



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
March 18, 2024

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Buenaventura 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)

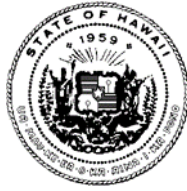
The last personal needs allowance increase was enacted in 2007 to \$50. HB1974 will amend Section 346-53 of Hawaii Revised Statutes, subsection (c) to reflect the substantial rise in inflation. Increasing the personal needs allowance (PNA) is essential to compensate for the rising cost of goods and services.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

March 17, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: March 18, 2024, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconferencing, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill as long as the current program budget is not reduced in the executive budget HB 1800 HD1. DHS provides comments and requests amendments to change the reporting requirement year and effectuate the effective date.

**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 operations 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 (HD1) amended the measure by:

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

DHS supports the proposal to increase the monthly or personal needs allowance (PNA) by \$25 (from \$50) to \$75. As long as the current program budget is not reduced in the budget bill (HB 1800 HD1), with an increase of \$25, the current program budget appropriation is sufficient to cover the increase, and DHS will not need a general fund appropriation to meet the increase.

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

DHS appreciates the House Committee on Human Services' amendments deleting the operators' requirement to maintain records on how the personal needs allowance (PNA) is spent. DHS coordinates with SSA in disbursing SSP and PNA but does not monitor how recipients use the payments.

However, for DHS to perform the annual review of the monthly needs allowance requested in Section 2, paragraph (g) (page 4, line 20 through page 5, line 6), DHS will require one FTE program specialist position and a general fund appropriation to implement the review and reporting processes. If the request to perform the annual reviews remains in the bill, DHS projects that it will need a general fund appropriation of approximately \$150,000 to implement the new review and reporting requirement and for system modification. DHS will also need additional time to draft and pass administrative rules to operationalize the review and reporting requirements. If an appropriation is forthcoming, DHS prefers that it be provided in the executive budget (HB 1800 HD1) as a recurring expense so that permanent resources are available to oversee the proposed review and reporting processes. DHS will need time to establish the position, draft and pass rules, make system modifications, and respectfully

March 17, 2024

Page 3

requests that the reporting requirement be amended from 2025 (page 5, line 5) to commence with the regular session of 2026.

Lastly, DHS respectfully requests additional amendments to insert an effective date of October 1, 2024, on page 5, line 9. The SSA advised that it could implement a new monthly rate with 120 days' notice prior to the effective month. June 3, 2024, is 120 days prior to October 1, 2024.

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



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

March 18, 2024

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### House Bill 1974 HD1 – Relating to Social Services

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

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.

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

Thank you for considering our position.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing: Monday, March 18, 2024, 1:00 P.M., Conference Room 225

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



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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**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Monday, March 18, 2024**  
**Conference Room 225, 1:00 p.m.**

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

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura 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.

3.17.2024

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

To Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura Chair; Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair and Committee members:

I am writing in **support of HB1974 HD1**. I work with Easterseals Hawaii assisting adults with disabilities in the Home and Community Waiver Services program. Several adults that attend Adult Day Health Services also live in supported living arrangements. Adults with disabilities have limited funds for discretionary spending. Many do not have family members that are able to supplement an adult's discretionary spending beyond the allotted \$50.00. This bill will increase the monthly personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$75 and affects individuals who are in care homes, foster homes, domiciliary homes, community care foster homes and long-term care facilities.

Anne Hvizdak  
669 Aewa Street  
PO Box 375  
Eleele, HI 96705  
[Hvizdak11@gmail.com](mailto:Hvizdak11@gmail.com)  
715-498-0690



THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is Herman Ki'ili and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

Herman Ki'ili  
Kapolei, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is Bathey Fong and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

Bathey Fong  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is Vaipapa Soliai and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

Vaipapa Soliai  
Waipahu, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is Michele Muralt and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

Michelle Muralt  
Ewa, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is Ada McFeely and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

Ada McFeely  
Pearl City, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is Kaili Swan and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

Kaili Swan  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is Evan Murakami and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

Evan Murakami  
Kaimuki, Hawaii

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is David Beatovich and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

David Beatovich  
Kailua, Hawaii



THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, March 18, 2024

HB 1974 HD1 Testimony in SUPPORT

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Senator Aquino

My name is Timothy Renken and I am in support of HB 1974 HD1, 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 HD1

Timothy Renken  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**HB-1974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 9:14:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Arc in Hawaii strongly supports HB1974. Increasing the personal allowance from \$50 to \$75 per month allows individuals in our Domiciliary homes much more opportunity to participate in their community.

The extra \$25, while not much, will afford them one or two more activities per month, which is important in working towards their independence.

With Aloha,

The Arc in Hawaii

*Thank You For Your*

*Support*

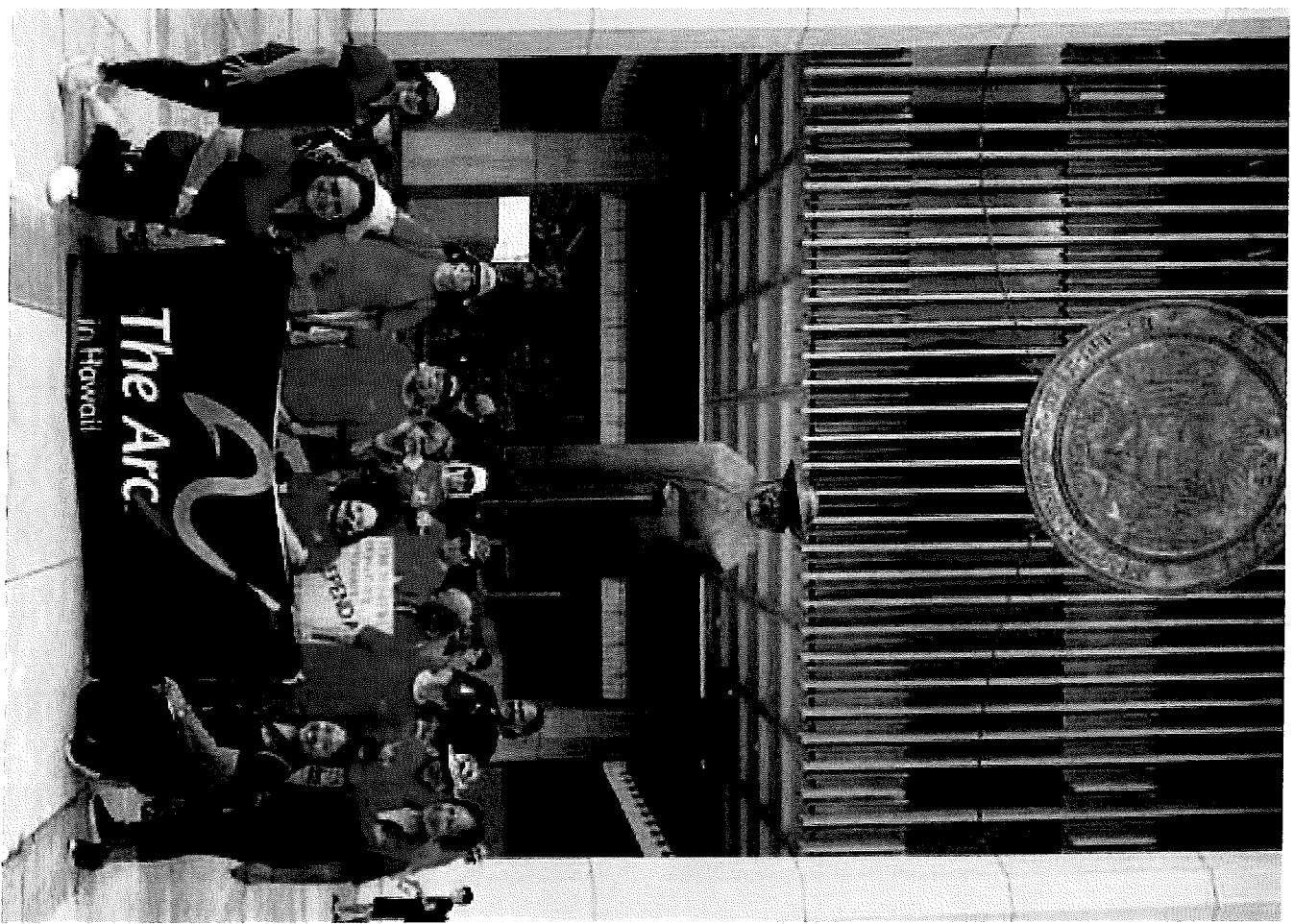


*The Arc*  
*in Hawaii*

Made especially for you by:

**The Arc in Hawaii**  
**3989 Diamond Head Road,**  
**Honolulu, HI 96816**  
**808-737-7995**

**LATE**





## **The Arc in Hawaii in and part of the community.**

The Arc in Hawaii is committed to helping Hawaii's people with intellectual disabilities secure the power to choose where and how they live, learn, work and play in the community.

The Arc in Hawaii provides direct services to adults while advocacy efforts include both adults and children.

Dear Legislator,

## **The Arc in Hawaii's**

**Advocates encourage you  
to support:**

- \* Increasing personal allowance.**
- \* Increasing employment opportunities.**
- \* Increasing independent subsidized housing.**
- \* Increasing Early Intervention Programs.**

**HB-1974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2024 8:52:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Labrie	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I support this measure because the \$25 increase to my monthly personal needs allowance would help me purchase grooming, clothing, and food items every month.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair**

**Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair**

**AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING**

**DATE: Monday, March 18, 2024**

**TIME: 1:00 PM**

**Re HB1974 HD1 RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

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

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

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!**

**Linda Dorset  
Wailuku, Maui**

3.17.2024

[COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES](#)

To Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura Chair; Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair and Committee members:

I am writing in **support of HB1974 HD1**. I work with Easterseals Hawaii assisting adults with disabilities in the Home and Community Waiver Services program. Several adults that attend Adult Day Health Services also live in supported living arrangements. Adults with disabilities have limited funds for discretionary spending. Many do not have family members that are able to supplement an adult's discretionary spending beyond the allotted \$50.00. This bill will increase the monthly personal needs allowance from \$50 to \$75 and affects individuals who are in care homes, foster homes, domiciliary homes, community care foster homes and long-term care facilities.

Anne Hvizdak  
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[Hvizdak11@gmail.com](mailto:Hvizdak11@gmail.com)  
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THE SENATE  
KA'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Amended Notice of Hearing: Monday, March 18, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee on Health & Human Services. My name is Carol Wakayama and I wish to submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of H.B. 1974 H.D. 1 ("Relating to Social Services").

Currently, our State provides a 'personal needs allowance' for individuals living in various 'assisted' living facilities. Some of H.B. 1974 H.D. 1's key points include: 1) increasing the needs allowance from \$50.00 to \$75.00; 2) requiring the Department of Human Services to perform annual reviews of the needs allowance and report their findings to the Legislature and; 3) requiring certain long-term care facilities to pay for generic toiletries and other basic necessities.

As I stated in point #2 (paragraph 2 above), I believe H.B. 1974 H.D. 1 has an 'accountability' factor that I consider critical in government operations.

I humbly request your support for H.B. 1974 H.D. 1. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Carol Wakayama  
Honolulu, Hawaii



**LATE**

**HB-1974-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 7:01:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/18/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Week	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Buenaventura and Committee Members,

I am a resident of Kailua Kona, Hawaii and I am writing in support of HB1974 HD1, which increases the monthly needs allowance from \$50 to \$75.

I believe this increase is fair and a necessary step in the right direction for our state. The people that receive this allowance are important to me, and to our community as a whole. This allowance empowers individuals in care homes to better care for themselves independently and engage in our community.

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

sincerely,

Sarah Week