
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SAGE PLUS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Sage PLUS program provides assistance at no
2 charge to people receiving medicare and medicaid benefits, as
3 well as their families, caregivers, and people on the verge of
4 retirement.

5 The program is currently housed and staffed only on Oahu.
6 Volunteers provide limited service on the neighbor islands for
7 residents of Hilo, Kona, Maui, and Kauai, but there is no office
8 or staff support available to them.

9 The Oahu Sage PLUS office is staffed by two employees whose
10 positions are scheduled to be converted from exempt to civil
11 service status during this calendar year. Due to the complex
12 nature of medicare and medicaid benefits, especially in light of
13 the recent implementation of the federal medicare part D drug
14 plan, it is imperative that experienced personnel remain with
15 the Sage PLUS program.

16 The purpose of this Act is to:

17 (1) Appropriate funds to establish Sage PLUS specialist
18 positions for Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii counties and



1 provide for operating costs to expand and support the
2 Sage PLUS program on the neighbor islands; and

3 (2) Ensure that, when the exempt positions for the Sage
4 PLUS program are converted from exempt status to civil
5 service, the incumbent employees do not suffer any
6 loss of seniority, pay, or other benefits.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to
10 fund four 0.5 FTE program specialist ___ positions for operation
11 and delivery of the Sage PLUS program on the neighbor islands.
12 The employees shall be housed in Sage PLUS's partner offices as
13 follows:

- 14 (1) Maui area agency on aging;
- 15 (2) Kauai area agency on aging;
- 16 (3) Coordinated Services for Seniors in Hilo; and
- 17 (4) Coordinated Services for Seniors in Kona.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 health for the purposes of this section.

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for the



1 recruitment, training, and sustaining of volunteers to augment
2 the Sage PLUS program staff, and for operating costs of the
3 neighbor island Sage PLUS program staff.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 health for the purposes of this section.

6 SECTION 4. An employee of the department of health's Sage
7 PLUS program who, on the effective date of this Act, occupies a
8 position that is to be converted to civil service pursuant to a
9 recommendation made to convert the position to civil service in
10 accordance with section 3 of Act 128, Session Laws of Hawaii
11 2004, shall not suffer any loss of salary, seniority, prior
12 service credit, vacation, sick leave, or other employee benefit
13 or privilege as a consequence of the position's conversion to
14 civil service, and such officer or employee shall be transferred
15 or appointed to the civil service position established within
16 the Sage PLUS program without the necessity of examination;
17 provided that the officer or employee possesses the minimum
18 qualifications for the position to which transferred or
19 appointed; and provided further that subsequent changes in
20 status may be made pursuant to applicable civil service and
21 compensation laws.

22 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



Report Title:

Sage PLUS; Appropriation; Staff

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Sage PLUS program to establish four .5 FTE Sage PLUS specialist positions to expand services to the neighbor islands and to support the program's operating costs. Grandfathers in existing Sage PLUS employees into civil service. (SD1)

