
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the federal medicare
2 program is essential to ensuring health care coverage for older
3 adults and persons having disabilities in the State. However,
4 the rules and procedures of medicare are complex and difficult
5 to navigate. The legislature further finds that the Hawaii
6 state health insurance assistance program (SHIP) is a critical
7 program administered by the department of health executive
8 office on aging that assists those individuals who qualify for
9 medicare to navigate the program and make informed health
10 insurance decisions.

11 SHIP is staffed by only two full-time employees who train a
12 team of over eighty dedicated volunteers to provide specialized
13 assistance to the public free of charge. Currently, SHIP
14 employees are fully funded by federal moneys, which could be
15 reduced or even eliminated based on federal policymaking.



1 Therefore, the legislature finds that state support for SHIP
2 would provide stability and ensure continuity of the program.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to SHIP to
4 expand the program by:

5 (1) Contracting with third-party service providers and
6 staffing consultants; and

7 (2) Recruiting more volunteers.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to
11 expand the Hawaii state health insurance assistance program by:

12 (1) Contracting with third-party service providers and
13 staffing consultants; and

14 (2) Recruiting more volunteers.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive
16 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to expand the Hawaii State Health Insurance Assistance Program by: (1) contracting with third-party service providers and staffing consultants and (2) recruiting more volunteers. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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