

# Kal's Law

## Hawaii's Medicaid Income Disregard Program



A new program to help people with disabilities work while protecting their medical benefits and supports has recently gone into effect. Here are five things you should know about Kal's Law:



### **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.

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### **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.

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### **Workers are now able to have higher earnings.**

Income up to 138% of the federal poverty level (\$1705 for a household of one) 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.

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### **The law covers most workers with disabilities and raises their asset limit.**

To be eligible for the income disregard, workers with disabilities must be between the ages of sixteen and sixty-four. A worker can now hold assets of up to \$7970 for a household of one.

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### **The law applies to all wages earned this year.**

Now that Kal's Law has gone into effect, it applies to wages earned from January 1, 2021 to the present. 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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