



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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April 4, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill 2216 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Care Homes

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 2216 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Care Homes.

This bill amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for type I adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, certified adult foster homes, and type II adult residential care homes.

The state supplemental payment helps to ensure there are an adequate number of facilities to meet our population's needs. DCAB notes the amount has not been adjusted in 16 years, which suggests that an increase is warranted.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirby L. Shaw".

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
April 04, 2024

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB2216 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO CARE HOMES

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports HB2216 HD2 SD1**, which increases the state supplemental payment ceilings for type 1 adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, certified adult foster homes, and type II adult residential care homes. Takes effect 10/1/2024. (SD1)

This measure aligns with the Council's mission to advocate for policies that enhance the quality of life and support services for individuals with developmental disabilities across our state. By raising the cap on state supplemental payments, HB2216 HD2 SD1 addresses a critical need within our community. Many individuals with developmental disabilities rely on these care homes for essential support and services to meet their daily living needs. However, the current cap on state supplemental payments often falls short of covering the actual costs incurred by these care providers, leading to financial strain and potential disruptions in care delivery.

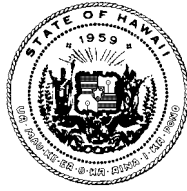
Increasing the cap on state supplemental payments will help ensure that care homes can continue to provide high-quality services to individuals with developmental disabilities without facing undue financial burdens. This measure not only supports the sustainability of care homes but also promotes the well-being and stability of the individuals they serve. Access to adequate funding is crucial for maintaining a robust care infrastructure that meets the diverse and evolving needs of our population of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB2216 HD2 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator

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

April 2, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2216 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO CARE HOMES.**

Hearing: April 4, 2024, 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and requests amendments to delete the retroactive dates.

PURPOSE: This bill increases the state supplemental payment ceilings for type I adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, certified adult foster homes, and type II adult residential care homes.

Take effect 10/1/2024. (SD1)

The Committee on Human Services (HD1) amended the measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Committee on Finance (HD2) amended the measure by:

- (1) Changing the caps on state supplemental payments for the various care facilities to unspecified amounts; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

The Committee on Health and Human Services (SD1) amended the measure by:

- (1) Inserting \$784 for the state supplemental payment ceiling for type I adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disability domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult foster homes;
- (2) Inserting \$892 for the state supplemental payment ceiling for type II adult residential care homes; and
- (3) Inserting an effective date of October 1, 2024.

With the bill's effective date of October 1, 2024, the Department respectfully requests additional amendments deleting the (retroactive) dates "~~Beginning on July 1, 2008~~" in SECTION 1, page 1, line 11, and on page 2, line 3. For the Committee's information, there is no mechanism to initiate new, retroactive care rate payments, so the Department would not be able to comply with the proposed July 1, 2024, date.

However, the Social Security Administration (SSA) advised DHS that SSA could implement the new rates with 120 days' notice prior to the effective month. For new rates to be implemented by October 1, 2024, it would be ideal if the bill was enrolled and signed before June 3, 2024, which is 120 days before October 1, 2024.

The State Supplemental Payment (SSP) is a federal program under the SSA and administrated by DHS. Per the agreement between SSA and DHS, as the required maintenance of effort (MOE) by the State, the State provides state funding to maintain the federal funding provided by the SSA for this type of supplemental payment. The MOE is a nondiscretionary fund that is determined by the SSA, which means it cannot be used for any other purpose but for this program and the amount cannot be changed without the authorization of the SSA. Any diversion from the amount and use of the MOE funding may result in monetary sanctions from the federal government and possible suspension of Medicaid funds. The current MOE amount appropriated is sufficient to pay for the increase proposed.

Please note that the Social Services Division, Adult Protective and Community Services Branch, administers the State Supplemental Program, which is budgeted under program ID HMS 605. The proposed increases do not require additional appropriations to HMS 605.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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**The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 4, 2024
Conference Room 211, 10:15 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for H.B. 2216 HD1, SD1 Relating to Care Homes

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura 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. 2216 HD1, SD1 which increases the cap on the state supplemental payments for type 1 adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary home, community care foster family and adult homes, and type II adult residential care home.

Hawaii's 1,600+ foster family and adult residential and domiciliary homes for our older and disabled adults are an integral part of our long term care system. These HCBS providers provide over 8,300 beds which are twice the number of the beds provided by the 46 licensed nursing home facilities in state. These HCBS residences are cost-effective, high quality and support people's preference to age in a home-like setting. Increasing the supplemental payment cap is long overdue. With the rising cost of living, these dedicated providers deserve this increase so that they can continue to care for Hawaii's aging population.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2216, HD1,SD1.

LATE

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:01:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannie Abero	Testifying for AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only


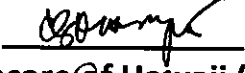



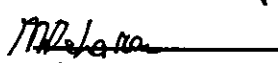
Comments:

I am Jeannie Abero, caregiver for 20 years. I am in support of HB 2216. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us an increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

LATE

TESTIMONY ON HB2216 IN SUPPORT

The Presidents of:

1.  Maribel B. Tan, President, Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawaii (AFHA of HI)
2.  Carina Ocampo, President, United Community healthcare of Hawaii (UCHH)
3.  Lemmy Maluyo, President, Community Homecare Association of Hawaii (CHCAH)
4.  Elma Tierra, President, Alliance of Professional Primary Care Administrators (APPCA)
5.  Wanette Gaylord, President, Association of Residential Care Administrators (ARCA)
6.  Medy De Lara, President, The Primary Care Providers of Hawaii (TPCP)

We submit testimony as a coalition in support to HB2216. We are the Presidents from Six Organizations representing nearly 90% of the community caregiver industry.

We support HB2216 which increases the cap on state supplemental payments for type I adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult foster homes and type II adult residential care homes.

The costs of living here in Hawaii have escalated over the years. It's just so difficult financially for caregivers to survive especially with the cost of housing, food and other commodities here in Hawaii.

We save the State of Hawaii significant amount of money for providing care to our Kupuna's and disabled. It's time for the State of Hawaii to think about us so that we can continue to take care of our vulnerable elderly and disabled.

For the reasons provided, we request that you pass HB2216.

LATE

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:56:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arlene Agpalza	Testifying for AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill HB2216.

LATE

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 1:21:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elma V. Tierra	Testifying for Alliance of Professional Primary Care Administrator	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and members of the Committee. My name is Elma V Tierra, president of Alliance of Professional Primary Care Administrators. We strongly supports HB2216 which increases the cap on the state supplemental payments for HCBS, CCFFH, DD and E-ARCH. HCBS providers provides over 8,000 beds and has an integral part of our long term care system. These HCBS residences are cost effective and provides high quality of services. We urge you to please increase the supplemental payment cap. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2216,SD1.

Respectfully yours,

Elma Velasco Tierra

LATE

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 2:49:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie S. Sebastian	Testifying for ILWU - LOCAL 1000/SEBASTIAN'S ARCH LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair and Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice-Chair:

Thank you for this bill and for it's intended purpose. I/we stand in strong support of this bill.

It's been over 15 years that all licensed care homes have not had an increase in their Room & Board pay (SSI/State Supplement Pay). The current cost of living in Hawaii which is ranging from \$1,900 to \$2,400 per month per individual has been very difficult for any caregiver or anyone to budget. In all fairness, our Room & Board pay from our clients should align with the current cost of living--inorder for any caregiver to sustain opening their home/businesses over the long term--to serve the Elderly and the Disabled population in our community.

Thank your for this opportunity to offer testimony; your kind support would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose S. Sebastian

ILWU - Local 1000 / SEBASTIAN'S ARCH LLC

1630 Leilani St., Honolulu, HI 96819

Tel. (808) 220-0824

Community Home Care
Association of Hawaii
94-1005 Maikai Street, Waipahu HI 96797

LATE

To: Good morning **WAM Committees:**

From: Lemmy Mabuti, President of the Community Home Care Association

Subject: **RELATING TO CARE HOMES**

Hearing: Thursday, April 04, 2024, 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room #221, State Capitol

TESTIMONY: STRONGLY IN SUPPORT – HB 2216

On behalf of the Community Home Care Association, **strongly in support.**
HB-2216.

We humbly urged these committees to Support and Pass this measure.

We provide 24/7 care for a flat rate of \$41.06 per day, with the work we provide for the elderly and disabled truly believed that we are NOT gone up a single cent for 15 years.

The Costs of providing care to our Kupuna's and disabled make it nearly impossible to operate.

It takes a great deal of commitment, dedication, patience, and love of the job to be able to keep working 24/7 in caring for our clients.

It's time for the State of Hawaii to do what's right support us so we can continue to take care of the elderly and disabled.

I humbly ask to all authorities to grant our request.

Very truly yours,

Lemmy Maluyo-Mabuti, president
Community Home Care Association

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING
DATE: Thursday, April 4, 2024
TIME: 10:15 AM

Re HB2216 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO CARE HOMES

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee. My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2216 HD2 SD1, which increases the cap on the state supplemental payments for type 1 adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary home, community care foster family and adult homes, and type II adult residential care home. These facilities provide over 8,300 beds and are cost-effective, high quality and support people's preference to age in a home-like setting. Increasing the cap will help to keep up with the rising cost of living, so that they can continue to care for Hawaii's aging population

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Linda Dorset
Wailuku, Maui

LATE

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:47:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Estelita Batoon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2216

LATE

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:39:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zenaida Tierra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a caregiver I support HB 2216. Hope it would be granted.



ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

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

April 4, 2024

Maribel Tan
President

Testimony in Strong Support of HB2216, HD2, SD1 – WAM – 4/4/24, 10:15 a.m., Rm. 211 (Testifier to Appear via In-person) Chair Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees:

The Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawaii (AFHA) **strongly supports HB2216**, which increases the cap on state supplemental payments for type I adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult foster homes and type II adult residential care homes.

Community care foster family homes (CCFFHs), which supplies over 2,000 beds statewide to elderly and disabled Hawai`i residents, have very minimal increase for over 15 years. We’ve borne the brunt of inflation and other cost increases.

We applaud the state for commissioning the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rate Study Report by Milliman on December 2022. Finally, someone has validated what we have been saying for the last 15 years. For years, it’s as if no one has taken us seriously, taking us for granted. Finally, someone is recognizing our plight as an industry.

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.”

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 were already the lowest paid in the nation – below even the “low” end of the spectrum according to Milliman. Inflation, which spiraled out-of-control, has exacerbated the challenges. Our industry and profession is one in which the younger generation in our country have little interest. Rarely does a young person today have ambitions to become a CCFFH or other type of care home. We need to set a solid foundation for the future.

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 1000 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.

With our aging population and as “patient preferences have shifted away from institutional settings to home- and community-based” settings, this is an issue that will potentially lead to a crisis in the future. We implore you to support this measure for the future of Hawaii.

Please SUPPORT HB 2216.

Very truly yours,

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

Maribel Tan
President

LATE

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 1:33:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Milagros Ronidel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a 5 years caregiver and supporting the HB2216.

LATE

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 1:41:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Floriefe Agonias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I syringlt support hb2216

LATE

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB - 2216

To: Senator, Donovan Dela Cruz – Chair
Senator, Sharon Moriwaki – Vice Chair

I, Cynthia Gima, am sending you my testimony on STRONG SUPPORT of HB2216. This bill will help the caregivers tremendously with the high cost of living. It is becoming very hard to survive with the pay we are currently receiving from the client's Room and Board.

The following are just some examples of why we strongly need this bill to pass:

- Cost of utilities, electricity, water, sewer costs that the clients use.
- Food and supply costs for clients.
- Housing
- Gas used when bringing clients to their doctor's appointments.
- Transportation costs for our clients who require assisted transportation, fees average \$100-\$150 depending on the distance.
- Car and Liability Insurance required in the home to follow state regulations.

Thank you very much!

Cynthia Gima
1320 Anapa Street
Honolulu Hawaii 96818
Cell: 808-271-0557
Email: ausash4@gmail.com

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:44:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thelma Maglines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Thelma Maglines, caregiver for 20 years. I am in big support of HB 2216. 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

TC Maglines Adult Foster Home

94-1192 Hina St

Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

8083049433

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 5:23:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carina Ocampo	Testifying for United Community Healthcare of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CHAIR, Vice Chair and Committee Members. I am Carina Ocampo, President of United Community Healthcare of Hawaii and a CCFH Provider since 2006

HB2216 IN STRONG SUPPORT.

The cost of living in Hawaii has significantly increased, with all commodities experiencing a rise during the pandemic and continuing to escalate. I kindly request your support in advocating for an increase in the cap of Supplemental Payments for ARCH, DD, Domiciliary Homes, and CCFH to address these rising expenses.

Thank you for your kind support.

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 5:23:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janette nino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm Janette Nino caregiver in support HB2216

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 5:32:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
roma magnaye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To our legislators.

I Roma M Robles,who has a highly supportive to this Bill HB2216,to pass.

We are greatly grateful to all of you, including the main people who will help us to make this bill happen. We've been waiting for this moment for a years that most of caregivers couldn't recall the last time we were heard.

I (we) are hoping for the best and hope that this time we will be able to get it.

Thank you!

Roma M Robles

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:28:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thelma Ortal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a full support of HB2216, we as a caregiver deserve to get increased, not to mention the huge inflation that caused financial crisis.

I (we) are not here to rant and talk about the issue but we are here to get the help that we needed for how many years.

May the Lord bless you and all the people who involve in decision making with a strong heart and mind to do the best and right for the caregiver who being selfless just to render the best possible care for our kupuna.

Respectfully yours,

Thelma Ortal

HB-2216-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:06:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nenita Gouveia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nenita Gouveia, and I have been a caregiver for 18 years. I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse HB2216 and urge you to support it as well.

As a caregiver, I have dedicated my life to providing compassionate care to those who are unable to care for themselves. However, like many other caregivers, I have struggled with inadequate compensation. The current pay is simply not enough to cover all the expenses that come with living on Oahu, including bills, food, housing, and other necessities. It is heartbreaking to see that, despite our hard work and dedication, we are still struggling to make ends meet.

Caregiving is not just a job for us; it is a calling. We are expected to deliver high-quality care to our clients, but how can we do that when we are constantly worrying about our own financial stability? It is time for our voices to be heard and for our compensation to be fair and reflective of the important work that we do.

HB2216 will help to address this issue by providing caregivers with a more livable wage. This will not only improve our quality of life, but it will also allow us to continue providing the best care possible to our clients. We deserve to be valued and recognized for our hard work and dedication.

I urge you to support HB2216 and make a positive impact on the lives of caregivers like myself. Thank you for taking the time to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Nenita Gouveia
Caregiver for 18 years