

LIVING WAGE HAWAII

Minimum Wage Fact Sheet

JAN 2021

HAWAII'S MINIMUM WAGE FALLS SHORT

While \$17 per hour is needed for full-time workers to afford their basic needs, Hawaii's minimum wage is only \$10.10 per hour. More than 150,000 full-time workers in Hawaii earn less than the \$35,000 that's needed to make ends meet. The national and local Hawaii Democratic Party platforms both call for a \$15 minimum wage. Eight states are on their way to a \$15+ minimum wage.

RAISING THE WAGE HELPS WORKERS

When the minimum wage increased from \$7.25 in 2014 to \$10.10 in 2018, workers at all income levels saw their earnings increase faster than wages nationwide. This was a change from the previous four years when local wages grew slower than wages nationally. The cost of living also increased slower during this time.

INCREASED WAGES BOOST OUR ECONOMY

With workers earning more money and spending it here locally, from 2014 to 2018, the number of small businesses in Hawaii increased - as did their number of employees. Unemployment was also near all time lows in 2018. Hawaii's economy grew at a faster rate from 2014-2018 than during stagnation. Our local economy's growth was also faster than the nation's economic growth over that same time.

