
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the safety and
2 welfare of the islands' kupuna is a priority. Scams and
3 fraudulent activities targeting kupuna are unacceptable and
4 diminish kupuna's assets, dignity, and legacy.

5 The legislature further finds that medicare loses over
6 \$70,000,000,000 annually to fraudulent claims. Hawaii's
7 population ranks first in the nation in terms of longevity, with
8 an average life expectancy of 81.3 years. As the baby boomer
9 generation continues to age, the number of people eligible for
10 medicare will continue to grow.

11 The legislature further finds that the State's senior
12 medicare patrol program, established in 1997, has a documented
13 history of advocating for, educating, and protecting Hawaii's
14 most vulnerable population. The program was established with
15 two temporary full-time positions and continues to provide
16 services with only two full-time staff positions, despite
17 significant increases in reports of fraudulent activity. In



1 addition, the State's senior medicare patrol program does not
2 limit its assistance to fighting health care fraud and abuse.
3 The executive office on aging recognizes that other types of
4 fraud and abuse that deceive kupuna into providing personal
5 information and money, including gift card and charity schemes;
6 romance, caregiver, and imposter scams; and ransomware, have the
7 potential to harm kupuna. To address increasing reports of
8 fraud, medical billing errors, and abuse, more full-time staff
9 positions are needed to expand the State's senior medicare
10 patrol program and its delivery of services. The additional
11 staff will allow the program to work closely with other private
12 and government service providers to build a wider "help net" and
13 assist kupuna statewide.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for three
15 additional positions within the State's senior medicare patrol
16 program to meet the rising demand for assistance resulting from
17 increasing reports of fraud, medical billing errors, and abuse.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2024-2025 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program
2 specialist III position, one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
3 program specialist IV position, and one full-time equivalent
4 (1.0 FTE) program specialist V position within the executive
5 office on aging for the State's senior medicare patrol program.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the executive
7 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
9 2050.



Report Title:

Senior Medicare Patrol Hawaii Program; Program Specialists;
Positions; Executive Office on Aging; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for 3 additional program specialist positions
within the Executive Office on Aging for the State's Senior
Medicare Patrol Program. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD2)

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