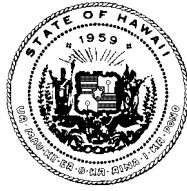


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

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'ŌKELE

January 28, 2024

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 2216](#) – RELATING TO CARE HOMES.

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 this measure and offers comments.

**PURPOSE:** This measure increases the cap on state supplemental payments (SSP) 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.

DHS supports the proposed increase of the SSP care rate by \$132.10 to \$784.00 for type I and \$892.00 for type II settings. Increasing the monthly SSP rates by these amounts will not require an additional general fund appropriation.

Notably, the State Supplemental Payment (SSP) appropriation is used for the following:

- Domiciliary care payments, as specified in section 346-53(c), HRS;
- PNA for individuals residing in settings as specified in section 346D-4.5, HRS; and
- Administrative fees paid to the Social Security Administration (SSA) to add SSP amounts to each individual's monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check.

January 28, 2024

Page 2

DHS comments that this measure is similar to SB 849 and HB 916 HD1 in that it proposes to increase the monthly State Supplemental Payments (SSP). However, it differs from them in that this bill does not include an increase to the monthly personal needs allowance (PNA).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

## TESTIMONY

### HB2216 – RELATING TO CARE HOMES

DEAR CHAIR, LISA MARTEN & COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

First, I would like to thank you for this bill. I stand in support of this bill; however, I believe that the state could do much better by granting us, caregivers, a fair increase—enough so that we don't have to keep coming back every year to ask for an increase. As you're probably aware, we haven't had an increase for the last 15 years.

My mother opened our Type I Adult Residential Care Home (ARCH) over 50 years ago—where the entire family helped & support running the care home but over the years, a lot has changed—where family members either work full time to make a living or moved out of Hawaii—due to the rising cost of living. I took over our care home from mom when she retired over two years ago. Our care home is licensed through DOH to provide home for individuals-- who needs placement & care is now my full-time job and source of my income. From the current Room & Board pay of \$1,544.90 per client a month (5 clients maximum but it could be less), I don't have much income left for me after expenses--as the cost of living in Hawaii has gone up tremendously. In addition, I think it's inhumane that I can't even go on vacation because it would cost too much to hire a live-in substitute.

I don't have help from my family so; therefore, I need to hire help to substitute for me when I do errands-- to bring patients to their doctors' appointments--which always takes a lot of time, to do groceries, to go to my own personal appointments, etc. My care home pay doesn't allow me to hire a substitute caregiver because I am only getting paid from individuals (clients) who are NOT SUBSIDIZED through Medicaid. The current Room & Board (SSI/STATE SUPPLEMENT) is not feasible to keep our care home going while the cost of living continues to go up—year after year without a decent increase in our pay.

We provide 24/7, 365 days a year supervision to our clients; we're required to provide minimal supervision as our clients are Ambulatory—basically independent but not really because, sometimes, we deal with clients' w/behavior issues—especially when their medications aren't effectively helping. In this case, we would communicate with clients' doctors often to adjust/re-evaluate clients until the right medication works effectively. Sometimes, a client can be difficult as they require constant guidance and reminders. In most cases when we admit a Client, their Level of Care only includes two doctor appointments every 3 to 4 mos. But during initial client visit to the doctor, they suddenly have too many additional doctors' appointments.

Type I ARCH doesn't have the Burden of Care Cost. I ask this committee to help secure a higher Level of Care for our clients/individuals who are not currently receiving Medicaid benefits. In

doing so, I think that it will help resolve the underpayment issue for Licensed Homes Room & Board pay. Once our clients are granted a higher LOC, they will be able to receive Medicaid benefits—thus paying us, Caregivers, a little more. As the cost of living in Hawaii today is ranging from \$1,900 to \$2,400 per individual, we ask this Committee to increase our Room & Board pay by increasing the State Supplement to \$1,057—instead of \$784 as stated in your bill.

Your kind consideration and approval of the Room & Board pay by increasing the State Supplement to \$1,057 would be greatly appreciated--as it will enhance the lives and businesses of Caregivers.

Respectfully yours,

Rosemarie S. Sebastian, Treasurer

ILWU – LOCAL 1000

1630 Leilani St.

Honolulu, HI 96819

Tel. (808) 220-0824



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. 2216 Relating to Care Homes

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. 2216 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.

Menchie Dawang  
President  
Providing Healthy Homecare for Hawaii - PH3  
8082284521

**REPRESENTATIVE LISA MARTEN**

D)51 Waimanalo, Keolu Hills, Lanikai, portion of Kailua Hawaii  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 808-586-9450  
Fax: 808-586-9456

Dear Representative Lisa Marten and members of the committee,

I hope this letter finds you well. As a caregiver and President of Providing Healthy Homecare for Hawaii- PH3, I am writing to urgently advocate for the passage of HB2216, which addresses the critical issue of increasing state supplemental payments for adult residential care homes. I implore you to truly understand the profound impact that the current rates have on caregivers, specifically for Level 2 patients, and the urgent need for an increase.

For 16 long years, caregivers like myself have been fighting for a fair and just compensation for the invaluable care we provide. It is disheartening to share that for Level 2 patients, we receive a mere \$44.16 per day, covering a full 24 hours of care. This translates to a paltry \$1.84 per hour, which is far below a living wage and fails to acknowledge the immense responsibilities and challenges we face.

Imagine, if you will, dedicating your life to caring for those in need, working tirelessly day and night, and yet struggling to make ends meet. The emotional and physical toll of caregiving is already immense, but to compound it with financial stress is an unbearable burden. We pour our hearts into our work, offering unwavering compassion, empathy, and support to those under our care. However, the current rates do not reflect the value we bring to the lives of our patients and our communities.

It is crucial to understand that the fight for an increase in rates is not fueled by greed but by a genuine desire to ensure the well-being of caregivers and the sustainability of the caregiving industry. We are not asking for exorbitant amounts; we are pleading for rates that align with the dedication, expertise, and compassion we bring to our roles.

As caregivers, we witness the struggles and challenges faced by our patients and their families on a daily basis. We become an integral part of their lives, providing not only physical care but also

emotional support and companionship. We hold their hands during their most vulnerable moments, advocate for their needs, and become surrogate families when they have none. The depth of our commitment and the impact we have on the lives of our patients cannot be understated.

In sharing our heartfelt messages and the realities we face, I implore you to imagine the emotional weight that comes with caring for others while grappling with financial insecurity. Picture the sacrifices we make, the bills we struggle to pay, and the dreams we put on hold simply because we love our patients and are committed to their well-being.

By passing HB2216 and increasing state supplemental payments, you have the power to alleviate the financial burdens faced by caregivers and bring about a positive change in our lives. A fair compensation rate not only recognizes the value of our work but also ensures that caregivers can focus on providing the highest quality of care, without the constant worry of making ends meet.

I urge you to read this testimony with open hearts and minds, to truly understand the plight of caregivers who have dedicated their lives to the service of others. Let our collective voice be heard, and let compassion guide your decision-making.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Enchie Dawang

President – Providing Healthy Homecare for Hawaii- PH3

8082284521



# Oahu Filipino Community Council

[oahu.filcomcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:oahu.filcomcouncil@gmail.com)

## TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2216 RELATING TO CARE HOMES

by  
Raymond Sebastian, President

Monday, January 29, 2024

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair; Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair; And Committee Members

The Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 2216, which is for the increase of 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.

OFCC is the federation of Oahu-based Filipino organizations that was established in June 1959 to unite the Filipinos on Oahu in preparation for the Hawaii statehood. After 64 years, we remain an integral force in Hawaii's Filipino Community as we continue to support and help our community for the betterment of Hawaii. There are five (5) unit organizations under OFCC which interests are directly affected by this bill:

1. Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawaii (AFHA)
2. Association of Residential Care Administrators (ARCA)
3. Community Homecare Association of Hawaii (CHCAH)
4. The Primary Care Providers of Hawaii (TPCP)
5. United Community Healthcare of Hawaii (UCHH)

These five (5) organizations represent approximately 80% of the community caregivers in Hawaii. These caregivers opened their homes and their families to take care of our kupunas and disabled populations in Hawaii are often hailed as heroes for the services they provide. However, to be recognized as heroes is not enough because they still have to pay for the high cost of living in Hawaii, while having additional people under their roof, who also, are not just contributing to their cost of living, but also are added responsibilities to care for.





# Oahu Filipino Community Council

[oahu.filcomcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:oahu.filcomcouncil@gmail.com)

According to the 4th Quarter 2023 Outlook for the Economy Report published by Hawaii's Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT): *The cost of living in Honolulu for a family of four is about \$7,980 a month, while a single adult will have to pay on average **\$2,457**. Housing in Honolulu will set the single adult back about \$1,331 a month, while food will cost around \$556.76 for the month.* The state pays a caregiver only **\$1324.80** per month, which is a little over 50% of what they deemed as an adult's cost of living. Yet, these population that the caregivers serve are also those that are in need of more care and attention.

One of our caregivers' main objectives is to provide a homely environment for our kupunas and disabled populations, where they can continue to thrive and have a dignified living condition. In order for our caregivers to achieve that objective, the state should consider that the cost of living of their clients is as much as the cost of living of any dignified person.

If HB2216 will be approved and passed, this will ensure the continuity of service from our caregivers, boost their morale, and help them catch up with the increasing cost of living in Hawaii.

It is for these reasons that I strongly support the HB2216 and respectfully request for it to be approved.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.

Sincerely,

  
Raymond Sebastian  
OFCC President

January 29, 2024

Chair, Representative Lisa Marten

Vice Chair, Terez Amato

And Members of the Committees

HB2216 Increase in State Supplemental Payments

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. I am CARINA OCAMPO, 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.

I'm in strong support for the increase in the cap on State Supplemental Payments for Adult Residential Care homes, Licensed Developmental Disabilities, Domiciliary Homes and Community Care Foster Family Homes.

Cost of Living in Hawaii is very expensive. All commodities went up during the pandemic and up to the present.



CARINA OCAMPO, President

UNITED COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE OF HAWAII

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:39:58 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 Sanchez	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.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:43:55 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>
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, caregiver and operator for my Adult Foster Home. I am supporting the Bill HB 2216. Because of the high cost of living expenses, high utilities and high cost of Rent.

It's a big help for me and to my family the increase we are requesting.

Respectfully yours,


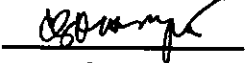



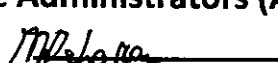
Carlito Camacho

Address: 1552 Kalaepaa Dr Honolulu, HI 96819

Contact: 808-381-9938

## 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**

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2216

**LATE**

Chair Lisa Marten and All Committees

My name is Thelma Ortal, a foster home operator of Thelma Ortal Adult Foster Home for over many years now. I dynamically support **HB2216** 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 many 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.

Thelma Ortal  
Thelma Ortal Adult Foster Home  
Ph: 808 389-1847

**LATE** **LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:35:28 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:

TO: CHAIR LISA MARTEN and ALL COMMITTEES.

IM ROMA ROBLES OWNER AND OPERATOR OF CCFFH. I\WE ARE HERE TO PLEASE HEAR US FOR OUR RAISE TO BE GRANT BY THE HELP OF OUR REPRESENTATIVE AND COMMITTEE.

WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TELL OR WRITE DOWN ALL OUR CONCERNS HOWEVER A \$40/DAY FOR A LEVEL 2 PATIENT SEEM LIKE NOTEVEN OR NOT FAIR FOR THE SERVICES WE RENDERS OR PROVIDE TO OUR KUPUNA. WE WORKING DAILY NOT TO MENTION 24HRS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK,OUR MENTAL,EMOTION AND PHYSICAL HEALTH ARE THE MOST WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE,AND RECIEVING A PAY LIKE THIS WONT REALLY HELP US TO PROVIDE WHAT WE DESERVEDLY.

WE ASKING TO PLEASE LOOK DOWN ON US AND DO A THOROUGHLY STUDY ON OUR SITUATIONS. WE ARE NOT GOING TO LOSS OUR HOPE FOR US TO BE HEARD.

THANK YOU AND MAY OUR LORD HELP THE REPRESENTATIVE AND COMMITTEE TO BE ABLE PUT THE BEST WAY OF THINKING ABOUT SMALL BUSINESS OPERATOR WHOM CARING FOR OUR KUPUNA MORE THAN TO MY/THEIR OWN FAMILIES.

ROMA M ROBLES

RECORDING SECRETARY OF AFHA

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:36:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Mangunay	AFHA	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,

I, Ashley Mangunay a caregiver and has been in the medical field for 12 years along with my mother and we are in full support of HB 2216. I think it's about time that we get acknowledge by our government in terms of pay increase and support. Everything has increased except for out needs. I think that we all deserve this and that is now.

mahalo,

Ashley Mangunay Foster Home

94-1041 Kaaholo St.

Waipahu, HI 96797

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



**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:08:46 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilson	Wilson Adult Foster Home	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,

I am Wilson Verdadero caregiver for over 19 years now. I am in support of HB 2215. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us all an increase because inflation is very high and the amount of money that we are receiving is not enough to support my family. Please accept this increase. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or email. Thank you and God Bless.

Sincerely,  
Wilson Verdadero

“Wilson Adult Foster Home”  
Phone: 808-670-5213  
Email: zenyv09@gmail.com

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 3:51:09 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>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support, especially given inflation.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 10:01:51 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 2216. 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

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 10:04:54 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:

I support this bill because we don't get paid enough. It's not enough to care for our kupuna. The prices for everything went up, utilities, food, and all necessities. 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 11:11:56 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:

Being a Foster Home Caregiver is not easy and living in this economy as well. High cost of living pushes us to the limit with the pay we're getting. It is not enough to support our families and clients needs. So please support this bill and pass it so we can serve the community better. Thank you.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 12:40:30 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 Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,

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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 2:57:56 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 this Hb2216

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 6:29:02 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>
Thelma Maglines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and to all

Committees:

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

TCMaglines Adult Foster Home

94-1192 Hina St

Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

8083049433



**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:28:53 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>
LIBERTY QUIROGA ALBANO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

\$49.16 per day for services rendered is not enough to pay for all the hard work I am doing at home with the ICF level clients. In addition, when I have to do some errands or just take a day off, I have to pay my substitute \$200.00 per day if 24hour, \$15 per hour if less than 24hours. Some subs are not satisfied for that amount. They want more than what I mentioned. That's the reason why it is hard to find subs because they want higher pay than what we CCFFH receive. With regards to board and lodging cost of \$1,515.90/month is also not enough for the cost of merchandise and food to provide what my clients like to eat, electricity, water, phone all went up but not the CCFFH pay. Praying that you will consider this agony of ours. Thank you very much for all the support you provide to us. God bless all of us.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:46:30 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>
Wilfred Ashley chang	ILWU International	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Marten and Human Services Committee,

My Name is Wilfred Chang, I am a representative of the ILWU International. I stand in strong support of HB2216. The timing to examine and increase the cap on state supplemental payment 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 is essential for the sustainability of these services.

Please give strong consideration on passing HB2216.

Respectfully,

Wilfred Chang

ILWU International Representative Hawaii

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 1:43:22 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>
Rowena Daligcon	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm Rowena Daligcon, I've been a Caregiver for 10 years and I strongly support the House Bill 2216 and HB 2215. Hoping and praying for the House of Representatives to please approve the Bills. Thank you so much.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 2:18:56 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 2:43:15 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 HB2216. 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

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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 3:41:03 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>
Elsie Grace Rasalan	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all committees;

I am Elsie Grace Rasalan,caregiver for 3 years.I am in support of HB2216,Due to inflation is high i am requesting to increase in order to support and continue this bussuness because the expenses has been increases and is not enough to support the needs of our family

Sincerely;

Elsie Grace Rasalan

Rasalan Foster Home

94-406 kahualena st waipahu,HI 96797

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 3:43:34 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>
Ludivina Eder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To The State Capitol Staff:

Relating to HB2216, This is Ludivina Eder Adult Foster Home. I am supporting this bill to ask for reasonable increase payments for client's State Supplemental Payments for the reason that everything has drastically increased, not only commodities but also mortgage we are still paying the house where we housed our clients. Insurance for the house, insurance for the business, payments for substitute caregivers like \$20. Is the ongoing hourly for home visit caregivers, gasoline prices has increased, automobile insurance, car maintenance, etc. Only sardines from Philippines (Ligo brand canned sardines)at Walmart I believe is affordable yet, but it's not clients choice for dish. Please help us give decent and quality life to our Kupunas.

Thank you for giving great attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ludivina Eder



**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 4:12:12 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>
Maria Belinda Keliiholokai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill for the reason that we, Caregivers deserve to get increase in our salaries due to the higher cost of commodities and lifestyle recently. This is to make our lives more enjoyable and meaningful as we work hand in hand with the government's pursuit of healthier elderly population.

Thank you & Aloha

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 5:13:53 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>
Imelda Pacris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

regarding HB2216, I'm Imelda Pacris Adult Foster Home. I am supporting HB2216. Life has been so difficult now a days due to drastic inflation. Prices has been drastically changed like mortgages increased, utilities and commodities went up almost double. The kupunas are also affected here. Could you pls visit our concerns to help increase the state Supplemental Payments for clients to give them a better happier quality of life. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Imelda Pacris

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 5:44:01 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:

January 28, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of bill b2261

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 a pay increase:

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

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

Cost of food, supplies gas and utilities are increasing every year

Thank you for your consideration

Mahalo,

Marie Garrido, Primary Care Giver

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 5:50:41 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:10:35 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>
sherill andres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To all of the committees of HB2216,thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony in support of HB2216

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:12:15 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 HB2216

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:52:35 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>
Maria Corazon E. Cariaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To all of the committee involved in this bill . Thank you so much for allowing me to submit my testimony for this HB2216.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:32:13 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 2216. I cannot continue

doing business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high ND 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:32:39 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	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Example:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Editha Acupido caregiver for 24 years. I am in 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,

Editha Acupido

Address: 94-728 Kalae St. Waipahu, HI 96797  
Cell# 808-542-5681

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:41:08 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>
Floriefte Agonias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,

Iam Floriefte Agonias, a caregiver for 5 yrs and Iam supporting HB 2216. I cannot continue my business if you will not give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our family.

Sincerely,

Floriefte Agonias

94-312 Paiwa st.

Waipahu,Hi.96797

8083917898

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:44:31 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>
Lolita Schimmel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Example:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Maribel Tan, caregiver for 24 years. I am in 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,

Lolita Schimmel  
Al & L CareHome LLC  
4496 Luapele Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

home: 808-488-9414

cel: 808-286-9827

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 9:47:16 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	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Ederlina Manzano caregiver for 13 years.

I am in support in 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,

Ederlina Manzano

Ederlina Manzano foster home

1707 Kamehameha Road

Honolulu Hawaii 96819

8083485410

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 11:00:51 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 am Sherir Joy Rafael, a caregiver and a single parent of 3 kids. I started this business last April 2023 due to my kids. I need to be home for them. This is my full time job and struggle a lot due to shortage of income. Fosterhome is allowed only 2 medicaid patients and the pay is only \$2,800.00/month. Need to pay rent for the house, pay bills and so on. Based on the figures the house rent took everything already because rent is really high. Therefore, I need to act on this situation asking your support for us. Through this bill, plenty families get help. Thank you



**Marylo Farinas**

*Dbas: CMC Kafamilya Adult Foster Home*

Re: **HB2216 – 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 **HB2216** 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

**REPRESENTATIVE LISA MARTEN**

(DIST) Weimanalo, Keolu Hills, Lanikai, portion of Kailua Hawaii

415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: 808-586-9450  
Fax: 808-586-9456

Dear Representative Lisa Marten and members of the committee,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the President of Providing Healthy Homecare for Hawaii- (PH3) and on behalf of all the dedicated caregivers we represent, I write to you today with a heartfelt plea for your support of HB2216, a critical bill that addresses the longstanding issue of fair compensation for caregivers.

Day after day, caregivers selflessly pour their hearts and souls into their work, providing compassionate care to those in need. They go above and beyond, often sacrificing their own well-being to ensure the well-being of others. Their unwavering dedication is a testament to their true calling and the tremendous love they have for their profession. Sadly, despite their invaluable contributions, caregivers are faced with significant financial hardships due to inadequate compensation.

These compassionate souls who provide essential support to vulnerable individuals and families find themselves struggling to make ends meet. They deserve better, and it is time for us to come together and take action.

HB2216 presents an opportunity to rectify this longstanding injustice. By advocating for an increase in caregiver pay, we can bring about positive change and ensure that caregivers receive the recognition and compensation they truly deserve. It is not only a matter of fairness but also a matter of preserving the integrity and sustainability of the caregiving industry.

Consider the impact that fair compensation would have on the lives of caregivers. It would alleviate the burden they face daily, allowing them to focus wholeheartedly on their noble calling without the constant worry of financial hardship. It would enable them to provide for their families, pursue professional growth, and dedicate themselves fully to the well-being of those they care for.

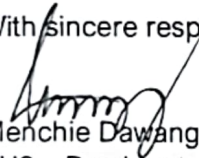
Furthermore, fair compensation for caregivers is an investment in the future. It will attract and retain highly skilled professionals, ensuring the continuity of care and safeguarding the well-being of our communities. By valuing caregivers and elevating their status, we foster an environment that encourages excellence and compassion, ultimately improving the quality of care for those who rely on our services.

I implore you to consider the profound impact your support for HB2216 can have on the lives of caregivers and the well-being of those they serve. Your empathy and understanding are crucial in bringing about change. By championing fair compensation, you demonstrate your commitment to justice, equity, and the recognition of the invaluable work performed by caregivers every day.

I kindly request your thoughtful consideration and urge you to support HB2216. Together, we can uplift the caregiving profession, inspire others to join this noble field, and create a society that truly values and supports those who dedicate their lives to caring for others.

Thank you for your time, compassion, and for considering the heartfelt plea of caregivers across our state.

With sincere respect,



Menchie Dawang  
PH3 – President  
8082284521

[menchie\\_dawang@yahoo.com](mailto:menchie_dawang@yahoo.com)



**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:56:25 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>
BERNADETTE FIRME	ILWU / AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO CHAIR LISA MARTEN AND ALL COMMITEES;

I AM ALSO IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL TO INCREASE THE CAP TYPE I ADULT ON STATE SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED ADULT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES, CERTIFIED ADULT FOSTER HOMES, TYPE II ADULT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES AND LICENSED DDDHOMES DUE TO INFLATION AND COST OF LIVING SO HIGH.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:17:30 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>
SONIA PAGDILAO	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respected Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,

I am Sonia Pagdilao and I've been here in Caregiving Industry for 15 years. In support of HB2216 I am asking your full support and consideration for our pay increase so taht we can continue to take care our kupunas and provide the best quality service for them. Cost of living is so expensive to the fact of having hard time to budget our pay so we need your full support for our pay increase. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:36:15 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>
Roselle Catamping	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Hi Chair,Lisa Manter and all Committee's

I am, Roselle Catamping Caregiver for 15yrs.a single mom. Iam in support of HB2216and I cannot continue doing my business if you will not give us any increase because of the inflation of all commodities and in Hawaii is too high and the money that we are receiving is not enough to support my family

Sincerely

Roselle Catamping (808)4997985

94-1041 Kaaholo St Waipahu Hi 96797

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:40:03 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>
Helen Sumoba Sapla	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chairman and committee members,

We are so lucky that we live in a beautiful state so can enjoy the tropical weather , the melting pot of different cultures and the aloha spirit that we all share with one another. However we live a state with one the highest cost of living. I strongly advocate for passage HB2216 to increase the cap of supplemental payments for all types of licensed care homes so we can spread more "Aloha Spirit "

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify . Hope to be passed with flying colors and "Aloha Spirit"

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:42:45 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>
Marianne M. Cacatain	Providing Healthy Homecare for Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approve and support bill, our kupuna's, and young disabled need the best care they need and we all give them the best care we possibly can. We too deserve to be treated with the right and fair and deserving pay. Please help us.. thank you

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:49:23 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>
Ruby Brister	Local 1000 Licensed caregivers	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:19:15 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>
princess	Afha	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committies:

I am in support of HB2216 , Please give us increase because inflation is high and the money we are recieving is not enough to support our families. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Princess C.

Pjc Foster Home/ 8084623483



**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:32:10 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>
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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:32:34 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 the caregivers.

Thank you for understanding.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:32:50 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>
Mary Ellayn Ortal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approved this bill to fair compensation for caregivers. Caregivers like us is selflessly pour hearts and souls into our work, providing compassionate care to those who in need. We go above and beyond often sacrificing our own well-being to ensure the well-being of our kupuna's. Please consider the impact that fair compensation would have on the lives of being caregiver. Thank you

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:36:23 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>
Estelita Batoon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Estelita Batoon, caregiver for 11 years. I am in support of HB2216. 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:44:52 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>
Arlene Agpalza	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  
Address:1740 Piikea Street Honolulu Hawaii  
Cell#808-5541384

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:49:26 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>
Reymalou Tagudin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Reymalou Tagudin, caregiver for 12 years is supporting HB 2216. 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

Honolulu Hawaii

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:53:50 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, i'm a ccffh operator	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: hello good day ma'am sir, i'm writting this testimony as a caregiver, it will be helpfull for us if you increase the amount they pay for us caregivers as we all know everything os expensive the payment we receive is not enough because everything is expensive now and we can not afford to buy sometimes. and also this is a 24 hour of care and we received only little amount. i hope you will help as specially in this times of hardship thankyou. many of my co caregivers is struggling too maam sir. thankyou for your understanding and support

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:04:48 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, Maui residents

Caregiver for 15 yrs. Pls help us increase our pay to support our family.

I'm supporting HB2216

Thank you

Marjory Bumatay- PCG



**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:21:36 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:

Chair Lisa Marten and all committees,

I am Epifania Tagaca foster home operator and caregiver for 5 years . I am in support with HB2216.

I can not 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,

Epifania Tagaca

Epifania Tagaca Foster home

94-715 kaaka street Waipahu Hi 96798

My name is Susan Quinabo, a licensed Adult Residential Care Home Operator for the passed 30 years, and the current President of ILWU Local 1000.

Licensed community care home operators across the state of Hawaii are compelled by your support to favor bill 2216 that will increase the pay for Medicaid recipients.

We are receiving \$41.06 per day for the past 16 years for a 24/7 workload with no pay increase to at least fit in with inflation.

This situation alone had prompted a lot of operators to close their doors to Medicaid patients and turn their business into private paying patients only.

With the imminent large numbers of elderly people in Hawai'i, with retirement accounts and significant assets are moderate, yet be in need of 24/7 care. A lot of these elderly and their families will look into having to compete for an open Medicaid bed or pay out of their pockets, ranging from \$5,000-\$12,000 monthly for private pay, of which is not affordable to the majority.

There is a strong need to keep our loving community care homes going. I strongly feel that Hawai'i should expand funding for a wide range of home and community based services through Medicaid and that the state should fund the services needed to meet individuals long term care services and support needs that allow these patients to remain in the community.

Lastly, thank you very much for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 2016.**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:50:18 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:

Madam Chair Lisa Marten and All Committees:

My name is Angelita Takahashi, community care foster family home operator,

We all caregivers are in support of HB 2016. We all work hard in our different fields of responsibilities and lines of work, and with all due respect with the inflation, if you don't increase our plea. We cannot continue doing this business. We caregivers are hurting Rent is high, cost of living is high. Pls. help us so we can continue our services to our kupuna/ohana.

Sincerely,

Angelita Takahashi

Community Care Foster Family Home

94-706 Kalae street Waipahu

808-202-4608

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:58:02 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>
Gloria G Cueco	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Comittees:

I am Gloria G Cueco, caregiver for 9 years. I am in support of HB 2216. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase because inflation is too high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

sincerely yours,

Gloria Cueco

Gloria G Cueco CCFFH

94-571 Kupuna Loop

Waipahu HI 96797

808-392-8587

# 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 HB2216** – 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 HB2216**, which increases the cap on state supplemental payments for certain Medicaid home and community-based services including community care foster family homes (CCFFHs).

For over 15 years, we have been coming before you in good faith asking for adjustments in our compensation rates because the cost of providing services to Medicaid clients have increased. No action has been taken.

Meanwhile, our operators most of whom are immigrants have borne the brunt of inflation and have been forced to make ends meet. Can you name me anything (food, gas, etc.) whose price has not changed in 15 years?

We provide around-the-clock care to the Medicaid population, who would otherwise be the state's responsibility, but the state has not been fair to those who provide the services. We are just expected to provide the same or even more services for the same rate for the last 15 years.

We are reaching our breaking point. As the population ages with the retirement of baby boomers, the demand for our services continues to increase. Many of our caregivers are baby boomers and may soon retire. What is the plan for our industry? What else can we do to get the state to help us? Lifting the cap on state supplemental payments is one place to start. Let's start somewhere. Be the leaders who recognize the value of the services we provide and do something.

Please SUPPORT HB 2216. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



Maribel Tan  
President

## 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.

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:43:55 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>
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, caregiver and operator for my Adult Foster Home. I am supporting the Bill HB 2216. Because of the high cost of living expenses, high utilities and high cost of Rent.

It's a big help for me and to my family the increase we are requesting.

Respectfully yours,

Carlito Camacho

Address: 1552 Kalaepaa Dr Honolulu, HI 96819

Contact: 808-381-9938

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:43:20 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>
Leticia Torricer	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Leticia Torricer CCFFH operator-caregiver. Caring 2 patients sometimes turning both medicaid is low pay, hard to survive with it yet we need to hire substitute paying \$25/hr during emergencies. Pls help us

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 2:58:46 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>
Melita Agpaoa	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM MELITA A AGPAOA, CAREGIVER OF 18 YEARS.I AM IN SUPPORT OF HB2216.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

94-458 OPEHA STREET

WAIPAHU HAWAII 96897

(808)630-1872



**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:07:54 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>
mari angelene d. maluyo	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm Mari Angelene D Maluyo and I am a Primary Care Giver of Angelene's Foster Carehome for 18 yrs and I am strongly support the HB2216 because if you will not give us increase ,I can't continue this business due of the inflation is high and the money that we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,

Mari Angelene D Maluyo PCG,CNA.

Angelene's Foster Carehome.

2215 Auhuhu St Pearl City Hawai'i 96782. Cp# (808)358-8820

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 3:25:09 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 2216. 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**

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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 4:48:45 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 2216. 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:00:45 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Nakahashi	Provider Helping Hands Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern. This statement is in my support for Bill HB2216. The reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers in Hawai'i is far behind what is necessary for providing adequate 24 hour care for our aging/medically fragile residents of this state. This bill introduces an increase in rates, however, even this is far behind what is needed to keep pace with many factors that affect providing healthcare in Hawai'i. Other states reimburse a far greater range of benefits for it's Medicaid population which the State of Hawai'i does not cover. States such as Oregon, California, and Washinton, have far larger reimbursement rates for similar providers, and the cost of living and day to day expenses are proportionally significantly less.

My simple statement is this:

The current monthly reimbursement rates for a level 2 CCFFH resident in Hawai'i is roughly \$2839. This is for an ICF level of care resident that requires maximum assistance with ADLs and may also include psych/behavior issues. The current monthly reimbursement rate for CCFFH level 1 is roughly \$2311. This reimbursement covers room and board, service fees for providing all necessary care 24 hours a day 7 days a week, food/nutrionally needs, toiletries, utilities, and substitute caregivers when the CCFFH operator takes time off. I challenge anyone in the legislature to take on such a level of responsibility and call this amount of compensation 'adequate' or 'fair'.

**This BILL IS FAR FROM ADEQUATE and is a pittance for caregivers in Hawai'i** that sacrifice much in their personal and professional lives in provide the care they are so passionate about and that is needed by a large number of Hawai'i's residents. And this population in need is growing every day. Introduction of this is bill far overdue.

Thank you for your time,

Marian Nakahashi

Marian's Carehome

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:58:33 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we support our association we needed the increase for all our co healthcare providers.

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:05:42 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 the Committees:

I am Natividad M. Cabacungan, I worked for a state hospital for more than 30 years and i was retired. I opened my Foster Home 3 years ago to supplement my income. I am in support of HB 2216. I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us the increase because inflation is so 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:13:26 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:

Honorable Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and all the 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 increase annually so as to be operationally sustainable for the long term.

Please support this bill to ensure the future existence of home and community based care services. Friends and loved ones may well depend on these services years. Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Mathew Yamamoto

**LATE**

**LATE**

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

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees:

I am Leticia Dagulo, caregiver for 20 years. I am in support for HB 2216.

I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase

because of high inflation. The payment for services we are receiving for our Medicaid Client is not enough to support our families.

Sincerely,



Leticia Dagulo

95-528 Wailoa Loop

Mililani, HI 96789

Cell # 808-383-9106

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 7:46:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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 HB2216. 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:47:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmelita Macalutas	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am Carmelia Macalutas a caregiver and I support i support HB 2216. 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:59:02 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Femelyne Castro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees;

I am Femelyne Castro, a Primary Caregiver, same as the other caregiver's, I am in support of HB 2216. I am knocking everyone in the senate to please increase our per hour rate. Because of high inflation, the money that we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Femelyne Castro

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:19:43 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 \$20 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 got 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 - \$40 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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:31:52 PM  
Testimony for HUS on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juanita Ulep	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair- Lisa Marten

Members of the committee

Legislative 2024

I am in support of HB 2216 relating to care homes, CCFFH, ARCH, ODDOM, Adult FosterHomes, Department of Human Services. State supplemental payments.

My name is Juanita Ulep, Type 1 ARCH care giver trustee of ILWU Local 1000. Me and my fellow caregivers, have the same sentiment how we are being treated for the last fifteen (15) years. During this time of the year we come to testify verbally and others send testimony by mail, and we believed and trust every law maker to listen and address our problem. We don't know what more to say or do for you as law maker to see our situation. Tired of wating for your promises, all we want is fair and lawful justice, but instead your power had prevailed to our cost.

Taking the responsibility of caring a physically and mentally sick person for twenty-four (24 hours a day, seven days a week) A week is overwhelming, as a caregiver we are deicated and put in a lot of sacrifice and the quality of care we mixture of love, patience, and understanding.

Thank you for conidering to pass this bill.

Respectfully yours,

Juanita Ulep

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-2216**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:37:29 AM

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

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

Comments:

I am in full support of HB2216.

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-2216**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:48:29 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>
Cherille Balagat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We deserve the right pay