



GOV. MSG. NO. 1353

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

July 7, 2023

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

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 7, 2023, the following bill was signed into law:

SB1592 SD2 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO THE SENIOR MEDICARE
PATROL PROGRAM.
ACT 250

Sincerely,

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

on _____

THE SENATE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 1592
S.D. 2
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
5 C.D. 1, and this Act will cause the state general fund
6 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be exceeded by
7 \$1,063,953,655 or 11.0 per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2023-2024 in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, and this
10 Act only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund
11 expenditure ceiling are that:

12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and

14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the safety and
17 welfare of the islands' kupuna is a priority. Scams and



1 fraudulent activities targeting kupuna are unacceptable and
2 diminish kupuna's assets, dignity, and legacy.

3 The legislature further finds that medicare loses over
4 \$70,000,000,000 annually to fraudulent claims. Hawaii's
5 population ranks first in the nation in terms of longevity, with
6 an average life expectancy of 81.3 years. As the baby boomer
7 generation continues to age, the number of people eligible for
8 medicare will continue to grow.

9 The legislature further finds that the State's senior
10 medicare patrol program, established in 1997, has a documented
11 history of advocating for, educating, and protecting Hawaii's
12 most vulnerable population. The program was established with
13 two temporary full-time positions and continues to provide
14 services with only two full-time staff positions, despite
15 significant increases in reports of fraudulent activity. In
16 addition, the State's senior medicare patrol program does not
17 limit its assistance to fighting health care fraud and abuse.
18 The executive office on aging recognizes that other types of
19 fraud and abuse that deceive kupuna into providing personal
20 information and money, including gift card and charity schemes;
21 romance, caregiver, and imposter scams; and ransomware, have the



1 potential to harm kupuna. To address increasing reports of
2 fraud, medical billing errors, and abuse, more full-time staff
3 positions are needed to expand the State's senior medicare
4 patrol program and its delivery of services. The additional
5 staff will allow the program to work closely with other private
6 and government service providers to build a wider "help net" and
7 assist kupuna statewide.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
9 establishment of three additional positions within the State's
10 senior medicare patrol program to meet the rising demand for
11 assistance resulting from increasing reports of fraud, medical
12 billing errors, and abuse.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$186,288 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
16 sum of \$192,408 or so much thereof as may be necessary for
17 fiscal year 2024-2025 for the establishment of one full-time
18 equivalent (1.0 FTE) program specialist III position, one full-
19 time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program specialist IV position, and
20 one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program specialist V position

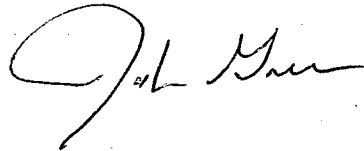


1 within the executive office on aging for the State's senior
2 medicare patrol program.

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

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

APPROVED this 7th day of July, 2023




GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



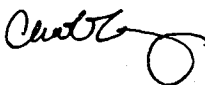
THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 4, 2023
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 1592, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 4, 2023
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives