



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 23, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senate Bill 849 SD1 – Relating to Social Services

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of Senate Bill 849 SD1 – Relating to Social Services.

This bill amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary 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 state supplemental payment helps to ensure there are an adequate number of facilities to meet our population's needs. DCAB notes the amount not been adjusted in 16 years, which suggests that an increase is warranted.

The bill also proposes to increase the individual monthly needs allowance from \$50 to \$75. 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

February 23, 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: SB849 SD1 RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES

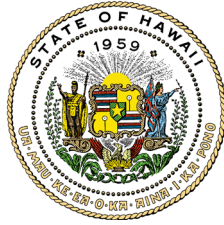
The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB849 SD1**, which amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary security income or public assistance, or both. Amends the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities. (SD1)

The last personal needs allowance increase was enacted in 2007 to \$50. SB849 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/or 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 supports the Committee's amendment in SB849 SD1 to set the monthly needs allowance at \$75. Additionally, we emphasize the need for an increase in the PNA to provide individuals with 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 SB849 SD1**.

Sincerely,
Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator



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

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB849 SD1
RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES

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

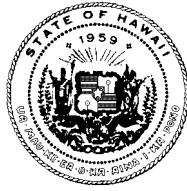
Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Decision Making: Friday, February 23, 2024, 10:30 A.M., Conference Room 211

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

- 1 would benefit these residents. EOA supports this measure and defers to the Department of
- 2 Human Services for any proposed amendments and/or recommendations.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

February 23, 2024

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 849 SD1 – RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES.**

Hearing: February 23, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure and requests an amendment.

PURPOSE: This bill amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary 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. (SD1)

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

- (1) Setting the state supplemental payment ceiling for type I adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult foster homes at \$809.00;
- (2) Setting the state supplemental payment ceiling for type II adult residential care homes at \$917.00;
- (3) Clarifying that the state supplemental payment ceiling amounts above include the care rate and personal needs allowance; and
- (4) Setting the monthly needs allowance at \$75.

The Department appreciates the amendments of the Committee on Health and Human Services. The Department respectfully requests additional amendments to insert **October 1, 2024**, on page 1, line 11, and page 2, line 3, and an effective date of the bill no later than **June 2, 2024**. The Social Security Administration advised that it could implement the new rates with 120 day notice prior to the effective month. June 3, 2024, is 120 days prior to October 1, 2024.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-849-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:56:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Fountain	Testifying for The Arc in Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Arc in Hawaii strongly supports SB849 SD1. The increase in personal needs allowance for individuals in foster homes, care homes domiciliary homes and long term facilities is absolutely needed.

The current amount of \$50 a month is simply not sufficient in current times. It is virtually impossible to have more than one or two meals out of the home, on a budget of \$50 per month. This current budget breaks down to \$12.50 per week. With current prices as they are, this barely affords a plate lunch, let alone a movie or some other basic social activities.

Please consider increasing the allowance.

Sincerely,

The Arc in Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is Herman Ki'ili and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

Herman Ki'ili
Kapolei, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is Bathey Fong and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

Bathey Fong
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

Vaipapa Soliai
Waipahu, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is Michele Muralt and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

Michelle Muralt
Ewa, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is Ada McFeely and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

Ada McFeely
Pearl City, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is Kaili Swan and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

Kaili Swan
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is Evan Murakami and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

Evan Murakami
Kaimuki, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is David Beatovich and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

David Beatovich
Kailua, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024

SB 849 SD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Sharon Moriwaki,

My name is Timothy Renken and I am in support of SB 849 SD1, 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 SB 849 SD1

Timothy Renken
Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-849-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:49:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iris Xiao	Testifying for Saac	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi my name is iris xiao, I'm a Participant and client in a foster care home in Honolulu. I am 35 years old, I am also a part of the self advocacy advisory council as a legiative liaison. I am very support to the bill of the increase of the \$50 a month to \$75 a month. Please I hope it can be passed thank you hear my testimony.

Iris Yawen Xiao

February 20th,2024



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 23, 2024
Conference Room 211, 10:30 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for SB 849, 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 SB 849 SD 1 which amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary security income or public assistance, or both. The bill also amends the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

Increasing personal needs allowance for the residents residing in adult foster homes, and other long-term care facilities is long overdue and would be greatly appreciated by these residents. 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.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 849,SD1.

February 20, 2024

TESTIMONY

RE: S.B. 849 S.D.1

Dear Chair, Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz & All Committee Members:

First, I thank you for this bill. There are several licensed homes-- whose clients are recipients of state supplement: Developmental Disabilities Domiciliary Homes, Adult Residential Care Homes (Type I and E-ARCH), and Community Care Foster Family Homes.

I operate a Type I Arch; my clients are all SSI/state supplement recipients. Currently, I have four clients (maximum 5). The state supplement benefit of these individuals hasn't been increased for the last 15 years; therefore, I didn't receive an increase nor all other homes—for quite a long time now. It has been very difficult—especially since Covid's devastation. As you are aware, the cost of living in Hawaii has gone up tremendously--ranging from \$1,900 to \$2,400 per individual per month. My cost per month to operate my business is around \$2,400 (this amount may vary per home). Right now, the state supplement is \$651.90 (this amount includes \$50 client's personal needs allowance). The current SSI rate is \$943 per individual per month. Adding the two minus personal allowance, the client receives a total SSI & State Supplement of \$1,544.90. The \$1,544.90 is what we receive for Room & Board from our clients--who are receiving both SSI & state supplement benefits.

As Caregivers have been asking for pay increases for a very long time, we understand it's necessary to amend the state supplemental payment ceiling. Upon reviewing this bill, you are increasing the state supplement from \$651.90 (this amount includes \$50 personal allowance) to \$809--so this increases the state supplement to \$759 per month (\$809 minus \$50 personal allowance). Adding SSI current rate @\$943 plus state supplement @\$759 will equal to \$1,702 benefit for individuals per month.

With this bill, all above mentioned homes will receive from individual--who receive SSI/State Supplemental benefits—for Room & Board is \$1,702. As I mentioned above, the current cost of living in Hawaii today ranges from \$1,900 to \$2,400. I believe it's fair for all Caregivers to ask for the minimum rate of \$2,000 for Room & Board payments. This requires an amendment to the state

supplement to \$1,057 per month (SSI @\$943 plus state supplement @\$1,057 equals \$2,000).

THIS INCREASE IS FAIR; IS OF EQUALITY. I am asking this Committee to make a conscientious decision as this will determine the feasibility of the care homes keeping their businesses open long term. I operate a Type I ARCH, all Type I ARCH only get paid for Room & Board (SSI/STATE SUPPLEMENT); our clients' don't benefit from Medicaid (Long Term Care). There are about 160 plus Type I ARCH in the State. Our maximum capacity is up to five clients. We don't want to close our business as we don't know where to send our existing clients. We want to be able to continue to serve our disabled/homeless community but it has to be financially feasible for us to continue.

Lately, some Type I ARCH homes have been closing their businesses because it's not feasible to continue based on current Room & Board pay. Now, I'm learning that Type I ARCH level of care clients are being placed at an ICF Level Home (Community Care Foster Family Home) because there are no more available Type I ARCH homes. Unfortunately, this is resulting in the State's paying more money (for these clients)—unnecessarily. Now, why should the State waste money this way? Why not pay the Type I ARCH homes a fair pay for Room & Board so that they can continue opening their business for these level type clients?

I am humbly asking and thanking you in advance for your kind considerations to increase the ceiling for State Supplement for the Room & Board pay (to \$1,057 instead of \$759).

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie S. Sebastian, Treasurer
ILWU – LOCAL 1000 / SEBASTIAN'S ARCH LLC
1630 Leilani St., Honolulu, HI 96819
Email: rose.sebastian808@gmail.com
Tel. (808) 220-0824



e: john.mcdermott@doh.hawaii.gov
t: (808) 586-7268
Toll-free: 1-888-229-2231
www.hi-ltc-ombudsman.org

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2024
TIME: 10:30 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

*Testimony of John G. McDermott, LSW, ACSW, M.Div.
State Long-Term Care Ombudsman*

In strong support SB 849, SD1

Purpose of SB849, SD1: Amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary 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. (SD1)

Good morning, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Committee.

My name is John G. McDermott and I have been the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (SLTCO) since August, 1998. Part of my job is to advocate for the 12,942 residents living in our long-term care facilities.

We strongly support increasing the *Personal Needs Allowance* (PNA) from \$50/month to \$75/month.

Most long-term care residents eventually run out of money and must apply for Medicaid.

Once on Medicaid, ALL their monthly income goes to the facility as their cost-share.

In 1974, the Supplemental Security Act Amendment mandated a PNA at \$25/month.

In 1988 that was increased to \$30/month, where it still stands. This money comes from the resident's social security check.

The PNA pays for *personal* things NOT provided by Medicaid or the facility like clothing, underwear, shoes, haircuts, cell phones, TVs, cable, snacks, outings, gifts for grandkids, postage stamps and envelopes, etc.

In 2007 the Hawaii Legislature increased that amount by adding \$20/month from the State General Fund for a total of \$50/month.

It is now 17 years later and everything costs more. It's time for our poorest LTC residents to get an increase in their PNA.

Please support this bill. Mahalo for giving me this opportunity to testify.

SB-849-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:29:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Acuna	Testifying for Family Services of Oahu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Grace Acuna and I am an RN and CEO of Family Services of Oahu. As a waiver service provider that provides services for developmentally and intellectually delayed persons for over 20 years, I am very familiar with how they receive care and services to help benefit their lives. One of the ways they receive their benefits, is through government funding. I am testifying that these people need to have their monthly allowances increased from \$50 to \$75 in order to pay for their daily needs such as food, water, and clothing. Due to inflation, the rising costs of going to the grocery, especially in Hawaii, \$50 is not enough to support what they need to buy. We need to have their monthly allowance increased. I am advocating for my participants who are not able to voice their needs. Our DD community deserve to live a full life. Please support this bill to increase their monthly allowance.

SB-849-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 6:46:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Ramones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe we need an increase because of the inflation and we didn't get or see any increase for how long. The increase will help minimize the out of pocket cost on caregivers especially with the cost of living and inflation.

SB-849-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:57:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Sampaio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I worked with people with a variety of disabilities over the years from personal assistance services to residential and with the rise in the cost of living in hawaii 50.00 a month in allowance does not go very far and barlie covers the cost for the needs they need please consider the cost of living in hawaii and give the allowance they need to make life a little eazier for them.

SB-849-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:56:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicky Cadiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to the rise of cost of living or inflation, it's a struggle for many care homes, foster cares and facilities to keep up while trying to maintain a safe home/ place for those who are in need of care such as providing food, emergency kit, etc. Increasing monthly allowances for all will greatly help gather the things that are needed, at more ease for providers.



Clubhouse International

Creating Community: Changing the World of Mental Health

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2024
TIME: 10:30AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

LATE

Testimony of Jack Yatsko, MSW, Chief Operating Officer, Clubhouse International

In strong support of SB 849 SD1

Purpose OF SB849, SD1: Amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary 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. (SD1)

Good morning, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Committee.

My name is Jack Yatsko and I am the Chief Operating Officer for Clubhouse International which is the coordinating center for over 350 Clubhouse programs operating in 33 countries. Clubhouses are psychosocial rehabilitation programs serving adults with mental illness of which there are eight Clubhouses in Hawaii that are part of our global network. I previously worked for Friendship House located on Kauai for 13 years.

I strongly support increasing the *Personal Needs Allowance* (PNA) from \$50/month to \$75/month.

Most long-term residents eventually run out of money and must apply for Medicaid. Once on Medicaid, ALL their monthly income goes to the facility as their cost-share.

In 1974, the Supplemental Security Act Amendment mandated a PNA at \$25/month.

In 1988 that was increased to \$30/month, where it still stands. This money comes from the resident's Social Security check.

The PNA pays for personal items NOT provided by Medicaid or the facility such as clothing, shoes, haircuts, cell phones, TVs, snacks, social outings, postage stamps, etc.

In 2007 the Hawaii Legislature increased that amount by \$20/month from the State General Fund for a total of \$50/month.

\$50.00 divided by 30 days in each month amounts to \$1.67 a day. I suspect most of us would have more than \$1.67 in our purses or wallets each day.

Most of us don't think too much about buying a cup of coffee. Maybe stopping by a local store on the way home for a snack to eat is a common thing for many of us.

But try to imagine being provided with only \$1.67 a day. There is little chance you will find a small coffee for only \$1.67. Forget about a musubi because, with tax, it is likely more than \$1.67. Then again if you took the bus anywhere, you just spent that money and don't have any leftover for buying anything.

This is the norm for these residents. They have had to cope by living like this for years.

In 2024, it is now 17 years later and everything costs more. It is time for our poorest LTC residents to get an increase in their PNA.

Please support this bill. Mahalo for giving me this opportunity to testify.

LATE

SB-849-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 1:23:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Wakatake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Committee.

I strongly support increasing the *Personal Needs Allowance* (PNA) from \$50/month to \$75/month.

Most long-term care residents eventually run out of money and must apply for Medicaid.

Once on Medicaid, ALL their monthly income goes to the facility as their cost-share.

In 1974, the Supplemental Security Act Amendment mandated a PNA at \$25/month.

In 1988 that was increased to \$30/month, where it still stands. This money comes from the resident's social security check.

The PNA pays for *personal* things NOT provided by Medicaid or the facility like clothing, underwear, shoes, haircuts, cell phones, TVs, cable, snacks, outings, gifts for grandkids, postage stamps and envelopes, etc.

In 2007 the Hawaii Legislature increased that amount by adding \$20/month from the State General Fund for a total of \$50/month.

It is now 17 years later and everything costs more. It's time for our poorest LTC residents to get an increase in their PNA.

Please support this bill. Mahalo for giving me this opportunity to testify.

Linda Wakatake