

JAN 25 2023

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# 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 behaviors targeting our kupuna are unacceptable and  
4 diminish our 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 ranks  
7 first in the nation in terms of longevity with an average life  
8 expectancy of 81.3 years. As the baby boomer generation  
9 continues to age, the number of people eligible for medicare  
10 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, educating, and protecting Hawaii's most  
14 vulnerable population. The program was established with two  
15 temporary full-time positions and continues to provide services  
16 with just two full-time staff positions despite significant  
17 increases in scam incidences. In addition, the State's senior



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

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

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$229,680 or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
21 2024-2025 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program



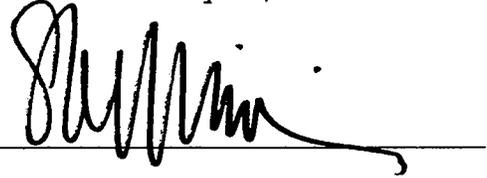
1 specialist III position, one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
2 program specialist IV position, and one full-time equivalent  
3 (1.0 FTE) program specialist V position within the executive  
4 office on aging for the senior medicare patrol program.

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

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be "Stu Min".

# S.B. NO. 1592

**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for three program specialist positions within the Executive Office on Aging for the State's Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

