



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 4, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill 1974 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Social Services

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 1974 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Social Services.

The bill increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals living in certain long-term care facilities from \$50 to \$75. Clarifies that the needs allowance is not intended to replace or affect funds received from the federal Supplemental Security Income Program. Requires certain long term care facility operators to pay for generic toiletries, linens, and meals and snacks. Clarifies the individuals who are eligible to receive the needs allowance.

The monthly needs allowance allows individuals residing in adult foster homes, adult residential care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long term care facilities to purchase necessary items. DCAB notes the amount has not been adjusted in 16 years, which suggests that an increase is warranted. The increase is warranted because of inflation.

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
April 04, 2024

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1974 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1974 HD1 SD1**, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals living in certain long-term care facilities from \$50 to \$75. Clarifies that the needs allowance is not intended to replace or affect funds received from the federal Supplemental Security Income Program. Requires certain long-term care facility operators to pay for generic toiletries, linens, and meals and snacks. Clarifies the individuals who are eligible to receive the needs allowance.

The last personal needs allowance increase was enacted in 2007 to \$50. HB1974 HD1 SD1 will amend Section 346-53 of Hawaii Revised Statutes, subsection (c) to reflect the substantial rise in inflation. Increasing the personal needs allowance (PNA) is essential to compensate for the rising cost of goods and services. PNA funds exist to allow individuals living in licensed or certified homes to make personal purchases of goods or services. These personal purchases increase and enable self-determination and personal choice by individuals over their own lives. Increasing the PNA allows individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in these home settings more opportunities to participate in social events and items to improve their quality of life. The PNA enables people in long-term care to have increased autonomy and dignity. Having control over this allowance empowers our population of individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in acts of self-determination and money management skills and increases their abilities in decision-making processes.

The Council wants to highlight and appreciates that this measure clarifies which items long-term care homes must provide for their residents (page 4, lines 3-9). We cannot state enough the need for an increase in PNA to allow individuals living in these settings more opportunities to participate in our communities. Our state is dedicated to maintaining the most integrated community settings for individuals receiving long-term care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in strong support of HB1974 HD1 SD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

April 2, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1974 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES.**

Hearing: April 4, 2024, 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill as long as the program's existing base budget appropriation (HMS 605) remains the same and is not reduced.

PURPOSE: This bill increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals living in certain long-term care facilities from \$50 to \$75. Clarifies that the needs allowance is not intended to replace or affect funds received from the federal Supplemental Security Income Program. Requires certain long-term care facility operators to pay for generic toiletries, linens, and meals and snacks. Clarifies the individuals who are eligible to receive the needs allowance. Takes effect 10/1/2024. (SD1)

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

- (1) Deleting language that would have required operators to maintain records regarding how money from the personal needs allowance was spent; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussions.

The Committee on Health and Human Services (SD1) amended the measure by:

April 3, 2024

Page 2

- (1) Deleting language that would have required the Department of Human Services to perform an annual review of the monthly needs allowance and submit a report to the Legislature;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of October 1, 2024; and
- (3) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose.

DHS appreciates the SD1 amendments. The Social Security Administration (SSA) advised that it could implement the new rates with 120 days' notice before the effective month.

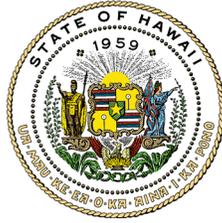
Ideally, if the measure passed and the bill is enrolled and signed before June 3, 2024, which is 120 days before October 1, 2024, the new rates would become effective as intended.

The State Supplemental Payment (SSP) is a federal program under the SSA and administrated by DHS. Per the agreement between SSA and DHS, as the required maintenance of effort (MOE) by the State, the State provides state funding to maintain the federal funding provided by the SSA for this type of supplemental payment. The MOE is a nondiscretionary fund that is determined by the SSA, which means it cannot be used for any other purpose but for this program and the amount cannot be changed without the authorization of the SSA. Any diversion from the amount and use of the MOE funding may result in monetary sanctions from the federal government and possible suspension of Medicaid funds. The current MOE amount appropriated is sufficient to pay for the increase proposed.

Please note that the Social Services Division, Adult Protective and Community Services Branch, administers the State Supplemental Program, which is budgeted under program ID HMS 605. The proposed increases do not require additional appropriations to HMS 605.

HB1974 HD1 SD1 is similar to HB 2216 HD2 SD1, which proposes increasing the monthly State Supplemental Payments (SSP); however, HB 2216 HD2 SD1 does not include an increase to the monthly PNA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

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LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1974 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATOR SHARON Y. MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:15 A.M., Conference Room 211

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health
- 2 (DOH) **supports** this measure.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary
- 4 care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary security income or public
- 5 assistance, or both. Amends the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes,
- 6 care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities. The current monthly needs
- 7 allowance for residents has not increased for 14 years. This bill would benefit these residents.
- 8 **Recommendation:** EOA supports this measure and defers to the Department of Human Services for
- 9 its implementation.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 4, 2024
Conference Room 211, 10:15 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for H.B. 1974 HD1, SD1 Relating to Social Services

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz 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. 1974 HD1, SD1 which increases the monthly needs allowance from \$50 to \$75 and clarifies that the needs allowance is not intended to replace or affect funds received from the federal Supplemental Security Income program.

This personal needs allowance is for the residents residing in adult foster homes, adult residential care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long—term care facilities. The personal needs allowance allows recipients to purchase necessary items such as clothing, toiletries, haircuts, and other personal living expenses not provided by the care homes or facility. With the rising cost of living, this \$25 increase is long overdue and would be greatly appreciated by the long term residents.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1974 HD1, SD1.



LATE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BILL HB1974 HD1 SD1
POSITION: SUPPORT

Hearing Date: April 4, 2024, 10:15am, Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports HB1974 HD1 SD1, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals living in certain long-term care facilities from \$50 to \$75, clarifies that the needs allowance is not intended to replace or affect funds received from the federal Supplemental Security Income Program, and requires certain long-term care facility operators to pay for generic toiletries, linens, and meals and snacks. Clarifies those eligible to receive the needs allowance.

HB1974 HD1 SD1 addresses a critical issue for needed financial support for individuals living in long-term care facilities and strengthens a critical safety net in Hawaii by addressing part of the growing gap in cost of living and this allowance. The current personal needs allowance of \$50 per month has not been adjusted since 2007 and is simply not adequate to support the needs of eligible individuals in our community.

By raising the personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$75 per month, HB1974 HD1 SD1 will provide residents of long-term care facilities with additional financial resources for essential expenses such as clothing, toiletries, and day-to-day living costs, and will help to improve the quality of life for individuals with few resources, and ensure they have access to the necessities needed to maintain their well-being.

Aloha United way urges you to pass HB1974 HD1 SD1, an thank you for considering our testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Skjold".

Suzanne Skjold
Chief Operating Officer
Aloha United Way

LATE

HB-1974-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 2:14:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair and Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice-Chair:

Thank you for this bill and for its intended purpose.

I/we stand in strong support of this bill. It's been a long time since our clients/patients has had an increase in their personal allowance. Our clients/patients currently receives \$50 PA per month and they spend it quite fast because it's just too small. My patients use their PA to buy for certain toiletries, clothings and items that are not provided for by a Caregiver. Some of my patients are actually asking for additional money--every week. My monthly Room & Board (SSI/State Supplement pay) is just too small--where I can't share/provide for extra PA for my clients.

I/we would appreciate your kind support in passing this bill through.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie S. Sebastian

ILWU - LOCAL 1000 / SEBASTIAN'S ARCH LLC

1630 Leilani St., Honolulu, HI 96819

Tel. (808) 220-0824

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING
DATE: Thursday, April 4, 2024
TIME: 10:15

Re HB1974 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee. My name is Linda Dorset, and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1974 HD1 SD1. Which will increase the personal Needs Allowance for those living in long-term care facilities. Personal Needs Funds allow these individuals to make personal purchases of goods or services. Increasing the personal needs allowance will compensate for the rising cost of goods and services and enable self-determination and personal choice by individuals over their own lives.

The personal needs allowance hasn't been increased since 2007. And there has been a substantial rise in inflation.

Increasing the PNA will also allow individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in these home settings more opportunities to participate in social events and to improve their quality of life, increasing autonomy and dignity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Linda Dorset
Wailuku, Maui