

## **INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022**

# Lowering Health Care Costs For Families in Hawaii

The *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022* will help make health care more affordable for families in Hawaii by reigning in the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs and keeping health care premiums low.



#### **PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES**

Lowers the Cost of Prescription Drugs for Seniors. Right now, there are over 280,000 seniors in Hawaii who get their health care through Medicare. This legislation would allow Medicare to begin negotiating directly for the price of prescription drugs ensuring that patients get the best deal possible on high-priced prescriptions.

**Caps Out-of-Pocket Costs at \$2,000 a Year for Seniors.** Today, there is no cap on out-of-pocket spending for prescription drugs seniors buy from pharmacies. This proposal ensures that devastating diagnoses, like cancer, will never again mean paying tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket for just one drug. For the thousands of seniors in Hawaii with these diagnoses, this legislation will cap their out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 per year, with the option to break that amount into affordable monthly payments.



**Prevents Big Pharma from Making Exorbitant Drug Price Increases.** For too long, Big Pharma has exploited Americans who rely on prescription drugs to stay healthy. It's not right. This legislation limits how much pharmaceutical manufacturers can raise costs for Medicare beneficiaries who rely on prescriptions by capping increases for drug prices to the rate of inflation.

**Provides Additional Assistances for Individuals Who Make Low-Incomes.** Expands premium and co-pay assistance on prescription drugs for individuals who make low-incomes.

### HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS

**Keeps Health Care Affordable.** Democrats passed a temporary enhancement to premium tax credits in the American Rescue Plan—helping families across Hawaii afford health coverage through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. This legislation would extend these tax credits to keep premiums low for families.



## VACCINES

**Makes Vaccines Free for Seniors.** This legislation includes Senator Hirono's legislation to make all vaccines free through Medicare for seniors, the only population for whom vaccines were not already free. This will ensure the nearly 300,000 Medicare enrollees in Hawaii have access to critical vaccines.