

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1390

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 3, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 3, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 705, H.D. 1,  
S.D. 1, C.D. 1

RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING.  
**ACT 287**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that low-income subsidy  
2 programs, including medicare, medicaid, and medicare savings  
3 programs such as medicare part D extra help, can help reduce  
4 out-of-pocket costs for individuals with limited income by  
5 offsetting their medical and prescription drug costs, such as  
6 premiums, deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, and lifetime  
7 late enrollment penalties. The legislature further finds that  
8 although individuals with low income, those who speak English as  
9 a second language, or those who live in rural areas may qualify  
10 for these programs, they may have no or limited access to the  
11 benefits, as they may not be aware of or need assistance with  
12 the application or eligibility renewal process.

13           The legislature further finds that the executive office on  
14 aging of the department of health provides free information and  
15 one-on-one counseling on medicare. Since 2022, the executive  
16 office on aging has been receiving a significantly higher volume  
17 of referrals from med-QUEST to assist uninsured or underinsured



1 individuals who are losing their medicaid eligibility and need  
2 to find other health coverage. The overflow and referrals are  
3 made to community partners within forty-eight hours to help with  
4 food, housing, utilities, employment, and other needs.

5 The legislature also finds that during the COVID-19  
6 pandemic, the med-QUEST division of the department of human  
7 services paused disenrollments based on eligibility issues and  
8 all medicaid members received continuous uninterrupted coverage  
9 through March 2023, regardless of their change in eligibility.  
10 Following the 2023 Maui wildfires, the med-QUEST division again  
11 paused all eligibility disenrollments statewide until the end of  
12 2023. However, the med-QUEST division has resumed its annual  
13 eligibility redetermination process, and therefore, people have  
14 been or will be receiving notices and forms to renew their  
15 coverage.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 17 (1) Establish within the executive office on aging a medi-  
18 medi project to assist underserved populations in the  
19 State who may qualify for various low-income subsidy  
20 programs to gain access to their benefits;



1 (2) Appropriate funds to the executive office on aging for  
2 staff and operating expenses related to administering  
3 the medi-medi project; and

4 (3) Require and appropriate funds for the executive office  
5 on aging to develop a one-year pilot project to make  
6 available the medi-medi project to kupuna and families  
7 living in a disadvantaged community, specifically the  
8 Kalihi valley catchment areas.

9 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the advocacy,  
10 education, and outreach section of the executive office on aging  
11 a medi-medi project to assist older adults, medicare  
12 beneficiaries, individuals with disabilities, and other  
13 underserved populations who may qualify for various low-income  
14 subsidy programs, including medicare, medicaid, and medicare  
15 savings programs such as medicare part D extra help, to gain  
16 access to their benefits.

17 (b) The medi-medi project shall:

18 (1) Develop and implement a community outreach program;

19 (2) Streamline the application process for various low-  
20 income subsidy programs; and



1 (3) Provide referrals and assistance to other low-income  
2 programs.

3 (c) The executive office on aging shall submit a report of  
4 its findings and recommendations regarding the medi-medi  
5 project, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature  
6 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular  
7 session.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$121,016 or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2026-2027 for the executive office on aging, to be expended as  
13 follows:

14 (1) \$71,016 for the establishment of one full-time  
15 equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to implement and  
16 administer the medi-medi project; and

17 (2) \$50,000 for operating expenses, including education  
18 and outreach.

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



1 SECTION 4. (a) The legislature finds that the medi-medi  
2 project will be able to supplement programs that provide health  
3 assessments and wraparound support to kupuna and their families.  
4 Additionally, by providing a medi-medi project to kupuna and  
5 their families in impoverished communities, the medi-medi  
6 project can be expanded to these populations to serve disparate  
7 populations living in persistent poverty who are potentially  
8 eligible or are enrolled in Medicaid.

9 The purpose of this section is to require and appropriate  
10 funds for the executive office on aging to develop a one-year  
11 pilot project to provide the medi-medi project to kupuna and  
12 families living in a disadvantaged community, specifically the  
13 Kalihi valley catchment areas.

14 (b) The executive office on aging shall develop a one-year  
15 pilot project to provide the medi-medi project to kupuna and  
16 families living in a disadvantaged community, specifically the  
17 Kalihi valley catchment areas.

18 (c) The executive office on aging shall submit a report of  
19 its findings and recommendations regarding the pilot project,  
20 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later



1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
2 of 2027.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the  
6 executive office on aging to develop a pilot project to provide  
7 the medi-medi project to kupuna and families living in a  
8 disadvantaged community, specifically the Kalihi valley  
9 catchment areas.

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

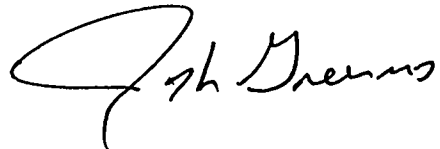
12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



H.B. NO.

705  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 3rd day of July, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 705, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker  
House of Representatives




Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate