
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ASSURANCE SPECIAL FUND.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that establishing the
2 ceiling of the office of health care assurance special fund
3 through the state budget process provides greater flexibility to
4 the legislature to review spending proposals and allows the
5 department of health to avoid an artificial fiscal ceiling. The
6 legislature further finds that the office of health care
7 assurance special fund can be used to offset increasing
8 operational expenses, upgrade and expand the department of
9 health's management information system for the health care
10 facility licensing program, implement and upgrade a web-based
11 portal for a robust industry-wide background check system for
12 criminal history and registry checks on health care facility
13 licensees and employees, fund state licensing surveyor and
14 support positions where general funds were eliminated or
15 reduced, and fund other contracts for inspection services.

16 The legislature also finds that, in response to the COVID-
17 19 pandemic, there is increased need for public and health care



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1 facility education and outreach to ensure appropriate and high-
2 quality health care facility access. Use of the office of
3 health care assurance special fund will reduce dependence on the
4 general fund during the COVID-19 pandemic and allow the
5 legislature to allocate limited general revenues for other
6 critically important programs and services.

7 The purpose of this Act is to remove the ceiling of the
8 office of health care assurance special fund.

9 SECTION 2. Section 321-1.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

11 "(b) Moneys in the special fund shall be expended by the
12 department of health:

13 (1) To assist in offsetting operating costs and
14 educational program expenses of the department of
15 health's office of health care assurance; and

16 (2) For the purpose of enhancing the capacity of office of
17 health care assurance programs to:

18 (A) Improve public health outreach efforts, program
19 and community development, and consultations to
20 industries regulated;



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1 (B) Educate the public, the staff of the department
2 of health, and other departments within the
3 State, as well as staff and providers of all
4 health care facilities and agencies regulated;
5 and

6 (C) Administer and support the durable medical
7 equipment supplier license program established
8 pursuant to part XLIII.

9 ~~[Not more than \$327,000 of the special fund may be used during~~
10 ~~any fiscal year for the activities carried out by the office of~~
11 ~~health care assurance.]~~

12 (c) ~~[Any amount in the special fund in excess of \$387,500~~
13 ~~on June 30 of each year shall be deposited into the general~~
14 ~~fund.]~~ Moneys in the special fund may be used during any fiscal
15 year for the activities carried out by the office of health care
16 assurance."

17 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19

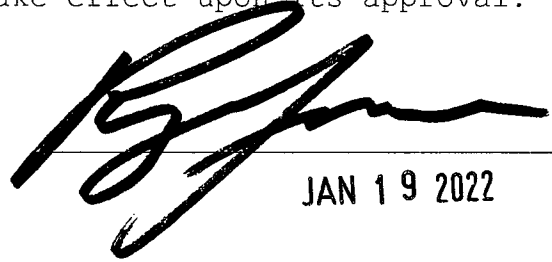


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1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 19 2022



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Report Title:

Office of Health Care Assurance Special Fund; Ceiling

Description:

Removes the ceiling and lapsing provision for the office of health care assurance special fund. Authorizes the moneys in the special fund to be used in any fiscal year for certain purposes.

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