF ADULT FOSTER HOME (CAREUNIQUE LLC).

IM HERE WITH ALL THE OPERATORS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND HAS BEEN VERY PLEASING TO HELP US WITH OUR RAISE TO CONTINUE A BETTER SERVICE TO OUR KUPUNA,OUR SMALL BUSINESS IS NOT RUN BECAUSE OF MONEY HOWEVER WE PROVIDE BEYOND CARE TO OUR KUPUNA AND ADULT THAT NEEDS TO BE CARE FOR,AND YES ALL THOSE CRITERIAS ARE BEEN RENDERS TO THEM HOWEVER WE FELT THAT I\WE BEEN NEGLECTED,WE PLEASE TO SEE US IN OUR HARD WORK,WE GIVE OUR ATTENTION TO OUR CLIENTS LESS THAN OUR OWN FAMILY AND YET SEEM LIKE NO ONE FROM STATE SEES IT.

I\WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR A HUGE AMOUNT BUT WE ARE ASKING FOR WHAT WE OUR BEST TO HAVE OR WORTH, FOR A \$40 PER DAY FOR OUR LVL 2 CLIENT IS NOT A BEST PAY FORWARD FOR OUR PHYSICAL,EMOTIONAL AND MENTALLY SACRIFES.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT I\WE ARE NOT COMPLAINING BUT WE WANTS TO BE HEARD AND SEE.

MAY OUR LORD WILL HELP YOU TO BE ABLE SEE US IN A FAIR AND EVEN SITUATION COMPARE TO LONG TERM AND HOSPITALS.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESSED TO ALL REPRESENTATIVE AND COMMITTEES.

ROMA M ROBLES

RECORDING SECRETARY OF AFHA





**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 9:58:59 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannie Abero	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jeannie Abero I support HB2215 and HB2216 because what we are making now is not enough to cover expenses needed to care for our Kupuna. Because of inflation, food and necessities, electricity and utility bills have become over priced. I love what I do but living paycheck to paycheck (and even then, we sometimes get paid late) is hard when also providing for my own family.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 10:04:20 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jocelyn Alcaraz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lisa Marten and esteemed Committees,

I am Jocelyn Alcaraz, a dedicated caregiver with 14 years of experience, and I am writing to express my wholehearted endorsement of HB 2215. The prevailing economic conditions, characterized by high inflation, pose a significant challenge for caregivers like me to sustain our businesses. The current compensation structure is insufficient to meet the needs of our families.

Best regards,

Jocelyn Alcaraz

Adult Foster Home

Address: 91-1124 Kauiki St. Ewa Beach, HI, 96706

Cell# [\(808\) 392-6357](tel:8083926357)

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 10:32:38 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zenaida Tierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a caregiver for 15 years. I love the elderlies to take care. But Need payment increase so that we can do our job properly and better. Need increase to pay our bills and rent/mortgage especially now that standard of living here in Hawaii coming higher and higher.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 10:43:12 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marites Quedding	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Lisa Marten and esteemed Committes,

I am Marites Quedding, a dedicated caregiver for 16 years of experience. I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Marites Quedding

Janine & Jaclyn's Care Home

Address: 286 South Puunene Avenue Kahului, HI, 96732

Cell#: (808)269-9451

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 11:09:02 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judy Canlas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Foster Home Caregiver and I am in support of the HB2215 and would really need for you to pass this bill to help us in giving care for our clients who we attend to 24 hours a day. With the inflation, we can hardly make it support our family's needs. Thank you.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 12:39:09 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Claribel Cabantog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

As a caregiver for almost 17 years, it has been so hard to keep our Foster Carehome open. There are times the clients we get are for 2 people to assist and our pay is not adequate for the work we do 24/7. Most of the caregivers struggle to pay rent, mortgage and bills(especially if they have kids that go to college). My business is located at my home residence so I can take care of my parents, kids, and work from home all at once. Furthermore, the cost of living here in Hawaii is too high and we cannot afford to pay substitute caregivers for the amount we get: \$44.16 per day.

Can you please help us caregivers get a raise for the work we provide for our Kupuna.

Mahalo for all your time and consideration for this matter.

Sincerely,

Claribel Cabantog - CCFFH Primary Caregiver

(808) 469-5607

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 3:00:59 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Grace Jadulang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Hb 2215

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 5:26:22 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eliza Bonilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Eliza Bonilla caregiver for 23 years. I am a supporter of HB2215. I cannot continue doing this bussiness if you will not give us an increase because inflation is high and the money we are recieveing isn't enough to support our family. Hope your kind consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Eliza Bonilla

Bonilla Foster Home

95-676 Lauawa St.

Mililani, HI 96789

(808) 840-9095



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 6:22:22 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thelma Maglines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all

Committees:

I am Thelma Maglines, Caregiver for 22 years.

I am in support if HB 2215 . I cannot continue

doing this business if you will not give us increase

because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Thelma Maglines

TCMaglines Adult Foster Home

94-1192 Hina St

Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

#8083949433

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 11:04:59 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Estelita Batoon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Estelita Batoon, caregiver for 11 years. I am support of HB2215. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 11:35:38 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Flordeliza Braga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Flordeliza Maga Braga. A CCFFH owner since 2016. I need your long awaited attention to my much needed increase to my current amount of pay in taking care for medicaid kupunas. The prices of basic commodities went up,gas and among others that my family and clients need to survive. But no raise to our pay. Please HELP make our both ends meet. I strongly support HB2215 and HB2216. Please pass this bills. Please help the caregivers of Hawaii.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 12:37:44 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fe G. Dumlao	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Fe Dumlao, caregiver for 19 years. I'm in support of HB2215. Please help us caregivers to have increase due to the inflation ( cost of living is high).The money that we're receiving is not enough to support my families. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,  
Fe Dumlao  
FDumlao Adult Foster Care Services

91-865 Hamiha Place Ewa Beach HI 96706

808.670.6172

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 12:58:10 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janette nino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am janette Nino caregiver supporting HB 2215 & HB 2216. We need increase because of high inflation. Thank you Janette Nino

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 2:36:34 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nenita Gouveia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I have been a caregiver for 18 years. My name is Nenita Gouveia. I wholeheartedly endorse HB2215. Like me, a lot of caretakers receive inadequate compensation. This just isn't enough to pay for all that needs to be paid for, including bills, food, housing, and other necessities, especially in light of the current high cost of living. It is expected of us to deliver high-quality care, but how can we accomplish that when we are having difficulty making ends meet?

Caregiving is not a job; it is a calling. Even though our goal is not financial gain, we shouldn't be exploited anyway. Since we perform such vital labor, we ought to be well compensated. Given the degree of expertise, commitment, and accountability that comes with being a caregiver, our compensation ought to be equitable.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Sincerely ,

Nenita Gouveia

Nenita Gouveia's Adult Foster Home

94-573 Kahuanani Street , Waipahu Hi. 96797

808-676-7484

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 2:45:09 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noralyne Cansana	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Noralyne Cansana and is the primary caregiver for 3 clients I have my husband who also is a CNA helping me. Due to the increase of cost, the struggles encountered are difficult to continue my business. Some of the difficulties are:

Higher costs of food

Compensation for my CNA help

Please consider increasing rates as \$44.16 per day is close to impossible to maintain the quality of life my clients deserve.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 3:10:35 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charlene Joy B.Arzaga	Afha	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am Charlene Joy Bragado, one of the primary caregiver that is operating a foster home here in Waipahu.I am strongly supporting the HB2215 & HB2216 relating to care home.The cost of living really went too high that is why I am hoping that the House of Representative will give consideration to approve our request,that will going to help te caregivers.

Thank you for understanding.



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 3:23:31 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosemarie S. Sebastian	SEBASTIAN'S ARCH LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Marten and Committee members:

I am writing in support of HB2215 and thank you for this bill. I do not operate a Family Foster Community Care Home (FFCCH); however, I have a lot of friends who are currently doing their businesses. I know firsthand what type/levels of work that they do with their patients. It's not easy--in fact, it's a very difficult job. I am aware that they get paid Room & Board and also they receive medicaid payments for their Burden of Care Cost-- through Long Term Care from patients who receives medicaid benefits. The burden of care (Type II--for example) is very hard but they're only receiving \$38 per day for 24/7 care for Level II client. I think that this is so unfair; therefore, I ask your and your committee to please approve an increase in their medicaid payments that is commensurate with their burden of care. I am also aware that Nursing Facilities get paid ranging from \$4,000 to \$6,000 per month for the same level (ICF) patient. While these caregivers don't expect the same pay, at least, close in the gaps of pay; so that these caregivers can continue to do their businesses feasibly. I feel for these caregivers because their pay is so little, how can one survive with \$38/day pay? I ask this committee to be sensible about and seriously look at these caregivers. They need your help. The State needs their homes to place patients, and yet, these caregivers are quite underpaid--for so many years now.

Thank you for your kind considerations.

Respectfully yours,

Rosemarie S. Sebastian

SEBASTIAN'S ARCH LLC

1630 Leilani St., Honolulu, Hi 96819

Tel. (808) 220-0824

Dear Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,

Allow me to introduce myself, I am Susan D. Ganitano, a dedicated caregiver for the past seventeen (17) years and my role has evolved over the time I've worked. First and foremost the purpose of this testimony is I believe that I am eligible for a hike of at least 20% in my salary that reflects my dedication and sheer hard work. I strongly believe that I have met and responded to new challenges well and continue to add more value to the work. HB2215 and HB2216, will always be supported by me. Considering the cost of living and inflation, it is right and just to increase our salary to provide support to our own families. I will be very grateful if you accept my request and provide me with an increment in my salary.

Very truly yours,

SUSAN D. GANITANO

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 4:01:19 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marinellie Malvar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Liza Marten and all Commitees,

I am Marinellie malvar Caregiver of 16 years. I love my job but because of inflation and the money hat we recieved is not enough for us to continue if you will not give us increase so please give us increase so we can continue go support our families and client. Hoping for your kind consideration Thank you.

Marinellie malvar

91-1580 Wahane street Kapolei Hawaii 96707

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 4:16:57 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ludivina Eder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Whom It May Concern:

Relating to HB2215, this is Ludivina Eder Adult Foster Home. With regards to Medicaid. I am asking a huge favor to please consider increasing our payments. Life has become more difficult because our payments we receive for 24/7 is hardly to budget due to the inflation. Every thing has changed. Commodities almost double it usually .25-.50 price increased before but now is suddenly a big chunk. Hardly to get substitute caregivers to come to work with us because they get \$20./ hour from home visits, we have no choice but to pay them the same. Car insurance, car maintenance, gasoline, electric bills, water bills, mortgage, property tax, home awner's insurance, Liability insurance name it all prices has increased. Please Sirs/ Mada'am, do consider to review our concerns for the quality care of our elderlies. They are also affected.

Thank you so much for your help!

Sincerely,

Ludivina Eder

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 4:19:48 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Belinda Keliiholokai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the kind heart of the political figure who is in support of this bill.

Apparently, way of living in Hawaii is so much expensive than any other State. Moreover, Medicaid patients should be given raise to meager this inflation and to help caregivers attain a more enjoyable way of life.

We deserve to get compensated for a 24/7 workload which is far lesser pay than the minimum.

We look forward to an affirmative result of this endeavor.

Mahalo for your hardwork!

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 5:20:43 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Imelda Pacris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

regarding the HB2215, it's difficult to go groceries for client's foods because it's hard to budget money that we receive 24/7 care for them. Please increase payments for Medicaid to give them quality life because they are affected by this inflation.  
thank you.

Sincerely, Imelda Pacris

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 5:25:42 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
GEMMA SANTIAGO BAUTISTA	Afha	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Gemma Bautista, primary caregiver, once again, I am here again knocking everyone's heart in the senate to please grant our per hour rate increase as caregiver. We want increase please.

Thank you.

gemma Bautista

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 5:49:55 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Delia Cabingabang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my full support of this bill. Your continued support for us, caregivers, is greatly appreciated.

Delia Duadua Cabingabang



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 5:55:29 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marie Garrido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

28, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of bill HB 2215

I have been a community care foster family home operator since 2019. It has been financially challenging at times with the amount of compensation we receive for Medicaid residents. I am a 2 bed home now however should I increase to 3 beds it would get even more challenging. Here are some of the reasons we are requesting an increase in medicaid payments the amount we currently receive can barely cover the following:

Substitute care givers pay- It is very costly to hire a sub when you need coverage to take residents to their appointments. House members are subs but it's not fair they have to work for free

Vacations/ Day off- Caregivers need a break too. However Can't afford to go on vacation as 24 hour rate is comparable to a private client rate

Budget is tight as Cost to operate foster home keeps increasing - Cost of food, supplies gas and utilities are increasing every year with no increase in pay

Thank you for your consideration

Mahalo,

Marie Garrido, Primary Care Giver

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:08:25 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ederlina Manzano	Afha	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Ederlina Manzano, Primary Caregiver, once again, I am here knocking all the senate to please hear what we are aspiring for. Please increase our per hour rate as caregiver.

thank you and hoping for positive results.

ederlina Manzano

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:11:37 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
sherill andres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the HB2215

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:13:54 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Benita Riingen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to support HB2215

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:23:54 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Editha Acupido	Afha	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am Editha Acupido, caregiver for 24 years. I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Editha P. Acupido

94-728 Kalae St. Waipahu, Hi 96797

808-542-5681

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:33:20 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marilou Mendoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all

committees:

I'm Marilou Mendoza,Caregiver for 30 years.I am in

suppo of HB 2215.I cannot continue doing this business

mid you will not give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support

our families.

Sincerly,

Marilou Mendoza

CareHome operator

2625 Ferdinand Avenue

Honolulu,Hawaii 96822,

808(808)8642351

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:46:02 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lolita Schimmel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committee,

Good day everyone! I would like to thank you all for working so hard for our state. My name is Lolita Schimmel, I've been a caregiver for 22 years. I am a support of HB 2215, I cannot continue doing this business that I love if you will not give us an increase because inflation is high and the money we receiving is not enough to support our families and other expenses that we're paying.

Thank you for kind and consideration for this matter.

from:

Lolita Schimmel - Al & L CareHome LLC

4496 Luapele Place

Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:50:00 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arlene Agpalza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Arlene Agpalza , caregiver for 16years. I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Arlene Agpalza  
Arlene Agpalza Adult Foster Home  
Address:1740 Piikea Street Honolulu Hawaii 96818  
Cell#808-5541384



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:55:27 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To all of the committee members and chairman of this bill thank you so much for allowing me to send my testimony in support of this HB2215

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:25:32 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Editha Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committee

I am Maria Editha Castillo, caregiver for 24 years. I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot continue doing

this business . If you will not give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Maria Editha Castillo

Maria Editha Castillo Adult Foster Home

94 1047 Eleu Street

Waipahu.Hawaii 96797

808 230 5866

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:25:46 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erlinda Ortal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Erlinda Ortal caregiver for 23 years.

I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase

because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Erlinda Ortal

Erlinda Ortal foster home

91 1060 Hamana Street

Ewa Beach 96706

808 358 4073

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:50:54 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Ann Miguel	Afha	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm Mary Ann miguel , I am a caregiver for 20 years and would love to ask for good heart for all the senate to grant our bill HB2215 & HB2216 increase our pay hour / peR day please & room and board

thank you !

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 11:25:11 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherir Joy Rafael	ILWU/AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairwoman Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I, Sherir Joy Rafael is in support of this bill due to the pay is not enough to reciprocate the needs of my family and the care that is given to the medicaid patients. Caregiving is a noble profession, it is a calling because not everyone can do it. But the government can not see the role of a caregiver. Long time they were neglected. These caregivers did all thier best just to give care to the ones in need but take note also that they have needs too. They have families to take care. So this time lets give what is due to them. Let this bill help and reciprocate thier hardships in giving care. Thank you for taking action and did not turn into a blind eye.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:18:20 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roselle Catamping	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Hi, Chair Lisa Manter and all Committee's

I am Roselle Catamping, single mom caregiver for 15 years. I am in support of HB-2215 and I cannot continue doing my business if you will not give us any increase because of the inflation of commodities in Hawaii is too high and the money that we receive is not enough to support my family.

Sincerely,

Roselle Catamping (808)499-7985

94-1041 Kaaholo Street

Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

01/28/2024

Honorable Chair Lisa Marten and all Respected Committees

I am SONIA PAGDILAO Caregiver for 15 years. I stand in support of HB2215.

Due to high prices of basic needs and commodities, way of living is affected and so with our Caregiving Industry. We need a pay increase to continue the best quality of care for our clients and in supporting our families as well. We hope for your kind consideration.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

SONIA PAGDILAO

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:35:33 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
BERNADETTE FIRME	ILWU / AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ATTN: CHAIR LISAMARTEN AND ALL COMMITTEES;

I AM A CAREGIVER IN 20 YEARS AND I AM IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL HB2215 TO INCREASE OUR MEDICAID RATE . DUE TO INFLATION IS HIGH AND COST OF LEAVING IS HIGH , EVERYTHING IS HIGH . THE PAYRATE WE ARE RECEIVING IS NOT ENOUGH . SO PLEASE WE CAREGIVERS BEGGING YOUR HELP SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO SERVE AND HELP OUR KUPUNA .



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:31:31 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mayrose Abadilla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Date: January 29, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

This is Mayrose Abadilla a Foster Home Operator since 2017. I am strongly agree and support for HB2215 for the following reasons:

- 1.prices are high for daily living
2. DOH protocol must obey (example, house needs to add /renovate to comply their rules for a foster Home Fome.
3. Hard to find an approved caregivers that has a minimum pay per hour. Demand a higher rate due to their on-call status and emergency time that we need them.

Thank You,

Mayrose Abadilla

Contact: 808 778 4730

Fax: 808 772 4018

Email: mnm8684@gmail.com

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:33:11 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Josephine Tabucbuc	Afha	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

.I am strongly supporting the HB2215 & HB2216 relating to care home.The cost of living really went too high that is why I am hoping that the House of Representative will give consideration to approve our request,that will going to help te caregivers.

Thank you for understanding.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:45:29 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Epifania Tagaca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Epifania Tagaca, a caregiver for 5 years. I am in support of HB2215. Due to high inflation, the money I receive is insufficient to support my family. Without the pay increase, I won't be able to continue doing this business. Approving HB2215 will not only benefit me and my family, but also my patients as I will be able to continue providing them with care at my home.

Mahalo,

Epifania P Tagaca

Epifania Tagaca's Foster Home

94-715 Kaaka Street Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

(808) 387-5892

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:46:06 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Reymalou Tagudin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Reymalou Tagudin, caregiver for 12 years is supporting HB 2215. I wont be able to continue doing this business if you won't be giving us an increase because inflation is high here in Hawaii, the money we are recieving in not enough to support our families and the hourly pay we give to our substitutes is more than our daily pay.

Reymalou Tagudin

RRT FOSTER HOME

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:59:49 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
princess luis	ph3, ccffh operator	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

hello good day,

maam sir i would like to make a testimony regarding this matter, as we all know that everything went expensive and some of us ccffh operators is having hard times of expenses as we get only little of the payment. and this ccffh is 24hour of care. i hope you will help us and let us help each other. because I,we, dedicate our life for taking care our kupunas. we takecare them with care and we are very dedicated and passionate to our work. but sometimes we caregivers are struggling because of the living expenses after covid everything prices went high. i hope u will understand us and review our testimonies thank you very much and Godbless 🙏

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:01:00 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marjory Bumatay	ALL ISLAND CASE MANAGEMENT - CCFFH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

---

Hello,

I'm Marjory Bumatay, caregiver for 15 yrs, CCFFH. Maui Hi

Pls help us caregiver to increase our pay to support our family

I'm supporting HB2215

Thank you,

Marjory Bumatay-PCG

January 29, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

As a primary caregiver for ten years, I am writing in support of the HB2215. It takes a great deal of commitment, dedication, patience and love of the job to be able to provide care for our clients. Duties are include but not limited to tending to client for safety ensuring medications are taken or administered everyday, preparing and cooking their foods 3 meals per day including spoon-fed to our clients, assistance in getting in and out from bed to wheelchair and going to the bathroom, changing their diapers, bathing, linen change, laundry, maintaining a good grooming to ensure for better hygiene, maintaining cleanliness to their rooms, taking clients to doctor's appointment, recording and maintaining all pertinent medical record and files.

The rate has been the same over the years from the last increase and need to be evaluated as we asking from you for an increase. We are really underpaid for this rate and does not cover our expenses now.

I humbly ask to all authorities to grant our request.

Sincerely,

Marcela Briones  
Marcela Foster Homecare and Services  
94-607 Kipou Street  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
(858) 888-2964





January 29, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Kaeneth Briones, caregiver for 9 years (SCG), CNA since 2008, and just opened my foster homecare October 2023 and I am writing in support of HB2215.

It takes commitment, dedication, patience, and love of the job to be able to provide care for our clients. Duties are include but not limited to tending to client for safety ensuring medications are taken or administered every day, preparing and cooking their meals including spoon-fed to our clients, assistance in getting in and out from bed to wheelchair and going to the bathroom, changing their diapers, bathing, linen change, laundry, maintaining a good grooming to ensure for better hygiene, maintaining cleanliness to their rooms, taking clients to doctor's appointment, recording and maintaining all pertinent medical record and files.

I think the rate for a day is not enough to support our family because of the inflation is high. I humbly ask to increase our payment and grant our request. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Kaeneth Briones  
Kae Neth Foster Homecare  
94-543 Hiahia Loop  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
1(858) 837-3326



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:23:25 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelita Takahashi	Adult Foster homecare Association of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Angelita Takahashi, a Caregiver for almost 10 years. I am in support of HB 2215 . I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us an increase because inflation is high and the amount we receiving is not enough to support our families. Pls. re considered our plea.

Sincerely,

Angelita Takahashi

Angelita Takahashi

Community care foster family home

94-706 Kalae st. Waipahu

808-202-4608

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:34:15 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leonida Agasid	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

My name is Leonida Agasid, caregiver of a foster home for 7 years. I am in support of HB 2215. We need a increase in our salary, so we can continue giving care to our Kupuna. We will lose our business if sales continue to increase.

Sincerely;

Leonida Agasid

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:45:24 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gloria G Cueco	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and Committees:

I am Gloria Cueco, caregiver for 9 years. I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot and it's really hard to continue this business of caregiving if no increase in almost a decade providing care of our Kupuna because the inflation is too high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support the needs of my family especially that I'm the mother of four. Hoping and praying for your kind and consideration and pls help us and hear us too.

Sincerely Yours,

Gloria Cueco

Gloria Cueco CCFH

94-571 Kupuna Loop

Waipahu Hawaii 96797

808-392-8587

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:55:09 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mari angelene d. maluyo	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Commitees:

I am Mari Angelene D. Maluyo,Primary Care Giver for 18 yrs.I can not continue to be a Primary Care Giver and doing this business if you will not give as an increase,because inflation is high and the money we're receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Mari Angelene D. Maluyo.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 12:24:19 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
amelita cabudol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

to whom it may concern,

I am here to support hb2215. most of the time caregivers work 24/7 due to clients that are challenging, also we want to provide quality care to our clients with what we are getting right now, we are unable to supply all the necessities for ourselves and our families because we have to make sure our clients get their needs first before ours, and with inflation it is really difficult to balance everything without taking one for granted. I am hoping that the increase that we are praying and hoping for will be granted, so everyone is happy. 😊

Respectfully yours,

Amelita Cabudol Foster Home

JANUARY 29, 2024

Aloha Legislators,

My name is Ruby Brister and I am a licensed care home operator for over 10 years and currently care for 2 expanded residents under Social Security in the Honolulu area. Please assist us with an increase in pay for our 24 hour care for our kupunas/residents in our care homes. We have not had an increase in pay in over 14 years and since the pandemic, everything from groceries, supplies, and necessities for my residents are getting expensive, therefore, we are forced to eventually raise our rates to care for our elderly to make ends meet.

In the years I have been caring for the kupuna, my residents; families have to work full time and no longer can take care of their loved ones, so there is a huge demand of care homes now and especially for residents with limited income like mines, who only receive Social Security monthly, of less than \$2000 a month. Unfortunately, with no increase in pay, our care homes will have to close because we no longer can live on our current pay that we receive for our kupunas.

Please consider our increase in pay so that we can continue to provide great care for our kupunas at the price that we caregivers truly deserve. Thank you for your time.

Ruby G Brister, Care home operator, Gutierrez ARCH INC  
Secretary, Local 1000 Licensed Caregivers



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:21:49 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carlito Camacho	Adult Foster Home Association of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Ms. Lisa Marten and All Committees

My name is Carlito Camacho, operator and caregiver for my Adult Foster Home. I am supporting the HB 2215. It's really hard for me to continue this business, because of the high expenses, utilities and housing rent. So, it's really a big help for me and to my family the increase we are asking.

Sincerely yours,

Carlito Camacho

Address: 1552 Kalaepaa Dr. Honolulu, HI 96819

Contact: 808-381-9938

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:22:36 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rowena Agustin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

Hi! I'm Rowena, i been doing my foster home for 7 years. I love what we doing, but sometimes is made us burn out because of continous inflation, increasing the price of the needs. But our paying is same. I supporting HB 2215, .We're asking for the increase so i can continue to serve with the Kupuna. Mahalo!

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:30:12 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Krystle Agaton	AFHA	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

During pandemic was so hard and getting harder for us caregivers specifically inflation of prices in all product to provide our clients needs, so we really need increase of payment to provide the needs too of our clients and our families.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:16:53 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elma V. Tierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Elma Tierra, community foster family caregiver for more than 20 years. My job requires 24/7 care for my elderly and fragile patients. Receiving \$1.71 per hour for the last 19 years. In addition, the CCFH saves the state and federal millions of dollars each year . The last increase was year 2005, and the cost of living has soaring significantly without any corresponding increase in paymenys to us caregivers. *I strongly support HB2215 , thank you for the opportunity to testify.*

*Respectfully yours,*

*Elma V Tierra*

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:35:21 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leticia Torricer	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Iam Leticia Torricer, 3 yrs CCFFH operator but former CNA in Foster Homes so I can compare wages . Pls give us increase since we are obligated to get medicaid

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:41:40 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melita Agpaoa	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM MELITA A AGPAOA,A CAREGIVER FOR 18YEARS.I AM SUPPORTOF HB2215.I CANNOT CONTINUE DOING THIS BUSSINESS IF YOU WILL NOT GIVE US INCREASE BECAUSE INFLATION IS HIGH AND THE MONEY WE ARE RECIEVING IS NOT ENOUGH TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES.

SINCERELY,

MELITA A AGPAOA FOSTER HOME

ADDRESS;94-458 OPEHA STREET

WAIPAHU HAWAII 96897

CELL# 808 630-1872

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:24:03 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josie L Taylan	Foster Home	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,**

**I am Josie Taylan, a caregiver for 4 years. I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us a pay increase, inflation is rising and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families, pay for bills, etc.**

**Sincerely,**

**Josie Taylan**

**94-538 Koaleo St Unit A Waipahu HI 96797**

**(808) 232 4630**

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:24:54 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virgie Garo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairperson & all committees,

Im Virgie GARO caregiver for 8 years & I am supporting HB2215& HB2216 please give us our increase pay because of high inflation .

thank you for your kind & consideration.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2215 and HB2216

**LATE**

**LATE**

To whom it may concern,

I, Cynthia Gima, caregiver for 12 years. I am sending you my testimony in STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2215 and HB2216. I am in this business because of my passion to help people who are not able to care for themselves. But is becoming extremely hard to survive with the pay we currently receiving for our services, it impossible to continue with this operation in providing care to the elderly and disabled.

The following are just examples of why we strongly need our pay increases:

Cost of utilities, electricity, water, sewer costs that residents use.

Property, general and income taxes

Food and supplies for Kitchen, bathroom, and laundry consumed by residents.

Gas used when bringing residents to their doctor's appointments.

Transportation for our client who is not able to go in and out of a car, must be wheeled into a transportation, fee average \$100-\$120 depending on the distance.

Car and Liability Insurance required in the home to be in compliance with

Little or no privacy with 24/7 care.

Must use part of \$44.16 per day to pay substitute, asking \$25 or more per hour.

Caregivers have no sick leave, vacation, funeral leave, or any other fringe. Caregivers work even when we are sick.

Caregivers average 3-4 hours sleep, sometimes no break in between

Extremely hard to even spend a full day to have quality time with family with \$44.16 per day pay.

Before you all vote, please put yourself in our shoes providing best care for our Kapuna 24/7 with a pay of \$44.16 daily which came to an effect January 2023.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB2215 and HB2216.

Thank you very much!



Cynthia Gima

1320 Anapa Street

Honolulu Hawaii 96818

Cell: 808-271-0557

Email: ausash4@gmail.com

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:48:04 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonifacio Tan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Bonifacio Tan, caregiver for 20 years. I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot continue doing business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Bonifacio Tan

MJJB Tan Foster Home

4033 Keaka Drive Honolulu, HI 96818

8087728073

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:51:22 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marianne M. Cacatain	Providing healthy Homecare for Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support and approve bill so that more new comers can open new foster home so there will be more places to open for patients that is in the waiting list for placement and those who have been doing this line of duties for many years can still be up and running for many years to come..we care for our kupuna's, young disabled and their families and want them to feel at ease when it come to care and knowing where their family will be

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:56:11 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

**LATE** **LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Margie Malvar	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please we need an increase for our salary that we needed for the inflation rate and cost of living. Our family needs support too for our children education most especially our medical insurance is out pocket.. Thank you

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 6:46:22 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NATIVIDAD M. CABACUNGAN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Natividad M. Cabacungan, i worked for more than 30 years in a state hospital and i was retired. I opened my Foster Home 3 years ago to make more money to supplement my income. I am in support of HB2215. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us the increase because inflation is too high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Natividad M. Cabacungan

Natividad Cabacungan Foster Home

Address: 1297 Kukila St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Cell #: (808) 294-2318

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:04:25 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mathew Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and all members of the House Human Services Committee,

Aloha. I am writing to support this bill as it increases funding to a critical part of the public health and human services structure in our community. The home and community based services cares for the most vulnerable population group and they also save the State and Federal government millions of dollars every month when compared to similar services at hospitals and nursing home facilities.

The licensed caregivers who operate the home and community based services deserve a level of compensation to be competitive at the National level. Studies done by the Milliman CPA firm show that Hawaii lags far below the compensation rates recommended by their study.

Please support this bill to ensure the future existence of home and community based care services. Each one of us or our loved ones may well depend on these services in our golden years. Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathew Yamamoto

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:45:04 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cherry Fiesta	Afha	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Cherry Fiesta. I support HB2215. I have been a caregiver for 10yrs, and as with cost of living increasing, we also need an increase in our foster home income.

Thank you!

Cherry Fiesta Foster Home

94-777 Kaaka St.

Waipahu, HI. 96797

808-421-7855

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Hello. My name is Grace Basilio.

I am a primary caregiver. I am supporting HB2215. I can't continue to do my work if you will not give us an increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving isn't enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Grace Basilio  
Basilio's Foster Home  
Address: 94-506 Loaa St. Waipahu, HI 96797  
Cell: 808-783-5778

**LATE**

**LATE**



**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:41:02 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carmelita Macalutas	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am Carmelita Macalutas a caregiver and i support HB2215. Inflation is too high, as a caregiver our job is not easy, we need an increase of our salary. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carmelita Macalutas

91-1055 Uouoa Street

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Cell: 808-721-8815

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:44:27 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Mangunay	AFHA	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,

I am Ashley Mangunay, a caregiver for 12 years is in full support of the bill HB 2215. I have been in the medical field as a care home operator and the job has been getting harder and harder and more expensive but our pay rate stayed the same. I think it's about time we get the increase we all deserved. We are basically working for free and sometimes using our own pocket money to spend to our patients which is not a problem but also unfair for us. I hope this time you will listen and head our needs.

Sincerely,

Ashley Mangunay

[\(808\) 489-3539](tel:(808)489-3539)

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:52:06 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Femelyne Castro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees;

My name is Femelyne Castro, a primary caregiver, same as other caregivers, I would like to support the HB 2215 and HB 2216. I am knocking everyone in the senate to please increase our per hour rate. Because of the high inflation, the money that we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Thank you.

Femelyne Castro

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:28:46 PM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheillamari Prepuse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

- Rep. Della Au Belatti      Rep. Jenna Takenouchi
- Rep. Greggor Ilagan      Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
- Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi      Rep. Diamond Garcia

Let me start off by acknowledging the fact that I don't have to reiterate too much WHY the care home industry needs a raise but I will give you some scenarios of HOW our lives are being affected by not having a raise all these years. All around us the price of daily essentials have increased, cost of living in Hawaii is at an all time high and yet compensation for the care we provide has been stagnant for 15 odd years. So if 15 - 16 years ago our compensation is enough to provide a comfortable living to the household and the patients that we serve, 15 -16 years later with the rate of inflation, that compensation will be... not quite at poverty level but definitely at a paycheck to paycheck "struggle" level. Where... if our claim gets denied for last month on a payment that we're expecting this month, it will cause us to miss some bills until that denied claim gets paid. \$20, 15 years ago may afford a person a decent meal for a day, but \$20 today in Hawaii is a gallon of milk, a loaf of bread and few apples. And we are expected to feed our patients, feed a household, pay bills, run a business with this budget. We plan and budget up to the last cent. Now budget and planning is easy and seamless if you have the funds. But what if the funds coming in are not equal to your expenses? Then the struggle begins, because we cannot feed our patients bread and milk everyday. So, a caregiver will have to be creative with the budget which entails figuring out and cutting a lot items on your list, moving money around and sometimes tapping into personal savings just to make ends meet. And despite sticking to the basic necessities which are food, rent or mortgage, utilities, transportation... Most caregivers whose sole income stems from their foster or care home can barely make a livable wage. So, how does this care home survive all these 16 years with no raise in compensation? For one, we are a resilient, creative, hardworking breed of people. Sometimes, To make ends meet, we send other family members to work, we have a side hustle or the primary caregiver takes on a part time or full time job. But there is a dark, unspoken side to this creative scenario. There are

caregivers who sometimes takes on the risk of having either a unapproved caregiver who is most likely an elderly or younger family member watch their patients, while they work or **SOMETIMES** in rare, desperate occasion, even leaving their patients unattended for a couple of hours because they can't afford to pay a substitute caregivers at \$25 dollars an hour while they themselves gets paid **ONLY \$20 to \$40 A DAY**. Rare but it happens. Or take on the case of a caregiver who has to take on a side hustle or a work at home job to make ends meet. Having a side hustle requires time, time that is obviously being taken away from active patient care. But can you blame them? As a society, can we blame them? These instances that I mentioned are extreme but they're not unusual and if you look deep into the rationale of these caregivers' actions who take on these risks, it's not because of greed, irresponsibility or lack of compassion. It's an act of desperation. Some are just desperate to get to their jobs that actually pays the bill. If your monthly compensation as a caregiver is barely enough to meet your daily needs and you are not making a decent profit from your business, then what will happen if you get sick, or your car breaks down or your spouse gets laid off... without profit, it means no savings, no savings means you have to scramble to get the funds for the unexpected expenses. So most caregivers are driven into a desperate act on a monthly basis. And the worst case scenario, is that our ability to take care of our patients are affected, **BECAUSE** of financial instability. We are thankful for the raise that the foster care home industry recently received, but it really does not address or elevate us out of the hardship level. And that's what I mean, if the caregiver is to ask for a raise, and the State does approve an amount, it has to be an amount that is equal to a livable wage that increases with inflation and cost of living. The State cannot just give us a raise **THATS NOT EQUAL** to the cost of living in Hawaii and then wait for another 14 or so years for another increase just to appease the caregivers so lawmakers can say that we were given a raise. Just the fact that caregivers in Hawaii have not had a significant livable raise in 16 years speaks volumes on how caregivers are treated and perceived. At this point in time, caregivers are perceived as unimportant, unappreciated, negligible, insignificant to the state of Hawaii. And we feel this way because 16 years of asking for fair compensation and being turned down year after year, **ANYONE** would feel this way. **THAT'S JUST BASIC PSYCHOLOGY**. Imagine the council members, that got a 65% percent raise last year. Let's put a twist to that. Imagine if they get denied year after year for 16 years, how many of these council members will still be in the job today.? We know, the State has the money, the state has the funds. The State has the budget, but it is allocated based on the State's perception of value and priority. And from our point of view we are not on the list of the State's priority. It is an unspoken fact, and I am ashamed to even point this fact out right now, that the presumption or preconception when one mentions the word caregiver, one conjures in their mind a picture of an elderly (pilipina) immigrant, speaking with an accent, with minimal education or health care training, someone who's timid, weak and someone who will not complain. Typically, those types of demographics are not the state's priority. And year after year you have shown us no consideration and outright disregard to our plight. Take for instance the passing of last year's increase to the doctors and other medical providers. And look at the demographics it served. No offense, but to some extent it is a fair assumption that the recipient of that increase is mostly white, non immigrant, speaks good English and of course, college educated. The bias is palpable. Let me also ask you this. Were those recipients of a Medicaid increase asked to justify their hardship on their current Medicaid rates? I'm sure they are getting more than **\$20 - \$40 DOLLARS AN HOUR** And yet we are being asked to show the burden of proof that getting paid **\$20 - \$40 A DAY IS HARDSHIP**. Would any of you lawmakers work for \$20 - 40 dollars A DAY? Would any of

you clean someone else's feces and urine for \$20 - \$40 dollars A DAY? Would you take on the responsibility and burden of care for \$20 - \$40 dollars A DAY? Would you sacrifice even 1 sleepless night for \$20 - \$40 dollars A DAY? And yet, this is what the state is asking us to do, take on the burden of financial, emotional and mental hardship for \$20 - \$40 dollars A DAY? Let me make a comparison even more realistic. How much do you give your teenagers allowance for a day? \$20 dollars is a realistic amount to get a happy meal, a boba and bus fare for the day. But as a caregiver with a level 1 patient I am expected to take on the responsibility of taking care of a human being with health problems with the expectations to fulfill their physical, emotional and psychological needs with the same amount of money as you would give a teenager fun money to go about their day. Do you even see the injustice? So as you lay in your comfortable beds, peacefully and relaxed because you are being compensated appropriately for the time and effort to do your job, which has afforded you the ability to let go of food insecurity, mortgage worries, and financial anxiety... there are many caregivers, with many sleepless nights caring for someone else's kupuna with health issues, dealing with unruliness, non-compliance, changing adult diapers, soiled urine soaked bed, appeasing an anxious client, medical emergencies...meanwhile, the next day they will be greeted with how to make ends meet with \$20 - \$ 40 dollars a day pay. I sincerely hope the visuals that I presented here are enough to make you act. I know it is hard to empathize with someone else's reality when you don't experience the same reality. I challenge any of you to live the life of a caregiver for one day to see what we go through and decide for yourself if \$20 dollars a day is enough compensation for our hard work, dedication and sacrifices. How would you as a law maker even quantify and put a dollar amount on caring, sacrifice, compassion, determination, tirelessness, grit, grind, effort, sweat and stress? Certainly not at \$20-\$40 dollars a day. Most of you would quit.

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:35:36 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruthie Agbayani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HB2215.

Hawaii's cost of living has increased exponentially.

Inflation on basic needs is a hardship on quality health & wellness of the care recipients, the caregivers, and their families.

If minimum wage of workers needs to be increased to \$14.00 per hour (effective 1/1/2024 according to the Department of Labor), then the Departments of Health and Human Services has far too long undervalued its Home & Community Based Program caregivers with less than \$2.00 per hour for 24 hours, 7 days a week of nursing home level care.

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:47:41 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherille Balagat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I believe that we deserve to receive the right pay with the care we provided.



**HB-2215**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:35:08 AM

Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Menchie Dawang	Providing Healthy Homecare for Hawaii- PH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representative Lisa Marten and Members of the Committee ,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2215, a bill that aims to increase the funding of Medicaid home and community-based services. As the President of Providing Healthy Homecare for Hawaii- PH3 I am deeply invested in the well-being of our community and believe that passing this bill is crucial to improving the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

HB2215 will provide much-needed resources to enhance case management services for home and community-based case management agencies. These services are vital in ensuring that individuals receive the necessary support to live independently and access the care they need. By investing in case management, we can empower individuals to remain in their homes, maintain their dignity, and avoid costly institutional care.

Additionally, the bill allocates funds to expand residential services offered in community care foster family homes and adult residential care homes. This expansion will enable more individuals to receive the care they require in a safe and nurturing environment. By investing in these community-based alternatives, we can reduce the strain on long-term care facilities and create more personalized and person-centered care options.

I would also like to highlight that HB2215 requires the Department of Human Services to obtain matching funds. This provision ensures a collaborative effort between the state and federal governments, maximizing the impact of the allocated funds and making the most efficient use of available resources. By securing matching funds, we can amplify the positive outcomes of this bill and provide comprehensive support to our community members in need.

Passing HB2215 is not only a compassionate choice but also a fiscally responsible decision. By investing in Medicaid home and community-based services, we can prevent costly emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and long-term institutional care. This bill will ultimately lead to better health outcomes, improved quality of life, and reduced healthcare expenses for both individuals and the state.

I urge you to consider the importance of HB2215 and its potential to make a significant difference in the lives of our community members. By supporting this bill, you will be taking a crucial step toward building a stronger, more inclusive healthcare system that prioritizes community-based care and the well-being of our residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I kindly request your support in passing HB2215 and ensuring that our community members have access to the vital Medicaid home and community-based services they need.

Sincerely,  
Menchie Dawang  
President, Providing Healthy Homecare for Hawaii PH3  
8082284521