

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

TRISTA SPEER  
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

January 28, 2024

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: January 31, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill and provides comments. DHS notes that SB 849 and HB 916 HD1 increase the monthly needs allowance and also raise the state supplemental payment (SSP) to the various types of care homes.

DHS agrees with the proposal to increase the monthly or personal needs allowance (PNA) by \$25 (from \$50) to \$75. With an increase of \$25, DHS will not need a general fund appropriation to meet the increase.

However, DHS defers to recipients and providers regarding the proposed record-keeping requirement of Section 2, paragraph (e). DHS coordinates with the Social Security Administration in the disbursement of SSA and PNA but does not monitor how recipients use the payments. To perform this task, DHS would require additional time to develop rules and resources to cover staff and system modifications and to perform annual reviews requested in Section 2, paragraph (g). As the measure continues through the session, DHS will update the resource needs.

**PURPOSE:** This bill Increases the monthly needs allowance 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. Requires the Department of Human Services to perform an annual review of the needs allowance and report to the Legislature.

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



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
January 30, 2024

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Lisa Marten and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: HB1974 RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1974**, which amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplemental security income or public assistance, or both. Amends the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

The last personal needs allowance increase was enacted in 2007 to \$50. HB1974 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 long-term care facilities 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 on 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 facilities must provide for their residents (page 4, lines 8-17). 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**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

Community Home Care  
Association of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 971450, Waipahu HI 96797

January 28, 2024

To: **Chair Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, Rep. Terez Amato and Members of the Committees:**

From: Lemmy Mabuti, President of the Community Home Care Association

Subject: **RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES**

Hearing: Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room #329, State Capitol

**TESTIMONY: STRONGLY IN SUPPORT – HB 1974**

On behalf of the Community Home Care Association, 300+ members strongly support HB-1974.

We provide 24/7 care 365 days a year for a flat-rate I've also learned and convinced that, with the work we provide for our elderly I truly believed that we are NOT gone up a single cent, yet we are asked to pay fees such as Medicaid provider's registration fee. In addition to fees, we also pay for fingerprint, APS/CAN, eCrim including adult household members, CPR/First Aid, In-service training for 12 hours every year, and most of all we pay our Health Insurance. Please note, we are only getting compensated \$41.06 per day (\$1.71 hourly).

The skyrocketing costs of providing care to the elderly and disabled make it nearly impossible to operate. Caregivers must pay their mortgage for their homes, most of which is used by the residents. Caregiver must also pay for utilities, food, laundry supplies consumed by residents; gasoline used to bring residents to the doctors' appointments. How do you stretch \$1.71 per hour for all these costs and still make a living?

It takes a great deal of commitment, dedication, patience, and love of the job to be able to keep working 24/7 in caring for our clients. Duties are included but not limited to tending to client for safety ensuring medications are taken or administered every day, preparing and cooking their foods 3meals a day including spoon-fed to our clients, assistance in and out of bed to wheelchair and going to the bathroom, changing their diapers, bathing, linen change, maintaining cleanliness to their rooms, recording, and maintaining all pertinent medical record and files.

Again, all these duties for \$41.06 per day and to think about it that this amount are not enough compared to a nursing home rate. This rate has been for a decade now. (14 years)

I humbly ask to all authorities to grant our request.

Very truly yours,

Lemmy Maluyo-Mabuti, president  
Community Home Care Association



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. 1974 Relating to Social Services

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. 1974 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.

**HB-1974**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:36:53 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>
Suerte Grace Agcaoili	CCFFH	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

January 29,2024

Chair Rep. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair, Rep. Teresa Amato and Members of the Committees:

Suerte Grace Agcaoili

RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES

Hearing: Tuesday, January 30,2024, 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room #329, State Capitol

TESTIMONY: STRONGLY IN SUPPORT - HB 1974

Increase the allowance from \$50 to \$75 from Supplemental Security Income program.

I humbly ask to all authorities to grant our request.

Very truly yours,

Suerte Grace Agcaoili, FOSTER HOME

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-1974**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 5:41:37 PM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair, Marten & all Committee members:

Thank you for this bill. I stand in support of HB1974--to increase personal allowance of our patients from \$50 to \$75 per month. I operate a Type I ARCH and my patients currently receiving \$50 from State Supplement but I find it very insufficient for our patient's necessities. My patients do like to handle their allowance so they use it pretty quickly then they start asking me for more money--which I can't provide because the Room & Board pay that I receive doesn't allow me to give extra monies to our patients for their own spending.

Your kind considerations or approval of this bill, would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Rosemarie S. Sebastian

ILWU - LOCAL 1000/SEBASTIAN'S ARCH LLC

1630 LEILANI ST., HONOLULU, HI 96819

Tel. (808) 220-0824



**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-1974**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:31:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Melody Young	CARES	Support	In Person

Comments:

**Dear Chair, Vice Chair & Committee,**

**The State provides benefits to the disabled from DHS. DHS has the SNAP food stamps program and also the Financial Cash Assistance Program. The disabled can also get benefits from Social Security Benefits which is a federal level program. But they cannot qualify for both State & Federal financial assistance. So providing this extra level of benefits is important.**

**After listening to the Hawaii State Disability Council in another hearing in the Senate, because they had one of the disabled staff testify, CARES is in support of this measure.**

**Blessings,**

**CARES**

**HB-1974**

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 12:23:19 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>
Josefina Daga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly in support -HB 1974

Increases the allowance from \$50.00 to \$75.00 from Supplemental Security Income Program.

i humbly ask to all authorities our request.

Respectfully yours,

Josefina Daga- Josefina Daga Adult Fosterhome

**HB-1974**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 10:26:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mariano bumanglag	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lisa Marten and all Committees,

We are in support of Bill HB 1974. My name is Mariano Bumanglag a spouse of a adult foster homeowner. In 2009, she started a foster home. At the time medicaid clients paid \$2300/month. Houses were \$400K-\$600K. With 20% down, monthly mortgage \$2500 to \$3500. With 2 clients it was enough to pay for the mortgage plus foster home expenses. Today medicaid clients pay \$2800/month. Homes that meets requirement cost over a million. On the low end with 20% mortgage would be \$6000. Two clients is not enough to cover mortgage, much less expenses which probably doubled since then. While housing mortgage went up by 150%, medicaid client payment went up by 21%. Substitute caregivers were paid \$10/hour today you can't get anyone for less then \$20. Our state minimum wage is \$14 a 40% increase.

We have been caregivers for 14 years and our original mortgage is still manageable. While it would be nice to have our pay keep up with inflation, the real danger of the medicaid reimbursement not keeping up with inflation will be the availability of new providers coming into the system. Why should any new provider risk opening a carehome/foster home when they know they will be operating deeply in the negative? In terms of opportunity cost, a caregiver is better off working then to open up a carehome/foster home. In addition, many of the caregivers are also approaching retirement age. When our state is experiencing a tsunami of aging population and thus demand the services of carehome/foster home, our supply of caregivers will also be declining with fewer homes available.

Before 2020, we were happy to house 3 medicaid clients. Now, we cannot operate without a private pay to offset the cost. In talking with other providers, they have no choice but to transfer private clients that transition to medicaid in order to accommodate a private because of the huge difference in pay. I don't have the statistics, I am sure the state has the statistics in regards to the increase in patient in the state care facilities because carehome/foster homes are no longer taking medicaid clients. Im sure the numbers are increasing and I would not be surprise if they are filled to the brim. As I have been told numerous times that the state saves 40% on the care of these clients throught the foster/carehome as oppose to other facilities.

While Hawaii may still have the time to build up the services needed to care for the ever increasing number of kupunas, that window may close very quickly if not already closed. You must act immediatly to shore up the supply of caregivers, if not the state and the kupunas will lose this option and other options will cost substantially more.

Sincerely,

Mariano Bumanglag

**HB-1974**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:45:46 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>
Kaili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i am in strong support of this HB1974 beacuse \$50.00 is not enough to pay my pesonal stuff like renew my holo card or buy snacks if im hungery please pass this HB1974 thank you.

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is Herman Ki'ili and I am in support of HB 1974, 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.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 1974

Herman Ki'ili  
Kapolei, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

[HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES](#)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is Bathey Fong and I am in support of HB 1974, 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 1974

Bathey Fong  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I am in support of HB 1974, 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 1974

Vaipapa Soliai  
Waipahu, Hawaii



THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

[HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES](#)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is Michele Muralt and I am in support of HB 1974, 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 1974

Michelle Muralt  
Ewa, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

[HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES](#)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is Ada McFeely and I am in support of HB 1974, 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 1974

Ada McFeely  
Pearl City, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is Kaili Swan and I am in support of HB 1974, 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 1974

Kaili Swan  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

[HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES](#)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is Evan Murakami and I am in support of HB 1974, 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 live in a foster home and only receives \$50 a month for their personal allowance.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB 1974

Evan Murakami  
Kaimuki, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is David Beatovich and I am in support of HB 1974, 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 1974

David Beatovich  
Kailua, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

HB 1974 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Representative Marten and Representative Amato,

My name is Timothy Renken and I am in support of HB 1974, 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 1974

Timothy Renken  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HB-1974**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:40:52 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>
Ruthie Agbayani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The last time the personal needs allowance was increased was around the year 2007 from \$25 to \$50. Since then, and due to the economic impact and aftermath of the COVID19 pandemic, here in Hawai'i, the cost of living and the cost of goods have drastically increased. Therefore, it is appropriate to increase the personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$75. Outside of the basic provisions that caregivers and facilities supply, the client/resident uses their personal needs allowance to pay for non-medical transportation costs (TheBus, TheHandi-Van, Taxi, Uber, etc), reading materials (books, magazines, newsletters, subscriptions), letter writing materials and postage costs, clothing and accessories, as well as brand favored products.