



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

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E-mail: info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org Website: www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2008 SESSION

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Gary L. Smith, President
Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Re: House Bill 2062, HD1, SD1
Relating to Long Term Care

Hearing: Friday, March 28, 2008 9:30 AM
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting House Bill 2062, HD1, SD1, Relating to Long Term Care.

I am Gary L. Smith, President of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii (P&A). As you may know, we are the agency mandated by federal law and designated by Executive Order to protect and advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of Hawaii's estimated 180,000 people with disabilities.

We support this bill because it offers excellent potential to secure the placement of individuals in community settings. The legislature has seen many examples in the past year or two of the long waitlist for community housing experienced by patients in acute facilities. In addition, a briefing was recently provided by the Healthcare Association on the problems of placing "challenging" patients into community settings. One of the barriers identified has been the low cost of Medicaid reimbursement for these individuals. At the same time, Medicaid payments are made to facilities far in excess of what might otherwise be paid to these home and community based settings. Providing flexibility to the Department and the ability to transfer these Medicaid funds to pay more for the care of such individuals should greatly help to facilitate their community placements.

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





CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2062 HD1 SD2

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

March 28, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol

Conference Rm. 211

Report Title: Long-term Care; Medicaid; Transfer of Funds

Description: Allows persons eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long-term care.
(HB2062 HD1 SD2)

To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Margarita Hopkins, President
Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D., Executive Vice President
Congress of Visayan Organizations

Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair; Honorable Les Ihara, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Senate Human Services and Public Housing Committee:

My name is Margarita Hopkins, President of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, a statewide umbrella organization representing 22 unit organizations of Visayan ancestry.

On behalf of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, we submit strong support of this bill. We uphold the ability of eligible persons who receive Medicaid funds to be cared for at home with relatives, or with a community-based long-term care residential care provider. We believe that people should have a choice and the means afforded to them through Medicaid, to seek alternative care from a nursing home institution.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please consider voting yes to this bill.

Sincerely,

For the President:

Serafin Colmenares Jr.
Executive Vice President



Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701
E-mail: namihonolulu@yahoo.com

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Oscar Querido, RN

Violeta Sadural, RN, BSN

Tina Salvador, RN, BSN, CNN

Linnette Takenaka, RN, DON

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2062 HD1 SD2

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

March 28, 2008 · 9:30 a.m. · Hawai'i State Capitol · Rm. 211

Report Title: Long-term Care; Medicaid; Transfer of Funds

Description: Allows persons eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long-term care. (HB2062 HD1 SD2)

To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI
(Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.)

My name is Beatrice Ramos Razon. I am speaking as the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing, Advocates & Mentors, Inc.). NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 nurses, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawaii's people by addressing the global issues of a worldwide nursing shortage through the training and mentoring of foreign medical graduate nurses to pass Hawaii's nurses board exams.

NAMI is in full support of this bill and all of its provisions to give patients in nursing homes the assurance that their Medicaid funds will be available to care for their needs if they have an opportunity to be cared for in a home atmosphere with family caregivers or with a residential care provider. Viable alternatives to care with the necessary funds will ease the shortage of long term care beds, and provide family caregivers support to care for their elderly relatives.

We are grateful that your committee is hearing this bill, and respectfully ask for your support to enact it.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos Razon, RN, FACDA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2062 HD1 SD2
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

March 28, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 211

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Description: Allows persons eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long-term care. (HB2062 HD1 SD2)

To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair & Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I strongly support this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

The Filipino American Citizens League strongly supports all the provisions outlined in this bill. Hawai'i's care provider industry, which is comprised largely of Filipinos, contribute significantly to easing the bed shortage and quality care needed for the growing population of elderly who need residential, long term care services. Our Filipino community is highly committed to ensure that Hawai'i's frail population is cared for. At the same time, family members should have financial support so they can have the choice to care for relatives requiring long term care. This bill will build the capacity for two important long term care alternatives to nursing home facilities. Please support these community empowering options for eligible nursing home patients.

Thank you very much for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to submit our strong support. Please vote yes to its passage.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
Carehome Administrators
Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
Foundation, Inc.
Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
Annac ti Batac
Annac ti Caoayan 2002
Annac ti Kailokuan iti
America
Annac ti Sinaiti iti Hawaii
Asingan Organization of
Hawaii
Badoc-Pinili Aid
Association of Hawaii
Banna Association of
Hawaii
Bannatiran Association of
Hawaii
Batangas Association of
Hawaii
Bulacan Circle of Hawaii
Caballeros de Dimasalang
Cabugao Sons & Daughters
of Hawaii
Candonians of Hawaii
Caoayan ISAH
Cavitenians of Hawaii
Dingras Association of
Hawaii
Divine Word College
Alumni Association
FilAm Sports USA
Fil American Citizens
League
Filipino Business Women's
Club
Filipino Nurses Organization
of Hawaii
Filipino Women's Civic
Club
GUMIL Hawaii
GUMIL Oahu
Hawaii Filipino Women's
Club
Hawaii Council of Bilingual
Educators
ILAH
Ilocos Norteniens of
America
INCAT Alumni Association
of Hawaii
International Filipino
Society of Hawaii
Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.
La Union Circle of
Hawaii
Lingayen Gulf Club of
Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2062 HD1 SD2

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

March 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Rm. 211

Description: Allows persons eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long-term care. (HB2062 HD1 SD2)

To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Franklin Borromeo, President
Oahu Filipino Community Council

My name is Franklin Borromeo, president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization comprised of sixty-two members (62) that represent a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

The Oahu Filipino Community Council strongly supports this bill to transfer Medicaid funds in order for qualified nursing home patients to have the option to be cared for by family members at home, or to be cared for by residential care provider in the community. Choice, cost savings, and quality of life are significant benefits that Hawai'i's people and your constituents who are dealing with the shortage of affordable long term care can be offered with the passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Please consider voting yes.

Sincerely,

Franklin Borromeo
President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of
Hawaii
Narvacan/San Antonio Club of
Hawaii
Nueva Vizcaya Association of
Hawaii
Pasuquinos Association of
Hawaii
Philippine Cultural Foundation
Philippine Nurses
Association of Hawaii
Pidig Association of Hawaii
Sanchez Mira Association of
Hawaii
San Manuel Pangasinan
Association of Hawaii
San Nicolaneos USA
San Nicolas Goodwill
Foundation
San Nicolas Teachers of
Hawaii
Santa Lucia Association of
Hawaii
Sarrat Association of Hawaii
Sarrat International Inc.
Sinait Nt. High School Alumni
of Hawaii
Solsona of Hawaii
Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii
TPCP
Kalibi Ballroom, Inc.
Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii
Samar Leyte Association of
Hawaii
Sampaguaita/Sunflower Club of
Hawaii
San Juan Association of
Hawaii
San Nicolas Nat. High
Santa Marians of Hawaii
School Alumni
Santa Nicolas Nat. High
School Bingao Annex
Tagalog Association of Oahu
United Bacarreneos of Hawaii
United Group of Home
Operators
United Pangasinan of Hawaii
United Urdaneta Club of
Hawaii
United Vintarinians of Hawaii
Vigan Association of Hawaii

2007-2008 OFCC OFFICERS & BOARD President: Franklin Borromeo | 1st Vice President: Cirvalina Longboy | 2nd Vice President: Carlotta Ader Secretary: Jean Jeremiah | Assistant Secretary: Veronica Esteban | Treasurer: Faye Cudal | Assistant Treasurer: Dolly Ortal | Auditor: Mario Palma | Board of Directors: • Aurea Agas • Filemon Castillo • Maria Etrata • Louie Funtanilla • Jake Manegdeg • Estrella Pada-Taong • Danny Villaruz • Amado Yorol Legal Counsel: Alfredo Evangelista

Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

A HAWAII RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP • FOUNDED IN 1990

c/o 728 Nunu St. • Kailua, HI 96734 • <http://www.philippinesonline.org/thecoalition/>

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2062 HD1 SD2

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

March 28, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol
Conference Rm. 211

Report Title: Long-term Care; Medicaid; Transfer of Funds

Description: Allows persons eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long-term care. (HB2062 HD1 SD2)

To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

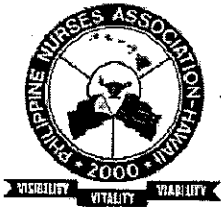
My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I am submitting testimony in strong support of this bill. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

This bill is important for two reasons. First of all, the proposed transfer of Medicaid funds for eligible nursing home patients, will provide much needed financial support to family members. The ability to care for one's frail relatives at home, then, will become a viable option. Secondly, residential care providers are positioned to offer qualified nursing home patients with an alternative to an institutional life style in a nursing home facility, thereby broadening continuum of care and quality of life options. The transfer of Medicaid funds is key.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. Your help in its passage can foster the family-oriented benefits of long term care at home or in a residential care provider setting.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma
President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



Tessie Oculito, RN, President, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii (PNAH)
92-1269 Umana Street. Kapolei, HI 96707

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2062 HD1 SD2

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

March 28, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol

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To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Tessie Oculito, President, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii

My name is Tessie Oculito. I am the president of the Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii (PNAH). As a national affiliate of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, our shared mission is to uphold and foster the positive image and welfare of our constituent members; to promote professional excellence and contribute to significant outcomes to healthcare and society. Our vision is to be an organization responsive to its constituent needs, and to be a force in the world arena of nursing.

I am providing strong support of this bill, which allows persons eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long-term care. In the long run, there will be a return of investment in family and community-based long term care. This support will also go a long way to ameliorate the burnout of caregivers, who strive for and maintain quality standards of care with increasing out of pocket expenses. The cost of living has not kept up with the demands of caregiving.

We appreciate your help in its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Tessie Oculito, RN
President, Philippine Nurses Association-Hawaii



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2062 HD1 SD2

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

March 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m., Hawai'i State Capitol. Conference Rm. 211

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To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members
From: Amy Agbayani, Assistant Vice Chair
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII

My name is Amy Agbayani. NaFFAA Region XII is in strong support of this bill. I serve as Assistant Vice Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA Region XII supports the ability of eligible individuals to transfer their Medicaid funds from a nursing home facility to their selected mode of care into a home setting either with family or with a residential care provider. This not only supports their quality of life, but also frees up bed space in long term care nursing facilities for other patients.

Please support this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region XII



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2062 HD1 SD2

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE
March 28, 2008

9:30 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol
Conference Rm. 211

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Report Title: Long-term Care; Medicaid; Transfer of Funds
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To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Don Alvarez, Immediate Past President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

The United Filipino Council of Hawaii (the Council) strongly supports this bill. Founded in 1959 to help Filipinos in Hawaii play a larger role in the State of Hawaii, the mission of the Council is to promote a sense of unity, friendship, camaraderie and mutual assistance among Filipinos in Hawaii while promoting and perpetuating the Filipino heritage and culture. Today, the Council consists of six Island Councils with jurisdiction over 100+ Filipino organizations and a combined membership of about 10,000 from every major island in the State.

As you know, Filipinos constitute an overwhelming majority of domestic care givers who receive social service payments through contracts with the Department of Human Services to provide such care. We support this measure, which enables the transfer of an individual's Medicaid funds from the nursing home to a home-based or care home-based setting. This will enable eligible individuals to have a choice in their long term care options. Alternative care in a community-based family setting rather than in an institution can not only improve a person's quality of life, but also open up institutional beds for patients with more serious medical needs.

Thank you very much for hearing this important bill and for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please vote yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Alvarez, UFCH Immediate Past President

*2006-07
**2007-08

HAWAII COALITION OF CAREGIVERS

P.O. Box 2441, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

March 17, 2008

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*The Primary Care
Providers*

Myriam Tabaniag

President
*Alliance of Residential Care
Administrators*

Esther Pascual

President
*United Group of Home
Operators*

Lani Akee

President
*Adult Foster Home
Association of Hawaii*

Fred Dagdag

*Alliance of Residential Care
Administrators - Maui
Chapter*

Myriam Guerrero

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*Alliance of Residential Care
Administrators - Big Island
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Association of Hawaii - Big
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*Alliance of Residential Care
Administrators - Kauai
Chapter*

Mila Medallon

Advisor

Bryan P. Andaya

Advisor

Testimony in **Strong Support** of **HB 2062** – WAM – Mar. 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m., Rm. 211

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (HCCG) hereby submits **strong testimony in support of HB 2062** attempting to facilitate the transfer of medicaid funds from nursing and other long-term care facilities to operators of home and community based programs.

HCCG believes this bill would facilitate the efficient transfer of residents into home and community based settings that are appropriate for the level of care required by residents. Currently, although many HCCG members have available bed space, placements for some appear hard-to-come by because of red tape associated in the placement of residents. The State must do more to facilitate the placement process so that placements are done on a timely basis and are appropriate based on levels of care.

Ironically, while the businesses of HCCG suffer because of vacant beds, patients who should be in home and community based settings take up much needed acute care beds in hospitals or in facilities. These inappropriate placements lead to the waste of precious Medicaid money. While the reimbursement rate for Type I Adult Residential Care Homes is currently approximately \$1,200 per month, nursing home rates start at \$7,000 per month. In some instances, our *kupuna* are sent to the mainland because of the shortage of appropriate care facilities.

We believe home and community based programs comprise an important element in the state's long-term care delivery system. Home and community settings not only save the state money but also allows the residents to be maintain their independence and dignity.

Case managers and other officials who refer or place residents into homes in the various programs should also be encouraged to place residents appropriately and timely. Although placements should be based on the level of care needed, placements are made with the idea of minimizing "red tape", which ultimately leads to improper and delayed placements and a misuse or waste of Medicaid resources.

For these reasons, HCCG reiterates its **strong support of HB 2062** attempting to facilitate the referral of residents to appropriate home and community based settings.

Very truly yours,
The Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (HCCG)

By: _____
Bryan P. Andaya

Benny & Mila Castro
1631-A Oahu St
Honolulu, HI 96819

Report Title: Long term Care, Medicaid: Transfer of Funds
Re; HB 2062 HD1 SD2

To; Honorable Sen Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen Shan Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Ways & Means Committee Members

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband & I are caregivers thru Adult Foster Home Association and we strongly support this measure, which enables the transfer of an individual's Medicaid funds from the nursing home to a home based setting. Will enact eligible individuals to choose in their long term care. Alternative care in a community based family setting can improve a person's quality of life by living in a home and family setting. Aging with sickness and pain looking at familiar faces, place values and loves one's can provide more comfort knowing they are around you. Caregiver's ratio in one to three or five patient.

YES, my husband & I strongly support this bill.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Milagros L. Castro
Adult Foster Home Association

testimony

From: Sen. Roz Baker
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 12:26 PM
To: HSapla@aol.com
Subject: RE: Testimony for (HB2062 HD1 SD2)

If you want this entered into the official record you need to send it to testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov and designate for the March 28 9:30 AM WAM hrg. Sending it to the committee will not ensure that it is included. Pls note the information on the hearing notice. Mahalo, Roz

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
 Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee
 District 5 -- South and West Maui

From: HSapla@aol.com [mailto:HSapla@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 6:57 AM
To: Sen. Roz Baker; Sen. Shan Tsutsui
Cc: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Gary Hooser; Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye; Sen. Donna Mercado Kim; Sen. Ron Menor; Sen. Fred Hemmings; Sen. Paul Whalen; sen@aol.com; milamedallon@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for (HB2062 HD1 SD2)

**SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
 RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE**

**March 28, 2008
 9:30 a.m.
 Hawai'i State Capitol
 Conference Rm. 211**

Report Title: Long-term Care; Medicaid; Transfer of Funds

Description: Allows persons eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long-term care. (HB2062 HD1 SD2)

**To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
 Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice-Chair
 Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee Members**

From: Hawaii Coalition of Caregivers (AFHA and ARCH), Big Island Chapter

We strongly support this measure, which enables the transfer of an individual's Medicaid funds from the nursing home to a home-based setting. This will enable eligible individuals to have a choice in their long term care. Alternative care in a community-based family setting can improve a person's quality of life by maintaining the sense of belonging in the home and community. Aging with sickness and pain surrounded by familiar place, familiar people, familiar values and love ones (family togetherness) can provide more comfort knowing they

are around you. Caregiver's ratio in one to three or five patient.

Thank you very much for supporting this important bill and for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,
Danny Marcos, Adult Foster Home President, Big Island Chapter

Create a Home Theater Like the Pros. [Watch the video on AOL Home.](#)

3/26/08

To: Senate Ways & Means Committee
 Relating to Long-Term Care
 FAX: 586-6659

FROM: MELODY PELEGREN
 2008 ULANA ST
 HONOLULU, HI 96819
 (808) 843-1719

TO: HONORABLE SEN. ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
 HONORABLE SEN. SHAN S. TSUTSUI, VICE CHAIR
 HONORABLE SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We strongly support this bill (HB2062 HD1 SD2) to enable the transfer of an individual's Medicaid funds from the nursing home to a home-based setting. This will enable eligible individuals to have a choice in their long term care. Alternative care in a community-based family setting can improve a person's quality of life by maintaining the sense of belonging in the home and community. They can feel the family togetherness, love and care. And provide more comfort knowing they are around you.

Thank you very much for supporting this important bill and we vote YES for this bill.

3/26/08

To: Senate Ways + Means Committee
 Relating to Long-Term Care
 FAX: 586-6659

FROM: JOSEPHINE B. (JOJO) DOMINGO-AFHA
 91823 MONETA PL
 EWA BEACH, HI. 96706
 (808)-689-7145

To whom it may concern:

We strongly support this bill (HB2062 HD1 502) to enable the transfer of an individual's Medicaid funds from the nursing home to a home-based setting. This will enable eligible individuals to have a choice in their long term care.

Alternative care in a community-based family setting can improve a person's quality of life by maintaining the sense of belonging in the home and community. They can feel the family togetherness, love and care. And provide more comfort knowing they are around you.

Thank you very much for supporting this important bill and we vote YES for this bill.

Sincerely,
 Mrs. Josephine (Jojo) Domingo
 AFHA - Executive Board

testimony

From: Abundia Tagaro [n_tagaro58@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 7:32 AM
To: testimony
Subject: HB2062;HD1SD2-Long-Term; Medicaid;Transfer of Funds

To: Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Sen. Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Honorable Senate Ways and Means Committee

Description: Allows persons eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long term care.

We strongly support this measure, which enables the transfer of an individual's medicaid funds from the nursing home to a home-based setting. This will enable eligible individuals to have a choice in their long term care.

Alternative care in a community-based family setting is composed of caregivers who are loving, able, making aging people their top priority in tending care. It can improve a person's quality of life by providing a sense of hope by connecting them in the home and community. It can establish a solid network of family and friends and to give everything it can possibly give to provide more comfort, love and care.

Thank you very much for supporting this bill and for the opportunity to provide this testimony. We vote YES for this bill.

Sincerely,

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Conference Room 211
March 28, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

Testimony supporting the intent of HB 2062 HD 1 SD 1.

I am Coral Andrews, Vice President of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony supporting the intent of HB 2062 HD 1 SD 1, which allows persons who are eligible to receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long term care.

Our research on SCR 198 pertaining to waitlisted patients has demonstrated that there are medically complex patients who, because of their medical and/or social needs are not easily placed outside of acute care facilities.

As we continue to make progress on the waitlisted patient issue and based on research across other states, we believe that a global budget where institutional and home- and community-based dollars are rolled together, would accomplish a similar objective to support the intent of the bill while allowing flexibility in spending based on the consumer's medical and social needs.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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March 28, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2062, H.D.1, S.D.1 - RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE

Hearing: Friday, March 28, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2062, H.D.1, S.D. 1 is to allow eligible persons who receive Medicaid funds for care at nursing home facilities to remain at home and receive home and community-based long-term care.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to allow individuals in Medicaid institutionalized settings to receive home and community-based long-term services. However, this bill is not necessary and, worse, may create ambiguity with the Department's other mandates and incentives to increase opportunities for home and community-based services.

DHS has already applied for and received approval, effective February 1, 2008, from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for an extension and expansion of the Federal 1115

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QUEST Medicaid Waiver, that includes QUEST Expanded Access (QExA). The Federal CMS approval for QExA schedules health plan services to start on November 1, 2008.

The QExA program will serve as the vehicle to allow DHS to accelerate achieving the purpose of this bill by providing a comprehensive and integrated continuum of care including acute, primary and preventive care as well as expanding home and community-based services (HCBS) for Medicaid clients who are 65 years or older and/or disabled. The QExA program contains specific mandates and financial incentives and sanctions (see below) on the QExA health plans to increase home and community-based services.

In the recent Request for Proposals for QExA that DHS issued on October 10, 2007, in section 30.120, DHS stated:

"the goals of QUEST Expanded Access (QExA) program are to:

- Improve the health status of the member population; ...
- Expand and strengthen a sense of member responsibility and promote independence and choice among members;
- Assure access to high quality, cost-effective care that is provided, whenever possible, in a member's home and/or community;...
- Develop a program that is fiscally predictable, stable and sustainable over time; "

The goals of the QExA RFP are consistent with the stated purpose of H.B. 2062, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, allowing an individual to have the choice to relocate to the community and that the costs for home and community-based services be fiscally responsible.

QExA is scheduled to begin serving clients in a managed care health system on November 1, 2008.

Further, language from the Federally approved 1115 Medicaid Waiver states for QExA:

- o "The ultimate objective of the QExA Demonstration is that QExA beneficiaries meeting an institutional level of care shall have a choice of institutional services or HCBS."
- o "... if the estimated costs of providing necessary HCBS to the beneficiary are less than the estimated costs of providing necessary care in an institutional (hospital or nursing facility), the plan must provide the HCBS to an individual who so chooses,..."

The language from the RFP for QExA requires that:

- o The health plans ensure that services are provided in a manner that facilitates maximum community placement (RFP Section 40.710)
- o The health plan shall expand provision of HCBS annually to the following thresholds:
 - For SFY 2009 (the first eight (8) months of implementation), the health plan shall provide services to all members on the State's HCBS waiting list(s), if applicable;
 - For SFY 2010 and thereafter, the health plan shall increase the number of members receiving HCBS by 5% above the number of members receiving HCBS in the previous SFY AND all members placed on the waiting list must be taken off the waiting list and provided appropriate HCBS; (RFP Section 40.750.5)
 - Additionally, Section 60.120.2 provides financial incentives for health plans that meet or exceed these targets and sanctions for failure to meet the annual threshold.
- o For SFY 2009, the health plan shall collaborate with hospitals and nursing facilities to ensure that members with high acuity levels meeting NF LOC are transitioned from a hospital to a nursing facility and/or HCBS environment in a timely manner. (RFP Section 60.120.4)

Additionally, DHS has several current programs that are allowing it to achieve the goals of H.B. 2062, H.D.1, S.D. 1 now.

Since July 2003, the "Going Home" program has enabled over 834 "waitlisted" individuals requiring intermediate and skilled nursing care to relocate from acute hospital settings statewide to alternative residential care in Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFHs), Expanded Adult Residential Care Homes (E-ARCHs), or their own home, with care in home-like settings rather than institutions.

An increase in CCFFH beds has expanded the availability of home and community-based services. Since September 2005, statewide, there has been a 35% increase in CCFFHs. On the Neighbor Islands, where we have focused unprecedented recruitment efforts, the increase was 64%.

Additionally, the Department was recently awarded Federal funding from CMS to implement the "Going Home Plus" project. This program assists clients who are living in nursing facilities, acute care hospitals, or ICF/MR facilities to move into the community. This project will expand the "Going Home" program by further assisting individuals in securing housing as well as providing other supports. This program will begin the transfer process for participants in August 2008. Currently, a broad-based group of community stakeholders is meeting as part of "Going Home Plus" to determine if there are further barriers that need to be resolved ensuring availability of home and community-based long-term care services to all Medicaid participants who want them.

DHS has also operated several 1915(c) Medicaid Waivers that allow nursing home level of care clients to receive their care in their home or in the community. These include the Nursing Home Without Walls Program, the Residential Alternatives Community Care Program, the HIV/AIDS Community Care Program, the Medically Fragile Community Care Program, and the Developmental Disabilities/Mental Retardation Program.

In conclusion, although the Department appreciates the intent of this bill to allow individuals in Medicaid institutionalized settings to receive home and community-based long-term care services, this bill is not necessary and, worse, may create ambiguity for the QExA program's mandates and incentives to increase opportunities for home and community-based care.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.