

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that vision is an  
3 important aspect of an individual's overall health and if  
4 damaged can affect an individual's livelihood. Without a good  
5 sense of vision, an individual is less likely to secure  
6 employment, pay bills, and be a functional member of society,  
7 which may increase the burden of costs to the State to support  
8 this individual.

9 The legislature has historically recognized the importance  
10 of making medicaid coverage available for the State's most  
11 vulnerable populations and has acted to ensure that health care  
12 payments made with state funds or controlled by the State are  
13 sufficient to cover the actual costs of the care provided.

14 The legislature also finds that the department of human  
15 services' budget was reduced by \$150,000,000 forcing it to  
16 prioritize its services and programs based on the severity of  
17 issues it addresses. Due to budget cuts, the department of  
18 human services has requested to drop vision services for able-



1 bodied adults insured by medicaid. The loss of this benefit  
2 will adversely impact those insured by QUEST, eye care  
3 providers, local nonprofits that provide vision services,  
4 community health centers, and ultimately the State's budget.

5 The legislature further finds that although some may deem  
6 the ability to see as a quality of life issue rather than one of  
7 mortality or morbidity, advanced eye disease can cause partial  
8 to complete blindness, dramatically increasing levels of  
9 morbidity. Additionally, many argue that change in vision and  
10 eye diseases, such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts,  
11 and other diseases, are primary indicators of diseases with high  
12 mortality rates. One study found that retinopathy in people  
13 without diabetes may signal increased risk of coronary heart  
14 disease. This finding is important because increased coronary  
15 heart disease mortality associated with retinopathy in people  
16 without diabetes was equivalent to the presence of diabetes  
17 itself, which is the seventh leading cause of death in the  
18 United States and a major cause of heart disease and stroke, and  
19 retinopathy can easily be detected and addressed in its early  
20 stages with regular eye examinations. Therefore, early  
21 detection of eye disease through testing refraction can  
22 potentially minimize the risk of having a disease with high



1 mortality rates and the future costs of treatment associated  
2 with these diseases.

3       The legislature also finds that from a provider standpoint,  
4 accepting medicaid insurance is already an arguable sacrifice.  
5 Medicaid reimburses less, is hard to bill, requires  
6 significantly more bureaucracy to manage, and therefore costs  
7 more to accept. Additionally, there currently exists a  
8 tremendous access-to-care issue for medicaid recipients seeking  
9 vision services. By cutting medicaid adult vision services  
10 benefits, providers are further dissuaded to accept this  
11 benefit, further broadening the gaps of access to care,  
12 particularly on the neighbor islands.

13       The legislature further finds that if the State  
14 appropriates general funds to medicaid adult vision services,  
15 the federal government has volunteered to match the State's  
16 contribution.

17       The purpose of this part is to match federal funding  
18 dedicated to the State to restore medicaid adult vision  
19 services.

20       SECTION 2. 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 2012-2013 to match



1 the federal medicaid allowance allocated to the State for adult  
2 vision services.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 human services for the purposes of this part.

5 PART II

6 SECTION 3. The purpose of this part is to authorize  
7 certain caregivers to execute an affidavit for caregiver consent  
8 on behalf of a minor to allow the minor to participate fully in  
9 programs and services of minors subject to the Individuals with  
10 Disabilities Education Act or section 504 of the Rehabilitation  
11 Act of 1973.

12 SECTION 4. Section 302A-482, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

14 "(g) This section shall [~~not~~] apply to the programs and  
15 services of minors subject to the Individuals with Disabilities  
16 Education Act (20 U.S.C. section 1400 et seq.) or section 504 of  
17 the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. section 791)."

18 PART III

19 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken.

21 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Kupuna Caucus; Medicaid; Adult Vision Appropriation;  
Disabilities

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to match federal funds for medicaid benefits for adult vision services. Authorizes caregiver consent by affidavit to allow minors to participate in programs under Individuals with Disabilities Act and section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Effective July 1, 2050. (HB2200 HD1)

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

