



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 21, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

House Concurrent Resolution 91/House Resolution 75 – Requesting the Department of Human Services to Establish a Working Group to Address Issues Relating to Reimbursements and Payments to Home and Community-Based Service Providers

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Concurrent Resolution 91/House Resolution 75 – Requesting the Department of Human Services to Establish a Working Group to Address Issues Relating to Reimbursements and Payments to Home and Community-Based Service Providers.

Hawaii does not have enough home and community-based providers and the gap is growing as the population ages. It is therefore important that the reimbursement and payment rates are increased to keep pace with inflation.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 9:30 am
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Human Services

To: Chair Lisa Marten
Vice Chair Terez Amato

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy
AVP, Government Affairs
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Submitting comments**
HCR 91/HR 75, Requesting the Department of Human Services to establish a working group to address issues relating to reimbursements and payments to home and community-based services providers

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the health care continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

We are submitting **comments** on this measure, which seeks to establish a working group to address reimbursements for home-and community-based services. We believe that discussing reimbursements for all long-term care providers is important and have appreciated the attention and detail that MedQUEST has paid to this topic. While we do not represent home-and community-based providers as part of our membership, we are often involved in conversations regarding long-term care and appreciate the opportunity to participate in this working group.

Thank you for your continued support of healthcare providers in the state, and for the opportunity to provide comments on this resolution.

HCR-91

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 5:53:27 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arlene Hanks	ILWU Local 1000	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Aloha Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair And Committe Members

My name is Arlene Hanks, I strongly Support HCR 91.

Mahalo,

Arlene Hanks

TESTIMONY

RE: H.C.R. NO. 91

Dear Chair, Marten, Vice-Chair, Amato and all Committee Members:

On behalf of ILWU – Local 1000, I thank you for HCR No. 91 and for its intended purposes.

I so appreciate this measure as offered by Rep. Rachele Lamosao.

Establishing a working group to address issues relating to reimbursements and payments to Home and Community-based services providers is most important—not only to the mentioned providers but also to benefit the future of our state’s elderly and vulnerable populations.

For so long, the current reimbursements payments are quite inadequate—most especially to Foster Homes—that it has become very difficult for any provider to manage its monthly budget to provide better quality care. Caregiving 24/7; 365 days a year is a very difficult job—yet, having to worry about monthly budget at the same time--while caring for patients adds to the stress of caregivers. In addition, there are critical areas of which current reimbursements pay doesn’t provide for: Medical insurance, vacation pay, and worst of all, nothing is left to plan for caregiver’s retirement. It is so critical that Providers of home and community-based services (especially Foster Homes) be granted appropriate fair and equitable pay increases—immediately. How can one provide quality care when the quality of pay is so poor?

Bottomline, whatever the method and or the ways there is in implementing and enhancing reimbursements pay rates, it’s not enough to keep talking about it; somebody must do something about it because caregivers/providers can’t be left out dry any longer. Caregivers/Providers need your help as well.

Your kind and expeditious considerations would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie S. Sebastian, Treasurer/Caregiver

ILWU – LOCAL 1000/SEBASTIAN’S ARCH LLC

1630 Leilani St., Honolulu, HI 96819

Tel. (808) 220-0824

LATE

HCR-91

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 9:20:17 PM
Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilfred Ashley chang	ILWU International	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Marten and members of the committee for Human Services,

Due to work obligations I will not be able to attend in person. I strongly support this resolution. The myriad of issues are too much to list, however the proposal of the working group is a great step towards working real solutions. Thank you for hearing this resolution as it brings much needed input for those who provide home or community based services.

Sincerely,

Wilfred Chang

ILWU International Hawaii Representative

HCR-91

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 4:26:29 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

March 19, 2024

Human Services Committee Chair, Rep. Lisa Marten

Human Services Vice-Chair, Rep. Terez Amato

And all members of the HUS Committee

Aloha! I am writing to you to support the passing of 91 HCR because it is of vital importance to maintain and support fair compensation for all the community care service providers in Hawai'i. Such care providers are but not limited to Adult Residential Care Homes, Expanded Adult Residential Care Homes, Adult Foster Homes, Developmentally Disadvantaged Domiciliary Homes. All these community care providers provide essential services to those individuals who cannot care for themselves. These community care providers also save the State millions of dollars every month when utilized instead of SNF Nursing Home facilities or Hospital environments.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathew Yamamoto

Hawai'i Resident and Registered Voter

HCR-91

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:00:57 PM

Testimony for HUS on 3/21/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Hanks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Aloha Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair and Committe members.

My name is Jonathan Hanks, I strongly Support HCR 91.

Mahalo,

Jonathan Hanks