
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 State's 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 Hawaii's population
6 ranks first in the nation in terms of longevity, with an average
7 life expectancy of 81.3 years. As the baby boomer generation
8 continues to age, the number of people eligible for medicare
9 will continue to grow.

10 The legislature also finds that medicare loses over
11 \$70,000,000,000 annually to fraudulent claims. The State's
12 senior medicare patrol program, established in 1997, has a
13 documented history of advocating for, educating, and protecting
14 Hawaii's most vulnerable population. The program was
15 established with two temporary full-time positions and continues
16 to provide services with only two full-time staff positions,
17 despite significant increases in reports of fraudulent activity.



1 In 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 there are other
 4 types of fraud and abuse that deceive kupuna into providing
 5 personal information and money, including gift card and charity
 6 schemes; romance, caregiver, and imposter scams; and ransomware.
 7 To address increasing reports of fraud, medical billing errors,
 8 and abuse, more full-time staff positions are needed to expand
 9 the State's senior medicare patrol program and its delivery of
 10 services. The additional staff will allow the program to work
 11 closely with other private and government service providers to
 12 build a wider "help net" and assist kupuna statewide.

13 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for
 14 positions within the State's senior medicare patrol program to
 15 meet the rising demand for assistance resulting from increasing
 16 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 \$ or so
 19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
 20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 21 year 2024-2025 for full-time equivalent (FTE) program



1 specialist III position, full-time equivalent (FTE)
2 program specialist IV position, and full-time equivalent
3 (FTE) program specialist V position within the executive
4 office on aging for the State's 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 June 30, 3000.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds for additional program specialist positions
within the Executive Office on Aging for the State's Senior
Medicare Patrol Program. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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