

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 11, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2615 – RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES - Revised**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 9:05 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent to increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA), offers comments, and amendments. DHS requests that any appropriation not supplant budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the monthly PNA for individuals residing in domiciliary homes including foster homes, care homes, and other long-term care facilities paid under section 346D-4.5(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), from \$50 to an unspecified amount per month.

The State's Supplemental Payment (SSP) appropriation is used for domiciliary care payments, as specified in section 346-53(c), HRS, for PNA for individuals residing in settings specified in section 346D-4.5(a), HRS, and for SSP administrative fees paid to the Social Security Administration (SSA) to add the SSP amounts to individual's monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check.

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 SSP budget is \$17,810,955. The Maintenance of Effort (MOE) agreement with Social Security Administration (SSA) requires an annual minimum expenditure of \$16,785,143.91 in SSP payments, as specified in Title 20, Code of Federal

Regulation (C.F.R.), section 416.2096(a). This leaves a State contribution of approximately \$1,025,811.

The expenditures charged to the approximately \$1,025,811.09 in State share include monthly PNA to eligible individuals residing in nursing facilities and SSP administrative fees. In Calendar Year (CY) 2019, these expenditures totaled approximately \$441,102.05 resulting in a remaining balance of approximately \$584,709.04.

If the proposed change went from a monthly PNA increase from \$50 to \$85 for a total of 183 individuals in nursing facilities, the annual expenditures would increase by \$76,860.00. The increase would not result in annual expenditures above \$584,709.04 or create a budget deficit for this program.

However, from the Medicaid perspective, the proposal would cause an increase in program expenditures and would have a fiscal impact on the State. We are in the process of determining the impact of this supplemental payment increase to Medicaid eligibility.

Additionally, while the total number of eligible individuals receiving SSP and PNA in Hawai'i has decreased yearly since 2014, if the projected eligible client population increases as our aging population increases, PNA program expenditures could exceed the SSP appropriation and DHS would need to request additional general funds for this program as well as any necessary funds to address the increase to Medicaid.

We note that section 346D-4.5(c), HRS, requires an increase to the SSP amounts to increase the PNA, but this bill contains no amendments to section 346-53(c)(1) and (2), HRS, which identifies specific SSP amounts. Therefore, we recommend that the measure be amended to include amendments to section 346-53(c)(1) and (2), HRS, to reflect the ceiling of SSP amounts.

Section 346-53, HRS, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) The director, pursuant to chapter 91, shall determine the rate of payment for domiciliary care, including care provided in licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult foster homes, to be provided to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary security income or public assistance, or

both. The director shall provide for level of care payment as follows:

- (1) Beginning on July 1, [~~2008~~] for adult residential care homes classified as facility type I, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes as defined under section 321-15.9, community care foster family homes as defined under section 321-481, and certified adult foster homes as defined under section 321-11.2, the state supplemental payment shall not exceed [~~\$651.90~~] \$ _____; and
- (2) Beginning on July 1, [~~2008~~] for adult residential care homes classified as facility type II, the state supplemental payment shall not exceed [~~\$759.90~~] \$ _____."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



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

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Thirtieth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: HB 2615 – Relating to Social Services

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS**
HB 2615. The purpose of the bill is to increase the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

The needs allowance is intended for residents to spend at their discretion on clothing, shoes, toiletries, bedding, towels, wash cloths, furniture, transportation (other than medical visits), personal postage costs, snacks, a meal out with friends, movies, recreational activities, hobbies, reading materials, and other incidental expenses of day-to-day living (cable, internet, cards/presents to send to family/friends, sun screen, lotion, etc.). Federal regulations prohibit long-term care facilities from charging residents' needs allowance for services that are included in Medicaid payments such as toothpaste, toothbrush, tissues, shampoo, and incontinence products.

Act 96, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007 increased the personal needs allowance from \$30.00 to \$50.00 a month. That increase amounted from \$1.00 per day to \$1.66 per day. The passage of HB 2615 would increase the needs allowance from \$50.00 per month to, we hope at least \$75.00 per month, or from \$1.66 per day to \$2.50 per day.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **strong support of HB 2615**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

HB-2615

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 10:09:52 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GARY SIMON	Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Nakamura, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness:

I am Gary Simon, President of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of those who give and receive care by increasing community awareness of caregiver issues through continuing advocacy, education, and training.

The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

We encourage you increase the monthly needs allowance as soon as possible.

The recipients of this allowance are among the most needy and vulnerable in Hawaii.

We urge you to support HB 2615, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

We thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

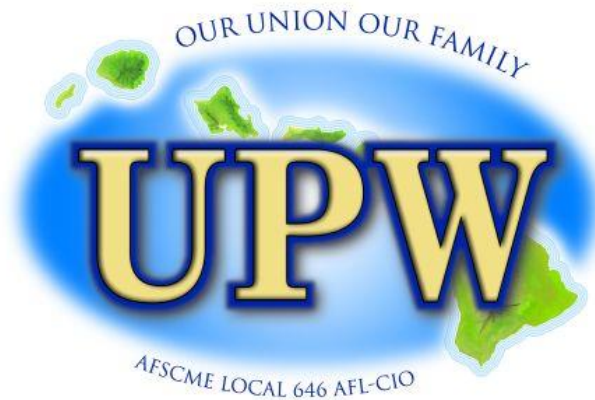
Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

President

Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition





THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2020

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Representative Tom Brower, Chair
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, February 12, 2020
TIME OF HEARING: 9:05 AM
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2615
Relating to Social Services

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 13,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

HB 2615 increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities

UPW strongly supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-2615

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 6:53:15 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2615

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:55:53 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

These figures could be lowered if we support local organic agribusinesses. Projected success time might take about 8-10 years to see the big-picture impact, but it will definitely have a positive impact upon the community as well as lowering certain crime rates, as people will be too busy farming and making local based products. We've got to give people a reason to trust, learn, motivate and execute plans.

HB-2615

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 6:00:39 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susie Chun Oakland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the House Human Services and Homelessness Committee:

I am in strong support of HB2615 and appreciate all you can do to support the many people in our community with this legislation.

Aloha,

Susie Chun Oakland

HB-2615

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 12:09:47 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rynette Keen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a citizen of these islands that worked her whole life locally and abroad, to include working up to six different jobs for seven years straight to support my family and in search of the so-called American Dream, I am now disabled. As a person whose only source of income is Social Security Disability and who does not qualify for either SNAP or TANF because of the amount I receive from SSDI, I am in full support of this measure to increase the available funding to SNAP and TANF recipients. The cost of imported food has skyrocketed, and the current amount given to recipients is not enough to maintain a healthy diet. As such, the quality of health for recipients is declining, and the number of people with diabetes and heart disease is grown exponentially. The gaps between those that have and those that are unable to afford are widening daily. Although I do not qualify, I urge you to pass HB2615. In closing, I would like you also to consider those of us that live on such limited incomes that struggle to have housing, to consider raising the eligibility requirements for those of us on disability — Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Susan Berk and I am a parent of a wonderful 34 year old man who has Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). I am also co-founder of Fuller Lives organization which advocates for adults with IDD.

I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

This bill is important because increasing the allowance will better support these individuals to have full access to community living and activities such as getting haircuts, mailing letters, buying movie tickets, personal hygiene items or laundry detergent. The current allowance was set 13 years ago and it is time for an increase.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Susan Berk

1075 Kamookoa Pl.

Honolulu, HI. 96825

HB-2615

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:55:18 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Bartlett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will be the first time in 15 years to increase the monthly needs for allowance for those in foster and care homes and we badly need this increase. Thank you very much for your help.

Thank you,

Cynthia Bartlett

HB-2615

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 9:47:04 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mia Arceo	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

Mia Arceo

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Support for H.B. No. 2615

My name is Mia Arceo, a Child Welfare Services (CWS) Social Worker. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of H.B. 2615 relating to Human Services. Foster families not only provide shelter but also love, care, and guidance for children who are in foster care. Most foster families I work with also face financial difficulties, but despite having those financial difficulties, many of them chose to be foster because they want to make a difference to children who are marginalized and at disadvantage. I know that it will make a difference for foster families if monthly allowance increases. Increasing the monthly allowance can help alleviate their worries whether they are appropriately providing for the children who are in their care.

Community and financial assistance are out there; however, many foster families are unaware of these financial supports or how to navigate to get these financial supports. If this bill were to be passed, I strongly feel that it will help foster families who are facing financial difficulties. The report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2017 estimated that family will spend about \$12,350 to \$13,900 annually to raise a child, that's between \$1,029 to \$1,158 monthly average and yet, according to the Department of Human Services website, the current foster board payment varies between \$575 to \$676 almost less than half the amount being reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For the above reasons, I strongly support H.B. 2615 to increase the allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, and other long term facilities to help caregivers alleviate some of the financial stressors that comes with caring for children in

foster care and other individuals who are in care homes and long term facilities. I believe that by increasing the monthly allowance can give family a break from worrying about affording essentials to provide for the individuals in their care. This bill is the first step to help our foster families and other caregivers care for the most vulnerable population.

Thank you,

Mia Arceo

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Carl Quianbao*

and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

High cost of living

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name: *C. Quianbao*

City or zip code where you live:

96706

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Charrisse Dola Cruz*
and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for
individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term
care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

Too Expensive.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name: *Charrisse Dola Cruz*

City or zip code where you live:

96797

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Aicell Delgado*
and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for
individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term
care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

Everything Expensive

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name: *Aicelle Delgado*

City or zip code where you live:

96706

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Charmaine Fatou*

and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

High of Living

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name: *C. Fatou*

City or zip code where you live:

96706

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Pili Teo*

and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

I can buy and be able to go out to the library

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name: *Pili Teo*

City or zip code where you live:

916706

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *JOSHUA BOURNAY*
and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

*TO pay for my ticket and can we for games
to support our Athletes.*

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name: *[Signature]*

City or zip code where you live:

96706

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Cecilia Padua*
and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for
individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term
care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

High cost of Living

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name:

City or zip code where you live:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Carrie Fujikawa*

and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

To be able to buy and too expensive

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name:

City or zip code where you live:

CARRIE FUJIKAWA

96706

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Shelsea Starking*
and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

I want to buy clothes and snacks

when I am in the community.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name: *Shelsea Starking*

City or zip code where you live:

96706

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is *Raynell K. Mole*

and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because

High cost + Living

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Name: *Raynell K. Mole*

City or zip code where you live:

96782

Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council(SAAC) – O’ahu
1010 Richards Street, #122
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-8100
Fax (808) 586- 7543

Facsimile Transmittal

To: Committee on Human Services and Homelessness **Fax: (808) 586-8437**

From: Self-Advocacy Advisory Council, Mr. Arista **Date: 2/11/2020**

Re: Testimony HB 2615 **Pages: 11 including cover sheet**

Cc:

Urgent For review Please comment Please reply Please recycle

<< CONFIDENTIAL >>

Attached are documents in support of HB 2615. Thank you.

Mahalo.

Confidentiality Notice: The information contained in this facsimile may be confidential and legally privileged. It is intended **only** for use of the individual named. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that the disclosure, copying, distribution, or taking of any action in regards to the contents of this fax – except its direct delivery to the intended recipient – is strictly prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy this cover sheet along with its contents, and delete from your system, if applicable.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Herman Ki'ili and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because I only receive \$50 a month for my personal allowance. It is difficult to only have \$50 to spend on my personal items for a whole month, while I live in a foster home.

I volunteer at 'Olelo tv station at the front desk, and I don't have enough money to buy candy to put in the front where people come in and be nice to people.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Herman Ki'ili
Wahiawa, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Bathey Fong and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because only receive \$50 a month for my personal allowance. I use a wheelchair and sometimes, I have to use my personal allowance for special hygiene and clothing things while in my wheelchair. \$50 a month does not go far in one month. I live in a foster home.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Bathey Fong
Waipahu, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because I cannot talk, and I am in a wheelchair. I always want to get a device to help me talk, because I ride the handi-van by myself, and I feel scared when I have to go to Waipahu by myself and cannot talk to protect myself. The Self-advocate advisory council had to find a way to get me one Ipad because I do not have enough money to get one.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Vaipapa Soliai
Waipahu, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Michele Muralt and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because I need to have a cell phone so when I travel on the handi-van, I can call my caregiver when I am late because the handi-van is always late dropping me off or picking me up from my home only late at night. I live in a foster home.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Michelle Muralt
Ewa, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Ada McFeely and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because I only receive \$50 a month for my personal allowance. It is difficult to only have \$50 to spend on my personal items for a whole month, while I live in an ARC-HI Pearl City Apartment.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Ada McFeely
Pearl City, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Kaili Swan and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because my friends who don't have a choice and have to live in a foster home, only receive \$50 a month for their personal allowance. They tell me how hard it is to only have \$50 a month to spend on all of their personal needs, and they run out of money real fast. I live with my mom and don't have that problem, but my friends do. I want to support them too. Maybe I might have to live in a foster home one day too, and only have \$50 a month. Please help my friends.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Kaili Swan
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Zosimo Arista and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because my niece lives in a foster home and only receives \$50 a month for her personal allowance.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Zosimo Arista
Makakilo, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Ruby Brister and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I am an Adult Residential Care home caregiver, and I see how difficult it is to for my clients to live on only \$50 a month for their personal allowance. They have many more personal needs that cost more than \$50 a month, and many times, their families do not have any extra income to help them with this.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Ruby Brister
Honolulu, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is David Beatovich and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because I only receive \$50 a month for my personal allowance. It is difficult to only have \$50 to spend on my personal items for a whole month, while I live in an ARC-HI apartment.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

David Beatovich
Kailua, Hawaii

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

HB 2615 Testimony in SUPPORT

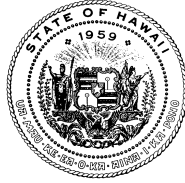
Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Timothy Renken and I am in support of HB 2615, which increases the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care home, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I think this bill is important because as the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council President of Hawaii, I know of many self-advocates who only receive \$50 a month for their personal allowance, and it is not enough to pay for their personal needs in their foster homes or Adult care homes. Some of the advocates need cell phones now and that money comes from their personal allowance for the monthly bill. They need the cell phones so they can call for help if they are in danger. They did not have their personal allowances increased for the last 13 years. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 2615

Timothy Renken
Kalihi, Hawaii

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

BRUCE ANDERSON
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
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LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 2615
Relating to Social Services**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS
REP. JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
REP. NADINE NAKAMURA, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 12, 2020
9:05 AM

Room Number: 329

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health, provides comments on HB 2615 Relating to Social Services.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill is proposing an unspecified increase in the monthly needs
- 4 allowance for individuals residing in foster home, care homes, domiciliary home and other long-
- 5 term care facilities. The current allowance is \$50 which was set in 2007.
- 6 **Purpose and Justification:** The Needs Allowance is used by residents in nursing homes,
- 7 community care homes, adult foster homes, domiciliary care homes to spend at his/her discretion
- 8 on items such as snacks, sending cards to friends/family, reading materials, hobbies, haircuts,
- 9 clothes, footwear and recreational activities. This is important because it enables the resident to
- 10 maintain a minimum level of independence and decision-making.

- 1 **Recommendation:** It has been 13 years since the personal needs allowance was last raised. EOA
- 2 believes that raising the allowance is warranted to keep up with inflation and allows our kupuna
- 3 who reside in long-term care facilities some independence and control.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-2615

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 11:36:00 AM

Testimony for HSH on 2/12/2020 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ludvina K Takahashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representative San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Kealoha Takahashi from Kauai and I am in support of HB 2615 which increases the monthly needs allowance for individual residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

I feel this bill is important because it gives individuals dignity and a sense of worth that they are able to buy items of their choosing.

I appreciate your consideration. Thank you for allowing me to testify.