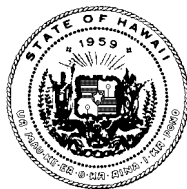


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

TRISTA SPEER  
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

March 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 2215 HD1](#) – RELATING TO MEDICAID.

Hearing: March 15, 2024, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill and provides comments. Notably, DHS requests the Legislature support the Governor's budget, which includes the department's request for an appropriation that would accomplish the same 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:** This bill appropriates funds to increase the funding of certain Medicaid home and community-based services, including adult day programs and residential services offered in community care foster family homes and expanded adult residential care homes. Requires the Department of Human Services to obtain matching funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The House Committee on Human Services (HD1) amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the purpose of the appropriation to delete case management services for home and community-based case management agencies and instead include adult day programs;
- (2) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;

- (3) Deleting the requirement for the Department of Human Services to pursue all funding sources, including private grants, as federal Medicaid rules prohibit most private grants as a funding source for certain Medicaid services;
- (4) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS appreciates the intent of this bill to appropriate funds 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 adult day programs. Of note, DHS included a budget request of \$5,750,000 in the Governor's budget that represents 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Friday, March 15, 2024**  
**Conference Room 225, 1:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i  
RE: Support for H.B. 2215, HD2 Relating to Medicaid

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. 2215 HD 2 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, HD2.

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 4:13:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair, Sen. Buenaventura, Vice-Chair, Sen. Aquino and all Committee Members:

Thank you for this bill, and I appreciate that the State Legislature is taking a very important actions--to find solutions for a quality long term care system.

I stand before you--in support of this bill; however, I just want to add my concerns: What happens if the required maximum federal matching funds will not be successfully secured by the Dept. of Human Services? Will this mean NO increase in LTC reimbursements pay to all Caregivers as mentioned in the bill?

I am compelled to inform this committee that from far too long, these caregivers have been quite underpaid in their LTC reimbursements pay. I can't imagine a caregiver from a Community Care Foster Family Home is getting paid \$2,800 per month per client for an ICF Level care medicaid patient--as compared to the same level medicaid patient at a Nursing Facility is being paid \$8,000 plus per month. The gap in pay is so great--which means that the Foster caregiver is much much underpaid. Perhaps, it would makes sense--in all fairness that a Foster caregiver should be paid, at least, a total of \$5,000 per client per month for their Long Term Care services.

If the State is serious about fixing the future needs of our Kupunas then it should be conscientious and strive to provide a FAIR, OF EQUALITY pay for all caregivers. Right now with current caregivers' LTC reimbursements pay, there's no fairness, there's no equality; therefore, I humbly ask this Committee to please find ways to provide proper increases to the hard-working caregivers so that, hopefully, they can feasibly continue to open their homes in serving the future needs of our Kupunas.

Thank you!

Respectfully yours,

Rosemarie S. Sebastian, Treasurer/Caregiver

ILWU - LOCAL 1000/SEBASTIAN'S ARCH LLC

1630 Leilani St., Honolulu, HI 96819

(808) 220-0824

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2215

**Chair Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Sen. Henry Aquino 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 OHS/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

# ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

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

March 15, 2024

Maribel Tan  
President

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB2215** – HHS – 3/15/24, 1:00 p.m., Rm. 225  
(Testifier to Appear via In-person)

Chair Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Sen. Henry Aquino, 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 flourish extending to the right.

Maribel Tan  
President

Community Home Care  
Association of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 971450, Waipahu HI 96797

January 28, 2024

To: **Chair Senator Joy Buenaventura, Vice Chair, Senator Henry Aquino**

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

Subject: **RELATING TO MEDICAID**

Hearing: Friday, March 15, 2024, 1:00 PM  
Conference Room #225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY: STRONGLY IN SUPPORT – HB 2215, HD1**

On behalf of the Community Home Care Association, strongly support. HB 2215, HD1  
We provide 24/7 care 365 days a year for a flat-rate I've also learned and convinced that, with the work we provide for our elderly I truly believed that we are NOT gone up a single cent, yet we are asked to pay fees such as Medicaid provider's registration fee. In addition to fees, we also pay for fingerprint, APS/CAN, eCrim including adult household members, CPR/First Aid, In-service training for 12 hours every year, and most of all we pay our Health Insurance. Please note, we are only getting compensated \$41.06 per day (\$1.71 hourly).

The costs of providing care to the elderly and disabled make it nearly impossible to operate. Caregivers must pay their mortgage for their homes, most of which is used by the residents. Caregiver must also pay for utilities, food, laundry supplies consumed by residents; gasoline used to bring residents to the doctors' appointments. How do you stretch \$1.71 per hour for all these costs and still make a living?

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. Duties are included but not limited to tending to client for safety ensuring medications are taken or administered every day, preparing and cooking their foods 3 meals a day including spoon-fed to our clients, assistance in and out of bed to wheelchair and going to the bathroom, changing their diapers, bathing, linen change, maintaining cleanliness to their rooms, recording, and maintaining all pertinent medical record and files.

Again, all these duties for \$41.06 per day and to think about it that this amount are not enough compared to a nursing home rate. This rate has been for 15 years.

I humbly ask to all authorities to grant our request.

Very truly yours,

Lemmy Maluyo-Mabuti, president  
Community Home Care Association

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 10:21:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elisha Joy Tenorio	Testifying for Community Care Foster Family Home	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Increases the cap on state supplemental payments 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.

Please consider increasing the payments for these licensed care homes. Underpaid with rising economy cost in Hawaii.



**Marylo Farinas**

*Dbas: CMC Kafamilya Adult Foster Home*

March 13, 2024

TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Senator Joy A, San Buenaventura, Chair  
Henry J. C. Aquino, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committees

FROM: Marylo N Farinas  
Owner/Primary Caregiver  
CMC Kafamilya Adult Foster Home  
91-1057 Aeae Street  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Tel: 808 687-3656 (H) 808 228-6858 (C)  
Email: [marylofarinas@gmail.com](mailto:marylofarinas@gmail.com)

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



**Marylo Farinas**

*Dba: CMC Kafamilya Adult Foster Home*

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 these requirements are NOT free they all paid from our pay rate of \$3.92 per hour. We don't have paid vacation, we pay our secondary caregivers to watch our clients instead, at a rate that is way more than what we get paid. We also pay GET tax and liability insurance, recertification fee and we also must 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 to 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, HD1 - RELATING TO MEDICAID

Aloha Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair,  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair  
And Committee members.

My name is Arlene Hanks, I strongly Support HB2215, HD1

Mahalo,  
Arlene G. Hanks

March 14, 2024

Chair, Senator Joy San Buenaventura

Vice Chair, Senator Henry Aquino

And Members of the Committees

HB2215 Medicaid Pay Increase

IN STRONG SUPPORT

Good afternoon to the Committee on Ways and Means, Madam Chair, 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-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 12:56:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arcelie Weaver	Testifying for Adult Fosterhome Association Of Hawaii Big Island Chapter	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am ARCELIE WEAVER a caregiver for 10 years. I am in support of HB2215 HD1, HB1834 HD1

i cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high and

the money we are recieving is not enough to support our families.

SENCERELY,

Arcelie Weaver

Weaver Adult Foster Family Home

Address:1393 Komohana st. Hilo Hi 96720

Cell#8087471654



**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 2:04:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am Jeannie Abero, caregiver for 20 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 money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 11:56:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leilani B Domingo	Testifying for AFHAH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2215

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 2:14:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheila Marie Mendoza	Testifying for AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support on HB2215

Cost of living in Hawaii is too high and the payment from our medicaid patient is not enough to cover our expenses and its not enough to support our family now that all prices are high.

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:31:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Erlinda D Ortal caregiver for 23 years.I am in support for HB 2215.I humbly request your support to increase the reimbursement rates Community Care Foster Family home in the state of hawaii.Reimbursements to CCFFHnin hawaii have not been increased for fourteen (14) years.

I cannot continue doing this business if you willo not give us increase because bof high inflation.

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:32:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
GEMMA SANTIAGO BAUTISTA	Testifying for AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha !

My name is Gemma Bautista , that i am fully supporting the HB2215. We are asking all senator and representatives and other officials of Honolulu to please approve the bill. We the caregivers rendering the best care as we can to our elderly with love and passionate , we all hoping your kindness and listen to what we are fighting for in return. Please please approve the bill. Thank you so much.

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 10:13:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill HB2215.

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 10:26:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rowena Daligcon	Testifying for AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Despite of very low payment for Caregiver I still decided to continue working with the Elderly and I've been doing this for 10 years. With the HB 2215 I'm begging the senates to please approve this house bill. Being a Caregiver I strongly support this HB 2215 to be approved.

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 10:30:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am strongly supporting the HB2215 for the CfH that working really hard to provide a better care and yet we can't get a better payment.



**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 11:30:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Arlene Agpalza, caregiver for 16 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,

Arlene Agpalza  
Arlene Agpalza Adult Foster Home

1740 Piikea Street Honolulu Hawaii

8085541384

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:35:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
claribel cabantog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sir/madam,

As a caregiver for almost 17 years it's been so hard to keep our Foster Carehome open. There are times the client that we're getting is like for 2 people assist and our pay is not adequate for the work we do 24/7. Most of the caregivers struggle to pay rent, mortgage and pay bills (especially if they have kids that goes 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. 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 to 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-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:12:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WILL BE A BIG HELP TO THOSE IN NEED.

MAHALO!

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2215

To: Senator, Buenaventura – Chair  
Senator, Aquino – Vice Chair

I, Cynthia Gima, am sending you my testimony in STRONG SUPPORT HB 2215. We have not received an increase for **sixteen plus years**. I am in this business because of my passion to help people who are not able to care for themselves, but it is becoming extremely hard to survive with the pay we are currently receiving for our services. As much as I love caring for the elderly it is becoming difficult economically to maintain a balanced life, both for my patients and my family.

It is not hard to figure out the math, **\$44.16/day received but pay subs \$20 plus/hourly**, please let us know if there are any other people that you know of in the workforce that is faced with these types of numbers. It is basically we pay anytime we are not with our clients.

Before you all vote, please put yourself in our shoes providing best care for our Kupuna 24/7 with a pay of \$44.16 daily which came to an effect January 2023. **Prior to January 2023 the daily service pay rate was \$41.06 for over sixteen years.**

I strongly believe that to maintain the integrity of our profession and to ensure that our Kupuna's are cared for properly, caregivers should be rewarded with pay that is indicative of the time, effort, and care that they put in. Another key factor on the importance of this bill is to make sure quality caregivers are retained and stay in Hawaii instead of moving to the mainland to work for better pay.

Your kind consideration and approval of this bill HB 2215 would be appreciated.

Thank you very much!

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



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 15, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### House Bill 2215 HD1 – Relating to Medicaid

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 2215 HD1 – Relating to Medicaid.

This bill appropriates funds to increase the funding of certain Medicaid home and community-based services, including adult day programs and residential services offered in community care foster family homes and expanded adult residential care homes.

People with disabilities often require community based care, and providing it close to home eases the strain on the person, their families, and their healthcare providers. Increasing the current funding sources available for these services will help provide this option.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:29:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melody Yasay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an elderly foster home operator, I fully support this measures. I enjoyed and happy to be a part of the life of our seniors, however we need your support too, for us to maintain our operations and able to sustain our livelihood. Please pass this measures. Thank you very much.

HB 2215, HD1 - RELATING TO MEDICAID

Aloha Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair,  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair  
And Committee members.

My name is Jonathan Hanks, I strongly Support HB2215, HD1

Mahalo,  
Jonathan Hanks

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:37:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Myrna Caro	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this SB 2215 thank you



**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 11:34:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruthie Agbayani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am in full support of HB2215.**

**Hawai'i'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.**

**The Federal Cost of Living Adjustment released 1/1/24 may seem to have increased the per diem service rates a little bit, but that's still not enough to cover basic needs in Hawaii's high cost of living economy. It still amounts to \$2.11583 per hour for Skilled Nursing Home Level 2 for 24 hour care, 7 days a week.**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 12:13:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<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 12 years. I am in 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-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 1:46:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
SONIA AGNI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs / Madams,

I'm a foster home owner and a primary caregiver for 9years now..Due to high inflation of living cost please hear us and grant our request for Medicaid raise..it's very hard for us to roll financially for everyday living to support the family for a very little amount of 1medicaid patient..We will be happy to continue caring with passion to those most in needs for quality care and service if we are given the attention to this matter..thank you and more power!

Sonia M.Agni

**LATE**

Chair Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Senator Henry J.C. Aquino and all Committees:

I am Leticia Dagulo, caregiver for 20 years. I am in support for HB 2215. I humbly request your support to increase the reimbursement rates for Community Care Foster Family Home's in the State. Reimbursements to Community Care Foster family Home in Hawaii have not increased for fourteen (14) years.

I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase because of high inflation. The cost of food, shelter, gas, electricity, and other necessities is skyrocketing. The payment for services we are receiving for our Medicaid Client is not enough to support our families.

It is time for the State of Hawaii to support us so we can continue to take care of our vulnerable elderly and disabled.

Sincerely,



Leticia Dagulo

95-528 Wailoa Loop  
Mililani, HI 96789  
Cell # 808-383-9106

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 7:08:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 HB2215 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.

HB2215 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 HB2215 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

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 7:18:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mercedes Arquitola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Mercedes Arquitola, FosterHome Owner, main provider as a caregiver for 14 years. I am in support of HB1834 and HB2215. I may not be able to continue doing this business for much longer than i would like if increase doesnt happend because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerly

Mercedes Arquitola

M. Arquitola Family Foster Home

17-606 S' Ipuaiwaha Pl, Keaau HI 96749

(808)966-9730

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 7:43:48 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mona Sildora	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support with the HB2215 bill. As healthcare professional, I believe that they deserve to be compensated based on what they do. For example, Adult Foster care home, For 1 medicaid client. They pay roughly \$45 for a day. You divide that by 12 hours or work. (But in actuality 24/7). That cost \$3.75 per hour. That's what caregivers are getting paid. That is way below the minimum wage. I urge everyone to think about this.... let us be fair to the caregivers who are willing to care for the elders. Let's show respect by giving or paying them what they deserve. Approve the ipay increase so caregivers can continue to care for the elderly or the needy.

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:22:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jolly Orozco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator,

I am Jolly Orozco, a devoted caregiver with 20 years of unwavering commitment to serving the elderly in our community. I wholeheartedly endorse HB2215-HD1, advocating for an overdue increase in our reimbursement rates, stagnant for over 15 years.

As caregivers, we undertake a noble responsibility, akin to caring for our own cherished family members. Our duties encompass every aspect of compassionate care, yet the current reimbursement rate falls far short of acknowledging the tireless dedication, sacrifices, and emotional investment we pour into our profession.

While other industries and the minimum wage in Hawaii have adjusted to keep pace with economic shifts, caregivers have been left behind, struggling to make ends meet in the face of escalating living costs.

Your support for HB2215-HD1 is not just a vote for caregivers; it's a pledge to uphold dignity and ensure quality care for our kupuna.

Thank you for your consideration and unwavering support.

With gratitude,

Jolly Orozco



**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:29:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
roma magnaye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I Roma M Robles, supporting the HB2215,we (I) requesting to be heard and give what we are deserve for.

I may not able to list down all the details however we are a very positive CAREGIVER/s who believe that in perfect fate we will receive the right pay we really deserve.

We pray for those people in the legislature who helping us to pass this bill to have them healthier mind and body to continue their goal for us.

Respectfully and sincerely,

ROMA M ROBLES

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:58:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am Thelma Maglines, caregiver for 22 years. I am

in support if HB2215. I cannot continue doing business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high and

money/ payments we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Thelma Maglines

TCMaglines Foster Home

94-1192 Hina St

Waipahu, Hi 96797

808-304-9433

**LATE**

**HB-2215-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 10:18:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/15/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm supporting HB2215 relating to madicaid.

Janette Nino caregiver