

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 2, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB1477 – RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES.**

Hearing: February 4, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill with suggested amendments and provides comments.

PURPOSE: Clarifies that the monthly needs allowance afforded to individuals living in certain long-term care facilities is not intended to replace or affect funds received as a state supplemental payment for domiciliary care and shall be supplemental to any funds provided to a recipient as a state supplemental payment for domiciliary care. Appropriate funds.

DHS supports the proposed \$45 care rate increase. The current program ID HMS 605 does not require an appropriation to meet the increase. Consequently, the appropriation in Section 4 is not necessary at this time and may be deleted.

DHS requests amendments in Section 2 to remove the added phrase "Beginning October 1, 2025, for" that appears on page 2, line 15, and page 3, line 3. The beginning dates were removed last session to reduce the number of things to amend in the future. Instead, we ask the measure to become effective as of October 1, 2025, to give the Social Security Administration time to implement the increase.

DHS supports the added clarifying language in Section 2, amending section 346-53(c), HRS, that better informs the community that the state supplemental payment includes both the care rate and needs allowance.

DHS also agrees with the reference in Section 3, which adds to section 346D-4.5, HRS, "as authorized by section 364-53(c)(1) and (2)," which should clarify that sections 346-53(c) and 346D-4.5, are linked.

As background, Hawaii's State Supplemental Program (SSP) is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and is included in the *single* payment made each month by SSA that includes both the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and SSP; the payment combines both the federal and state benefits. Thus, it is essential to address the needs allowance and/or domiciliary care rates of section 346-53, HRS, and section 346D-4.5, HRS, in unison, as both are connected through the SSP.

As noted above, we request that the effective date in Section 6 be amended to "on or about October 1, 2025," to give the SSA enough time to make necessary adjustments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and proposed amendments to this measure.

HB-1477

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:14:32 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/4/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, SUPPORT HB1477.