

ACT 69

H.B. NO. 3348

A Bill for an Act Making an Emergency Appropriation for Medicaid Investigations.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

SECTION 2. Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 1995, by item K-18 of section 3, appropriated \$184,296 in special funds to the department of the attorney general to carry out its fraud and patient abuse duties as required under section 28-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 1995, and ending June 30, 1996.

A critical funding emergency exists. Act 15, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 1995, established the medicaid investigations recovery fund to replace the general fund as a source of funding for medicaid investigations. Employee fringe benefits formerly paid by the state's general fund are now charged to the special fund, but

there was no additional appropriation provided. In addition, lease rent and other investigative expenses must be paid. Without additional appropriations for the special fund, the department of the attorney general will be unable to meet its fiscal obligations to investigate and prosecute health care fraud and patient abuse.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate additional special fund moneys to allow the department of the attorney general to meet its fiscal obligations under section 28-91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for fiscal year 1995-1996.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the medicaid investigations recovery fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$77,926 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1995-1996 for the purposes of the fund.

SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of the attorney general.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 9, 1996.)