

To: Ms. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Mr. Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair
& Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Subject: SR4, Relating to Care Homes; Medicaid Reimbursement; Increase; Feasibility Study

Date: March 29th, 2022

Time: 3:00PM

Location: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Position: IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the committee,

My name is Kaya Arakaki-Mineshima and I am writing to you today as a concerned community ally testifying in favor of SR4. This resolution is urging the Department of Health Services (DHS) to study the feasibility of increasing payments to community care foster family homes (CCFFH) and expanded adult residential care homes (EARCH) for the placement of Medicaid recipients. I believe if the proposed resolution is enacted it would create a step in the right direction to address one of the numerous disparities that the older adult population in Hawai'i have continued to face for decades. We as a state and community must take more action in caring for our Kupuna through providing more accessible and stable long-term care.

As an individual who volunteers and works directly with the older population, I am standing as an ally and advocate to improve the overall health, well-being, and quality of life for this community. In my current role, one of the biggest challenges in serving older adults is finding placement options for clients. Through making weekly calls to various CCFFH and EARCHes and consistently hearing "no open beds" to "all of our Medicaid beds are full" to "we are only accepting private pay right now," have been both frustrating and heartbreaking to explain to clients and their families. With many of the clients I serve being beneficiaries of Medicaid and having only social security as their income, they are often left with no accessible options for stable, long-term care that they qualify for.

The older adult population frequently finds themselves living with the consequences of the obstacles preventing them from accessing appropriate long-term care, which is affecting much more than just having a place to reside in.

Increasing payments and availability of beds at CCFFH and EARCHes can:

- Provide **increased stability to a client's financial, social-emotional, physical, and mental well-being** and ultimately improve the quality of life for that older adult.

- Address our anticipated growing older-adult population concerns, **it is estimated that our older adult population will represent 28% of the state population by 2030** (Department of Health, 2019).

I support the implementation of SR4, as it will take a needed step forward in addressing the disparities affecting our older adult population currently, as well as preemptively creating an opportunity to improve the lives of our future Kupuna.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,
Kaya Arakaki-Mineshima
Waipahu, HI