

Kal's Law

Hawaii's Medicaid Income Disregard Program



In a few months a new program to help people with disabilities work while protecting their medical benefits and supports will go into effect. Here are five things you should know:



This law eliminates barriers to employment.

Many people with disabilities in Hawaii have been afraid to find a job for fear of losing their Medicaid coverage. Medicaid may be the only medical insurance available to the individual, and it may also be needed to receive Medicaid Waiver services.

1



It was named after Kal Warrington Silvert.

Kal was a bright college student with a disability who dreamed of one day becoming a professor and a writer. Sadly, he learned he could never have the dignity of earning a comfortable living, because he needed nursing services from Medicaid to live.

2



The law covers most workers with disabilities.

To be eligible for the income disregard, workers with disabilities must be between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four.

3



Workers will be able to have higher earnings.

Income up to 138% of the federal poverty level is disregarded when determining eligibility for Medicaid. With all deductions, a worker could earn up to \$5,000/month and keep his or her Medicaid coverage.

4



The law will be applied to wages earned this year.

Once Kal's Law goes into effect, it will apply to wages earned as of January 1, 2021. Individuals who may have been turned down for Medicaid earlier this year because their income was too high may want to reapply under the new rule.

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