
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAL SERVICES FOR FIREFIGHTERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that firefighters are at
2 an increased risk of cancer due to their prolonged exposure to
3 hazardous materials. According to the Centers for Disease
4 Control, cancer is the leading cause of death among
5 firefighters. A study conducted between 1978 and 2022 revealed
6 firefighters are at a higher risk for skin and prostate cancer.
7 Further, they have significantly higher mortality rates for
8 rectal, testicular, brain, and other forms of cancer. Medical
9 experts recommend preventative measures, early detection, and
10 screenings to reduce the risk of occupational cancer.

11 The purpose of this Act is to include cancer screenings as
12 a medical service covered under the state health benefits
13 program for full-time state firefighters.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 386, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:



1 "§386- Firefighter Cancer Screening. (a) A firefighter
2 employed as a full-time paid employee of a fire department or
3 unit of the State or a political subdivision of the State shall
4 be provided a cancer screening examination conducted by a
5 physician not less than three years after the start of the
6 firefighter's employment as a firefighter and every three years
7 thereafter during the course of the firefighter's employment.
8 The examination shall include screening for, at a minimum and
9 when applicable, the following cancers:

- 10 (1) colon;
- 11 (2) lung;
- 12 (3) bladder;
- 13 (4) oral;
- 14 (5) thyroid;
- 15 (6) skin;
- 16 (7) blood;
- 17 (8) breast;
- 18 (9) cervical
- 19 (10) testicular;
- 20 (11) rectal; and
- 21 (12) prostate.



1 (b) Subsection (a) of this section shall apply to a
2 firefighter enrolled in the state health benefits program as
3 occupational coverage.

4 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule,
5 or regulation to the contrary, beginning January 1, 2025 and for
6 each plan year thereafter, a public employer that does not
7 participate in the state health benefits program shall provide
8 health care benefits coverage for its employees that offers
9 cancer screening examinations consistent with the requirement of
10 subsection (a) of this section. A public employer that does not
11 participate in the state health benefits program shall be
12 eligible for reimbursement from the State for its cost of
13 providing benefits coverage for such examinations; provided,
14 however, at no time shall the cost being reimbursed to the
15 public employer by the State for the full examination required
16 under subsection (a) of this section exceed \$1,250 per three-
17 year period for each firefighter.

18 (d) No co-payment, deductible, coinsurance, or out-of-
19 pocket expense shall be required for such examinations.



1 (e) A public employer shall maintain adequate records to
2 facilitate the reimbursement authorized pursuant to this
3 subsection.

4 (f) For the purpose of this section, employment as a full-
5 time paid employee of a fire department or unit of this State or
6 a political subdivision of this State shall be a pre-existing
7 condition."

8 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of
9 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
10 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
11 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
12 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025
13 to be exceeded by \$, or per cent. The reasons for exceeding
14 the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the appropriation
15 made in this Act is necessary to serve the public interest and
16 to meet the need provided for by this Act.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
20 coverage of the cancer screening services outlined in section 2.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

Jan White
Jim [unclear]
Ken Wood
[unclear]
Dan [unclear]

JAN 18 2024



H.B. NO. 1720

Report Title:

Minority Caucus Package; Firefighter; General Fund Exceeded

Description:

Provides cancer screening for full-time state firefighters every three years to cover twelve types of cancer. Appropriates funds exceeding the ceiling.

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

