
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. The legislature finds that the safety and
2 welfare of the State's kupuna is a priority. Scams and
3 fraudulent behaviors targeting kupuna are unacceptable and
4 diminish kupuna's assets, dignity, and legacy.

5 The legislature further finds that Hawaii ranks first in
6 the nation in terms of longevity with an average life expectancy
7 of 81.3 years. As the baby boomer generation continues to age,
8 the number of people eligible for medicare will continue to
9 grow.

10 The legislature also finds that medicare loses over
11 \$70,000,000,000 annually to fraudulent claims. The State's
12 senior medicare patrol program established in 1997 has a
13 documented history of advocating, educating, and protecting
14 Hawaii's most vulnerable population. The program was
15 established with two temporary full-time positions and continues
16 to provide services with just two full-time staff positions,
17 despite significant increases in scam incidences. In addition,



1 the State's senior medicare patrol program does not limit
 2 assistance to health care fraud and abuse. The executive office
 3 on aging recognizes that there are many other types of fraud and
 4 abuse that trick kupuna into providing personal information and
 5 money, including gift card and charity schemes; romance,
 6 caregiver, and imposter scams; and ransomware. To address
 7 increasing reports of fraud, medical billing errors, and abuse,
 8 more full-time staff positions are needed to expand the State's
 9 senior medicare patrol program and delivery of services. The
 10 additional staff will allow the program to work closely with
 11 other private and government service providers to build a wider
 12 "help net" and assist kupuna statewide.

13 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for three
 14 additional positions within the State's senior medicare patrol
 15 program to meet the rising demand for assistance caused by
 16 increased reports of fraud, medical billing errors, and abuse.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
 20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 21 year 2024-2025 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program



1 specialist III position, one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
2 program specialist IV position, and one full-time equivalent
3 (1.0 FTE) program specialist V position within the executive
4 office on aging for the senior medicare patrol program.

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

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

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H.B. NO. 1487
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Senior Medicare Patrol Hawaii Program; Program Specialists;
Positions; Executive Office on Aging; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for three program specialist positions within
the Executive Office on Aging for the State's Senior Medicare
Patrol Program. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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