
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the state health
2 insurance assistance program is a volunteer-based program
3 offering free health benefits counseling services to medicare
4 beneficiaries, their families, and soon-to-be retirees. The
5 state health insurance assistance program's mission is to
6 educate, advocate for, counsel, and empower individuals to make
7 informed health care benefit decisions. The state health
8 insurance assistance program is an independent program funded by
9 the United States Administration for Community Living and is not
10 affiliated with any insurance provider.

11 In Hawaii, the state health insurance assistance program
12 has two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) staff and over 100
13 volunteers. These statewide volunteers provide free, local,
14 unbiased, one-on-one assistance to over 2,200 residents each
15 year. In 2019, 3,100 inquiries were made to the state health
16 insurance assistance program's statewide helpline and website.
17 Approximately 2,264 senior citizens received counseling, and



1 14,335 individuals were reached at community events. The state
2 health insurance assistance program averaged over 20 inquiries
3 and counseling sessions per day.

4 Although the state health insurance assistance program has
5 experienced significant growth during the past three years, it
6 still falls short of the three per cent penetration goal of the
7 medicare market in Hawaii, as set by the federal funders. Three
8 per cent of the medicare market in Hawaii approximates to 7,500
9 senior citizens annually. However, further growth is not
10 possible at current staffing and funding levels.

11 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds
12 to the state health insurance assistance program so that it can
13 grow and continue to reach additional senior citizens in Hawaii
14 with its important services.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$275,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
18 state health insurance assistance program, to be allocated in
19 the following manner:



- 1 (1) \$100,000 for service contracts to partner with the
- 2 medical community, such as federally qualified health
- 3 centers that currently serve older individuals;
- 4 (2) \$100,000 for staffing contracts to provide
- 5 programmatic support to the two full-time equivalent
- 6 (2.0 FTE) staff of the state health insurance
- 7 assistance program; and
- 8 (3) \$75,000 for volunteer recruitment and retention,
- 9 including developing and airing public service
- 10 announcements as well as other print and digital media
- 11 to promote the state health insurance assistance
- 12 program.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

16

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signatures and names over the text "INTRODUCED BY:"]

[Signature] Gregory P. Ryan
 [Signature] Stanley
 [Signature] By Al
 [Signature] Rick
 [Signature] John Wood
 [Signature] Calvin
 [Signature] John



D-L Hlt

OK

Richard L...

JAN 22 2020



H.B. NO. 2452

Report Title:

State Health Insurance Assistance Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the state health insurance assistance program.

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

