

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



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR
Executive Office on Aging

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

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1974 HD1
RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES

REP. KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
REP. LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

Hearing: Monday, February 26, 2024, 10:00 A.M., Conference Room 308

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

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 26, 2024

The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1974 HD1 RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1974 HD1**, which 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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

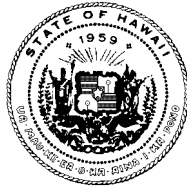
The last personal needs allowance increase was enacted in 2007 to \$50. HB1974 will amend Section 346-53 of Hawaii Revised Statutes, subsection (c) to reflect the substantial rise in inflation. Increasing the personal needs allowance (PNA) is essential to compensate for the rising cost of goods and services. 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 8-14). 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**.

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

TRISTA SPEER
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

February 25, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: February 26, 2024, 10:00 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 SD1 also increases the monthly needs allowance and raises the state supplemental payment (SSP) to the various types of care homes.

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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

The Committee on Human Services 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 discussion.

DHS appreciates the Committee on Human Services amendments. DHS coordinates with the Social Security Administration in the disbursement of SSA and PNA but does not monitor how recipients use the payments. However, to perform the annual reviews requested in Section 2, paragraph (g) (page 4, line 20 through page 5, line 6), DHS would need approximately \$150,000 general fund appropriation and one FTE program specialist position to oversee and conduct the annual review process and for system modification. DHS will also need additional time to draft and pass administrative rules to operationalize the reporting element. As the measure continues through the session, DHS will update the resource needs.

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, as long as the current program budget is not reduced to address general fund shortfalls as the State and County of Maui grapples with addressing Maui Wildfire recovery needs.

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



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
House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 26, 2024
Conference Room 308, 10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Support for H.B. 1974 HD 1 Relating to Social Services

Aloha Chair Yamashita 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 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.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF H.B. 1974, HD1 RELATED TO SOCIAL SERVICES

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance

From: The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights
Co-Chairs Amy Agbayani and Pat McManaman

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights works to achieve equity, justice, and inclusion, uphold civil rights, and eliminate discrimination. We stand in strong support of **H.B. 1974, HD1** which seeks to increase the monthly needs allowance for residents residing in adult foster homes, adult residential care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities from \$50 per month to \$75 per month.

The monthly needs allowance pays for clothing, haircuts, and other personal needs not provided by these long-term care facilities. The last increase in the needs allowance was in 2007. Since then the price of goods and services have increased substantially.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

HB-1974-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:41:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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.