

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

3206

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1974
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 1974, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO SOCIAL SERVICES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase the monthly needs allowance from \$50 to \$75 for individuals residing in adult residential care homes, domiciliary homes, adult foster homes, and other long-term care facilities;
- (2) Clarify that the needs allowance is not intended to replace or affect funds received from the federal Supplemental Security Income Program;
- (3) Require certain long-term care facility operators to pay for generic toiletries, linens, and meals and snacks;
- (4) Clarify the individuals who are eligible to receive the needs allowance; and
- (5) Require the Department of Human Services to perform an annual review of the needs allowance and report to the Legislature.



Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Department of Human Services, Disability and Communication Access Board, Executive Office on Aging, AARP Hawai'i, The Arc in Hawaii, Full Life, and fifteen individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State provides a personal needs allowance for individuals residing in adult residential care homes, domiciliary homes, adult foster homes, and other long-term care facilities, which allows recipients to purchase necessary items, such as clothing, toiletries, and meals, and covers other day-to-day living expenses. Your Committee further finds that despite the significant increase in the cost of living in Hawaii, allowance has not been increased since 2007, when the Legislature increased the monthly amount from \$30 to \$50. This measure increases the personal needs allowance for individuals in long-term care homes, allowing them more autonomy and dignity, and the ability to participate in their communities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have required the Department of Human Services to perform an annual review of the monthly needs allowance and submit a report to the Legislature;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of October 1, 2024; and
- (3) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose.

Your Committee notes the testimony of the Department of Human Services that if their program budget is not reduced in H.B. No. 1800, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2024, the Department's current program budget appropriation will be sufficient to cover the needs allowance increase of \$25, and that the Department will not need a general fund appropriation to accommodate the needs allowance increase proposed in this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1974, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it



pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1974, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health and Human
Services,

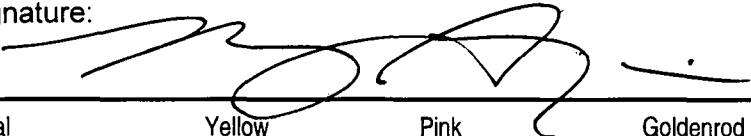


JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 1974, HD1	Committee Referral: HHS, WAM	Date: 3/18/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (VC)	✓			
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	✓			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			<i>AWA</i>
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes