

**Lowering the Cost of
Prescription Drugs in
Hawai'i: A 2003 Survey
of Residents Age 18+**

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in Hawai'i:**

A 2003 Survey of Residents Age 18+

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Background

Nearly one in ten Hawai'i residents are uninsured,¹ and equally troubling is the fact that about 28,000 children under the age of 19 living in Hawai'i are uninsured.² In 2002, the Hawai'i state legislature passed two laws that would help the uninsured and underinsured pay for their prescription medications: Healthy Hawai'i and Hawai'i Rx. To date, neither program has been implemented in the state. The first program, Healthy Hawai'i, would expand the state Medicaid income eligibility requirements for the sole purpose of purchasing prescription medications to those qualified residents who earn 300 percent or less than the federal poverty level - \$32,000 per year for an individual and a combined income of \$64,000 for a couple. More people could potentially benefit from this program and buy their medications at low Medicaid prices.

The second prescription drug legislation passed, Hawai'i Rx, is modeled after a Maine law. This program would create a purchasing pool that would negotiate discounts on prescription drugs for over 300,000 residents who do not have prescription drug coverage³. It requires the Department of Human Services to negotiate the amount of the rebate required from any prescription drug manufacturer that sells prescription drugs in the state for the program. If the Department of Human Services and a manufacturer fail to reach agreement on the terms of a rebate, the Department of Human Services will then decide whether or not to place that manufacturer's products on the formularies for other state-funded prescription drug programs.

The purpose of this study is to gauge the importance of and support for the implementation of these two state-funded prescription drug programs among all people in Hawai'i ages 18 and older. This study also broadly assesses the need for prescription drug assistance among people in Hawai'i by examining the out-of-pocket expense and the financial burden that buying these drugs may create for some people. This RDD survey was completed by 1,002 people in Hawai'i ages 18 and older. Approximately 40 percent of those interviews were completed by people ages 50 and older. This survey has a response rate of 60 percent, a cooperation rate of 67 percent and sampling error of ± 3 percent. Please see the methodology section in the back of this report for more details regarding the disposition of the survey sample.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2003 Annual Social and Economic Supplements, Table B106, Health Insurance Coverage Status by State for All People: 2002 Not poverty universe: unrelated individuals under age 15 are included.

² Children's Defense Fund, State Profiles, Children in the States 2003, *Children in Hawaii*. January 2003.

³ Would include the uninsured, the underinsured, Medicare beneficiaries.

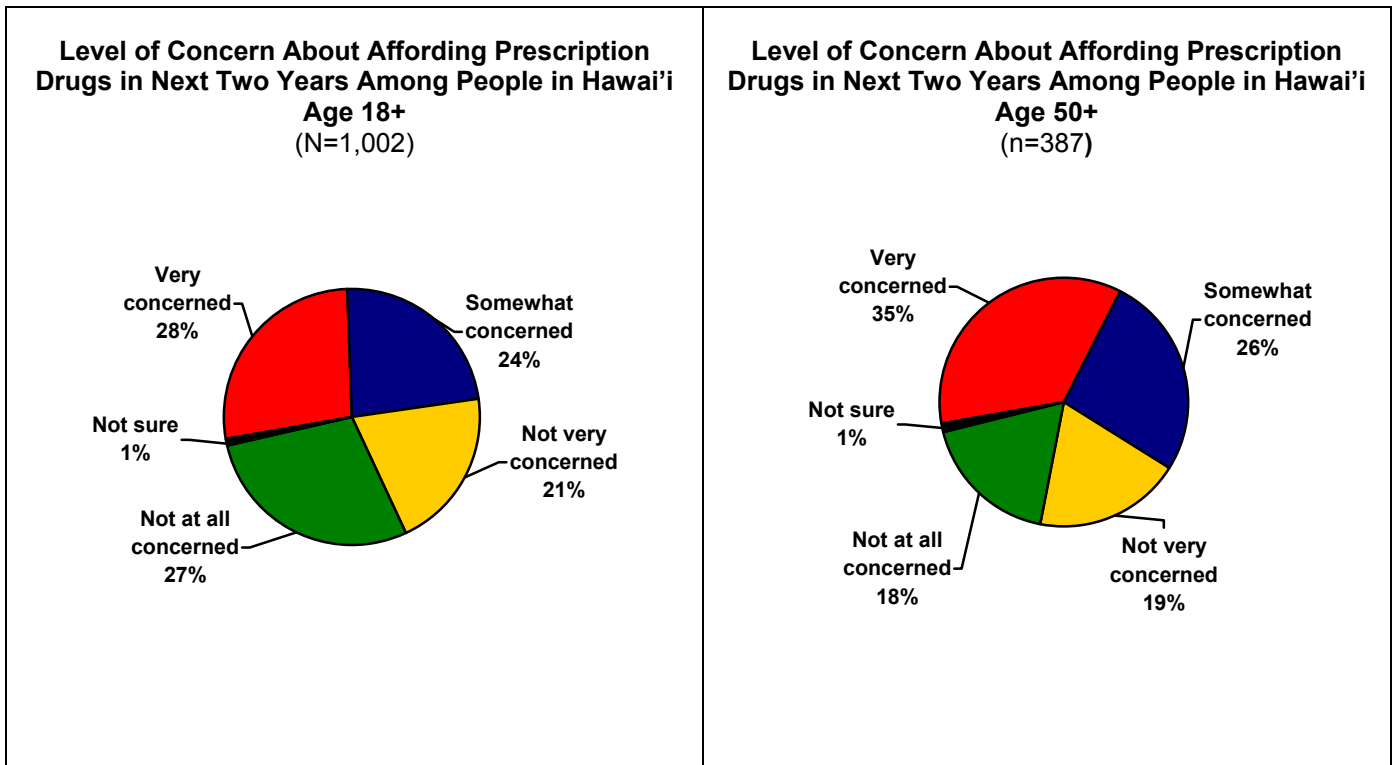
Report Highlights

- Half of all people in Hawai'i, particularly those ages 50 and older and those with lower incomes, are concerned about being able to afford prescription drugs the next two years.
- Six in ten people in Hawai'i report having taken prescription medication in the past 12 months, and of those residents, three-quarters are taking it on a regular basis. Most (77%) of these respondents are taking one to three prescription medications per day, and slightly more than one in ten take four to five medications per day (12%) or take six or more per day (11%).
- Over one-quarter (27%) of the people in Hawai'i who take prescription drugs on a regular basis spent \$100 or more out of their own pocket on prescription drugs in the last 90 days, and one in ten say they spent \$250 or more.
- Half (51%) of those residents in Hawai'i who are taking prescription medication on a regular basis say that paying for their drugs presents a financial burden. This is particularly true for those whose incomes are less than \$50,000 – they are more likely than higher income residents to say that paying for their prescription medications is a major problem.
- Nearly one-third (32%) of those people in Hawai'i who regularly take prescription drugs report taking at least one significant cost-reducing measure to pay for their medication. In addition, those with incomes less than \$50,000 are more likely than residents with higher incomes to either have put off filling a prescription, cut back on necessities, or decreased their dosage in order to afford their prescription medication or make it last longer.
- Most (84%) people in Hawai'i say it is important that the state offer a prescription drug program for persons who need help paying for their medications. Older respondents and those with lower incomes are more likely than younger people and those with incomes greater than \$30,000 to say that a state prescription drug program in Hawai'i is very important.
- Most (77%) people in Hawai'i support putting the Healthy Hawai'i prescription drug program into effect. Older respondents and those with annual incomes less than \$30,000 are more likely than younger people and those with higher incomes to say they strongly support implementing Healthy Hawai'i.
- Most (78%) people in Hawai'i also support putting the Hawai'i Rx prescription drug program into effect. Again, older respondents and those with annual incomes less than \$30,000 are more likely than younger people and those with higher incomes to say they strongly support implementing Healthy Hawai'i.
- Over half (56%) of the people in Hawai'i say they are more likely to vote for a candidate that supports putting Healthy Hawai'i into effect. Likewise, a similar proportion of respondents (58%) say they are more likely to vote for a candidate that supports putting Healthy Rx into effect. With respect to each program, people ages 50 and older and those who report annual incomes of less than \$30,000 are more likely than younger respondents and those with higher incomes are more likely to vote for a candidate that supports putting the legislation into effect.

Findings

Half of all people in Hawai'i ages 18 and older, and three-fifths ages 50+, say they are concerned about being able to afford their prescription drugs in the next two years.

Over one-quarter of all people in Hawai'i are very concerned, and another quarter say they are somewhat concerned, about being able to afford the cost of their prescription drugs in the near future. This finding is particularly noteworthy given that most respondents say they are covered by some form of health insurance (92%), that their plan provides prescription drug coverage (84%), and that they are not participating in any prescription drug discount programs (90%).

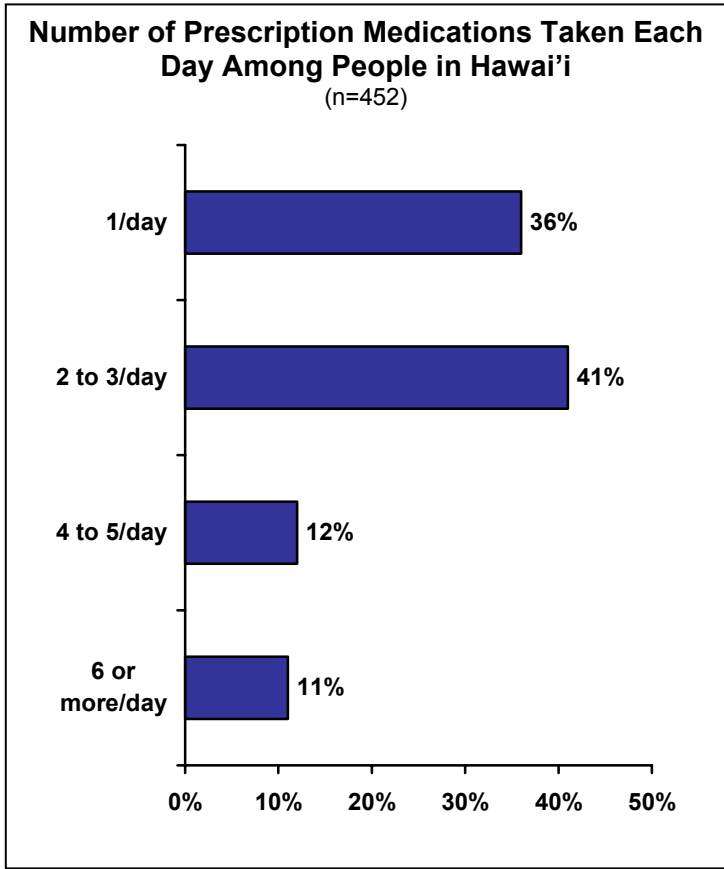


People in Hawai'i ages 50 and older are more likely than those younger to say they are very concerned about the affordability of their prescription medications in the next two years. In addition, those who report annual incomes less than \$30,000 are more likely than people with higher incomes to say they are very concerned about being able to afford the cost of prescription drugs in the next two years (see Table 1 in Appendix A).

Three-quarters of those people in Hawai'i who have taken prescription medication on a regular basis report taking up to three medications each day.

Sixty percent of all people in Hawai'i say they have taken prescription medication in the last 12 months, and of these people (n=601), three-quarters (75%) are taking their medication on a regular basis. Among those who report taking prescription medication on a regular basis (n=452), most take up to three different drugs per day, one in ten take four to five prescription drugs per day, and still another one in ten are taking six or more prescription drugs per day (see Chart 1 in Appendix A).

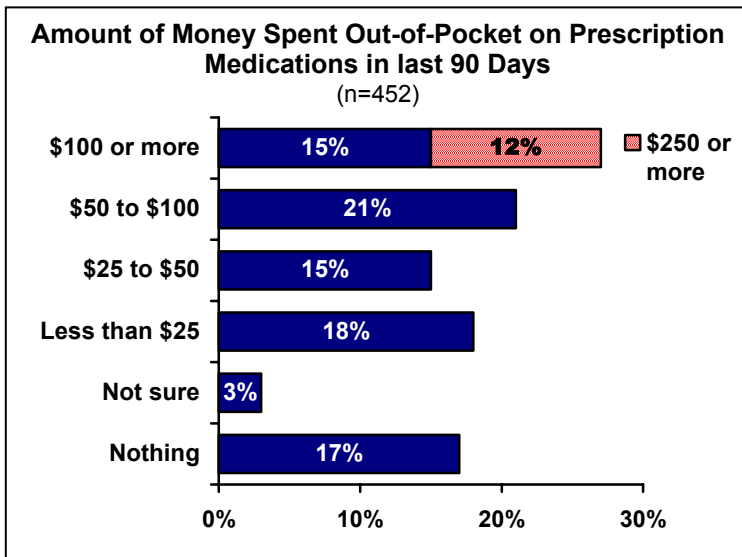
People in Hawai'i ages 50 and over are significantly more likely than those younger to say they have taken prescription medication in the last 12 months (81% vs. 47%), and that they are taking them on a regular basis (90% vs. 59%: n=601). In addition, the number of prescription medications taken each day increases with age: those ages 50 and older are significantly more likely than younger people in Hawai'i to report taking 2 to 3 drugs (48% vs. 31%: n=452) and 6 or more drugs each day (15% vs. 3%: n=452).



People in Hawai'i with annual incomes of less than \$30,000 and greater than \$49,999 are more likely than those in the middle whose incomes are \$30,000 to \$49,999 to have taken prescription medication in the last 12 months. However, income is not significant factor in this survey with respect to taking medication on regular basis. Still, among people who took prescription medication in the past year and on a regular basis, respondents with annual incomes less than \$30,000 are more likely than those with incomes of \$50,000 or more to take 6 or more medications. Conversely, higher income people are significantly more likely than respondents with incomes less than \$30,000 to report taking only 1 prescription medication per day (see Table 2 and 3 in Appendix A).

Over 25 percent of people in Hawai'i who take prescription drugs on a regular basis report spending \$100 or more out-of-pocket on prescription drugs in the last 90 days, and one in ten spent \$250 or more.⁴

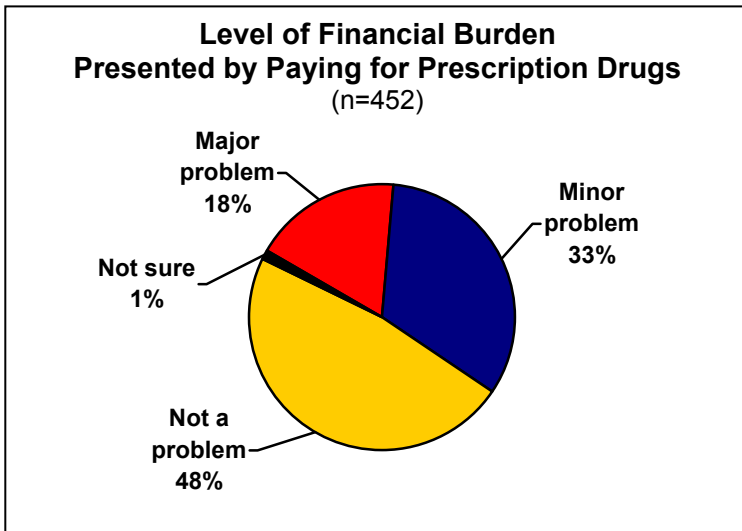
Among those who have taken prescription medication in the past year and on a regular basis (n=452), one-quarter, or 109,892 people in Hawai'i age 18 and older, have spent at least \$100 or more out of their own pocket in the last three months or 90 days.⁵ In addition, one in ten report spending at least \$250 or more in the last 90 days out of their own pocket on their medications. This proportion translates into approximately 45,788 people in Hawai'i who have paid at least \$83 *per month* of their own money for their medications (see Table 4 in Appendix A).



There are no age differences among people in Hawai'i with respect to how much money they spent out of their own pocket on prescription drugs in the last 90 days or three months. The only difference with respect to income was among respondents whose annual incomes are greater than \$50,000: they are more likely than lower income respondents to say they spent \$25 to \$49 out-of-pocket on prescription medication in the last 90 days.

Paying for prescription medications presents a financial burden for many people in Hawai'i.

Among those respondents ages 18 and older who say they have taken prescription medication in the last 12 months and on a regular basis (n=452), nearly one in five (18%) say that paying for their drugs presents a major financial problem for them, and one-third (33%) say it presents a minor financial problem for them. However, just under half indicate that paying for their prescription medication is not a problem for them.



Respondents who report incomes less than \$30,000 and between \$30,000 and

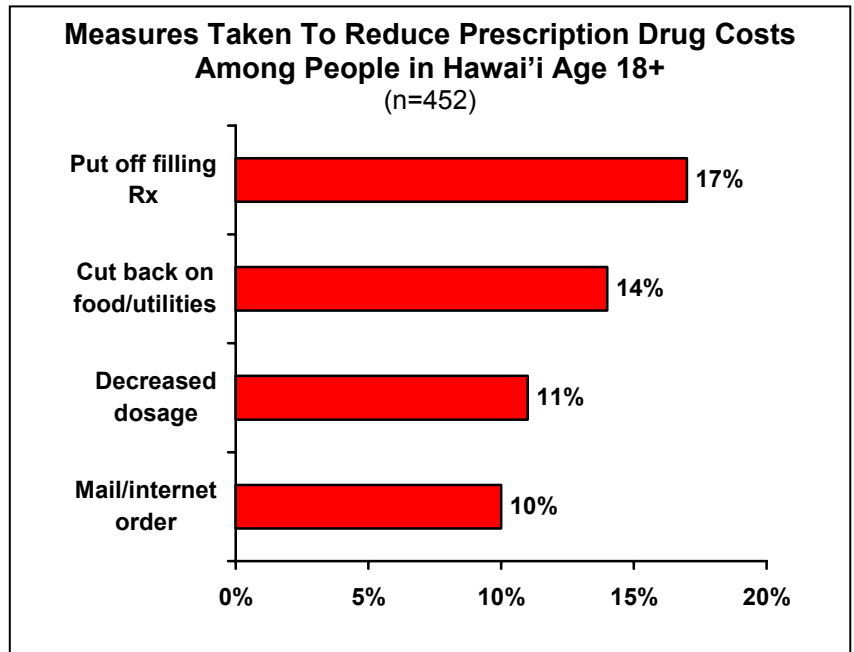
⁴ Survey was fielded from September through October 2003 so this could have included the months of June, July, August, and September 2003 depending on when respondent was called.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000; Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data: Hawaii. 915,770 people are age 18 and older. The number of people in Hawai'i who say they spent \$100 or more out of pocket was derived by taking 27% of 452 which equals 122.04. This number of people is 12 percent of the entire sample. Therefore, 12 percent of the 18+ population in Hawai'i equals 109,892 people. The proportion of people who spent \$250 or more in the 90 days was 5 percent of the entire sample. Five percent of people age 18+ in Hawai'i equals 45,788.

\$50,000 are both more likely than those with higher incomes to say that paying for their prescription drugs is a major problem (see Table 5 in Appendix A). There are no differences by age with respect to the level of financial burden presented by paying for prescription medications.

Nearly one-third of those people in Hawai'i who regularly take prescription drugs report taking at least one significant cost-reducing measure to pay for their medication.

Among those people in Hawai'i who are taking prescription medication on a regular basis, about one-third (32%) say they have had to do at least one of the four cost-reducing measures tested in the survey in order to pay for their medication. With respect to each cost-reducing measure, at least one in ten respondents say they have cut back on food or utilities (14%), decreased their dosage of medication to make it last longer (11%), put off getting their prescription filled (17%), or ordered their medication through the mail or over the Internet (10%).

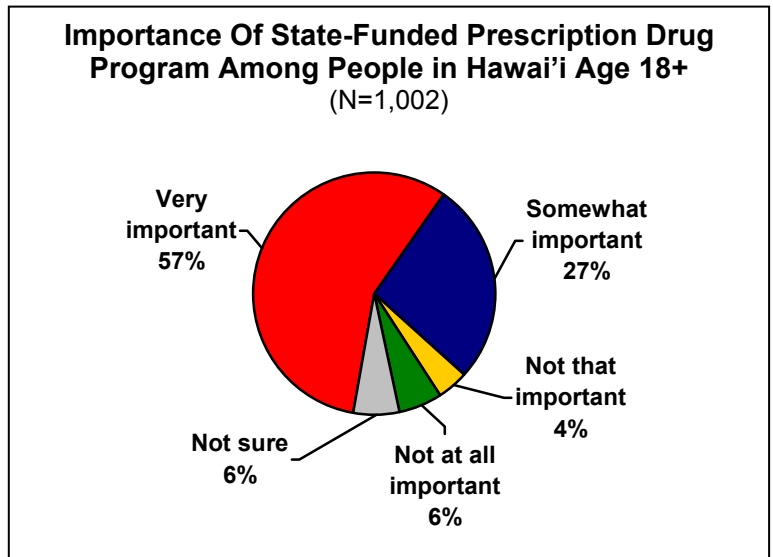


Respondents do not differ by age with respect to any of the cost-reducing measures tested in the survey. However, those who report incomes less than \$30,000 and between \$30,000 and \$49,000 are both more likely than the highest income respondents to say that they cut back on necessities, decreased their dosage, and delayed filling a prescription in order to afford their medication or make it last longer. Those with incomes greater than \$50,000 per year are significantly more likely than those with lower incomes to order their prescriptions by mail or through the internet (see Table 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d in Appendix A).

Most people in Hawai'i say it is important that the state offer a prescription drug program for persons who need help paying for their medications.

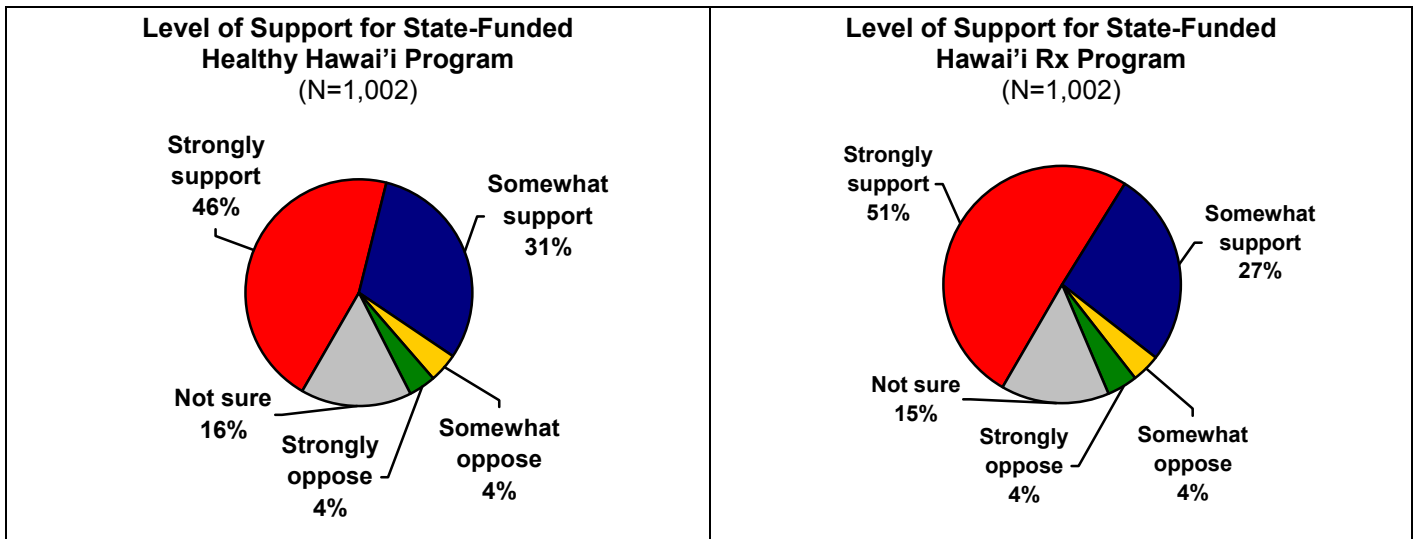
Over half of the respondents say it is very important, and another quarter say it is somewhat important to them that Hawai'i offer a state-funded prescription drug program for persons who may need help paying for their medications. Only 10 percent view this notion as not that important or not at all important.

People in Hawai'i ages 50 and older are more likely than those younger to say that a state prescription drug program is very important to them. In addition, those with annual incomes less than \$30,000 are more likely than those with higher incomes to say that it is very important for the state to offer a prescription drug program to help residents pay for their medications (see Table 7 in Appendix A).



Most people in Hawai'i support putting the Healthy Hawai'i prescription drug program into effect.

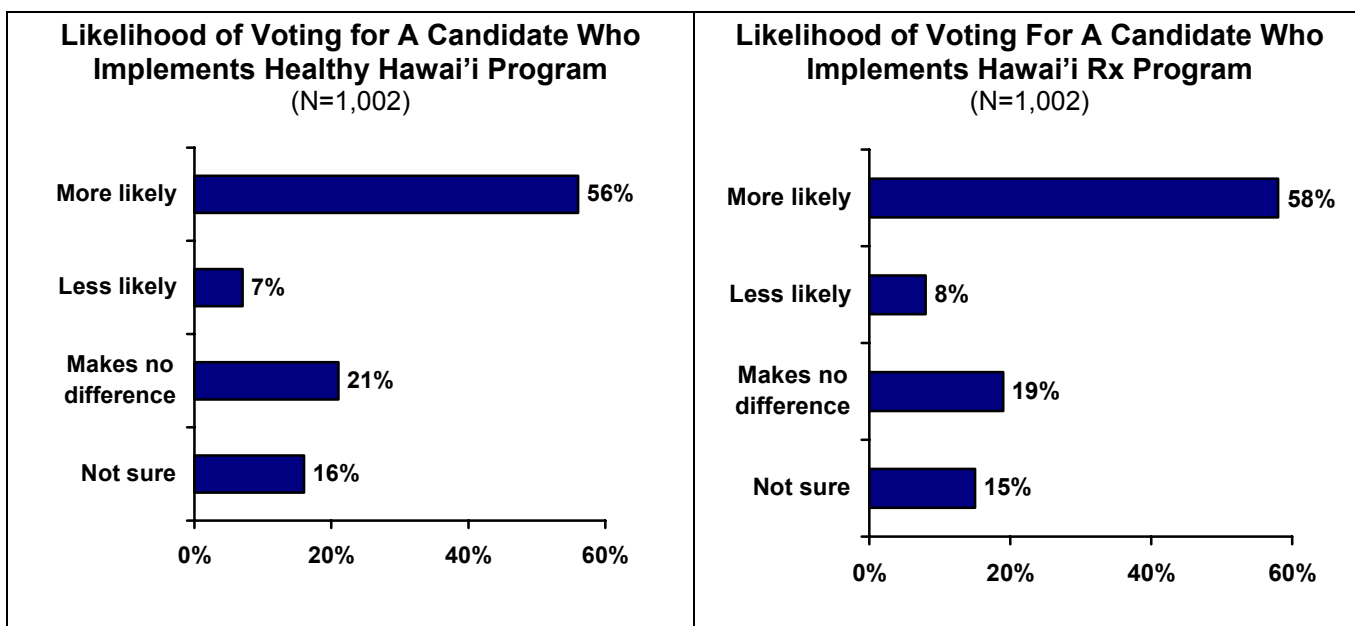
Respondents were next told about two pieces of legislation passed in 2002 to create two state prescription drug assistance programs – Healthy Hawai'i and Hawai'i Rx. With respect to each program, roughly half of the people in Hawai'i say they strongly support, and about three in ten somewhat support, putting the respective laws into effect in the state. Among those people who say they strongly support implementing the Healthy Hawai'i program (n=764), nearly all (95%) would still support this action even if they are not eligible to receive its benefits.



People in Hawai'i ages 50 and older are more likely than those younger to say they strongly support both Healthy Hawai'i and Hawai'i Rx. Additionally, people in Hawai'i with annual incomes less than \$30,000 are more likely than those with higher incomes between \$30,000 and \$74,999 to say they both strongly support implementing the Healthy Hawai'i program and the Hawai'i Rx program (see Table 8 and 9 in Appendix A).

Over half of the people in Hawai'i say they are more likely to vote for a candidate that supports putting both Healthy Hawai'i and Healthy Rx into effect.

When asked if they would be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supported putting Healthy Hawai'i into effect, almost six in ten say they are more likely to vote for that candidate. Likewise, slightly more say they are more likely to vote for a candidate that supports putting the Hawai'i Rx program into effect. Again, people in Hawai'i ages 50 and older are more likely than those younger to both vote for a candidate who supports implementing the Healthy Hawai'i program and the Hawai'i Rx Program.



While over half of the people in Hawai'i say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported implementing the Healthy Hawai'i program, those with annual incomes of less than \$30,000 are more likely than middle income respondents (\$30,000 to \$50,000) to do so. Likewise, lower income people say they are more likely than those with incomes between \$30,000 and \$50,000 to vote for a candidate that supports implementing the Hawai'i Rx program (see Table 10 and 11 in Appendix A).

Conclusions

The cost and affordability of prescription medication in the near future is a major concern to people in Hawai'i, particularly among those over age 50 and lower income residents. Although most people in Hawai'i have health insurance that includes some form of prescription drug coverage, numerous respondents report spending \$100 or more out of their pocket during a three-month period for their medications, and about one in ten say they spent \$250 or more on their prescription drugs in the previous 90 days. In addition, some people in Hawai'i report having to take significant cost-reducing measures to be able to afford their prescription drugs like cutting back on necessities like food or utilities, decreasing their dosage to make it last longer, putting off getting the prescription filled, and ordering their medications through the mail or over the internet. Moreover, the findings did show that those with incomes less than \$30,000 are more likely than higher income respondents to engage in all but one cost-reducing measure – ordering through the mail or internet – and they more likely than respondents in the highest income bracket to report taking 6 or more medications per day. In view of these results then, it is not surprising that half of those people taking prescription medication on a regular basis say that paying for their drugs presents a financial problem and almost one in five say it presents a major financial problem for them.

Without a doubt, the findings from this survey show a need for a state prescription drug program in Hawai'i, as over half of all people in Hawai'i say that a state-funded prescription drug program is very important and most say they support implementing both Healthy Hawai'i and Hawai'i Rx. In fact, of those people who say they support putting Healthy Hawai'i into effect, 95 percent of them say they still support this effort even though they may not be eligible to receive the program's benefits. Further support for these state initiatives can be seen in the likelihood of people in Hawai'i to vote for candidates who also support implementing Healthy Hawai'i and Hawai'i Rx to help all residents pay for their prescription drugs.

Methodology

AARP commissioned Mattson Sunderland Research and Planning Associates, Inc. to conduct a telephone survey in Hawai'i on the subject of state-funded prescription drug programs in the state. Interviewing for this survey took place from September 13, 2003 to October 11, 2003. The RDD sample for the state was proportional to island population and was provided by Mattson Sunderland Research's RDD program. This program provides equal probability of selection samples of residential telephone numbers, both listed and non-listed. A total of 1,002 interviews were completed with respondents from the general population ages 18 and older yielding a 60 percent response rate and a 67 percent cooperation rate.⁶ Survey responses of the general population were weighted to match the distribution of population by age and county according to the 2000 U.S. Census for Hawai'i. This survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percent. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of 3 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every state resident age 18 or older had been surveyed.

An Annotated Questionnaire of the responses is provided in Appendix B.

⁶ The response rate is Response Rate 3 and the cooperation rate is Cooperation Rate 3 from the following publication: The American Association for Public Opinion Research. 2000. *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: AAPOR.

APPENDIX A

CHARTS AND TABLES*

* Since 26% of the respondents to this survey would not reveal income, the data was not weighted by income since it is uncertain as to which category those unclassified cases could fall.

Chart 1: Breakdown of those respondents who say they have taken prescription medication in the last 12 months and of those, who are taking medication on a regular basis.

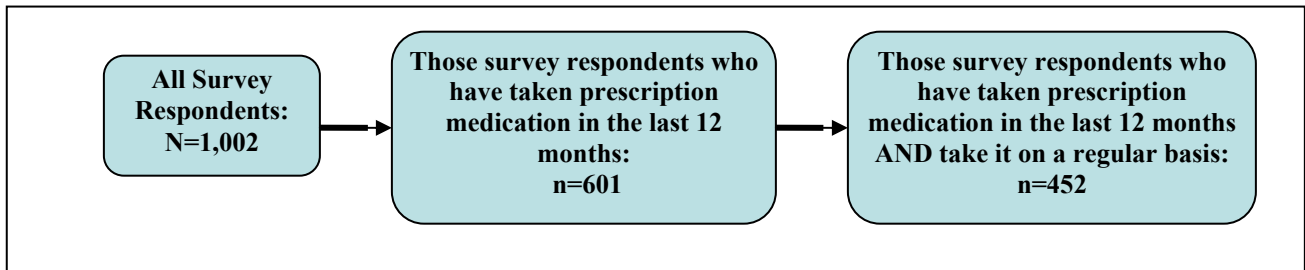


Chart 2: Profile of Hawai'i Respondents Who Report Annual Incomes Less Than \$30,000















People in Hawai'i who report annual incomes less than <u>\$30,000</u> are <i>significantly more likely</i> than those with higher incomes of either \$30,000 to \$49,999 and/or \$50,000 or more:	<u>%</u>	<u>n</u>
 To be very concerned about being able to afford the cost of prescription drugs in the next years.	41	249
 To have taken prescription medication in the last 12 months.	66	249
 To be taking 1 medication per day .	27	127
 To be taking 2 to 3 medications per day .	41	127
 To be taking 6 or more medications per day .	17	127
 To say paying for their prescription medication is a major problem .	24	127
 To cut back on necessities like food or heat in order to be able to afford their medications.	22	127
 To decrease their dosage in order to be able to afford their medications.	16	127
 To delay filling a prescription in order to be able to afford their medications.	22	127
 To say it is very important for Hawai'i to fund state prescription drug program .	76	249
 To strongly support implementing Healthy Hawai'i .	58	249
 To be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports implementing Healthy Hawai'i.	63	249
 To strongly support implementing Hawai'i Rx .	69	249
 To be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports implementing Hawai'i Rx.	66	249

Table 1: Level of concern about affording prescription drugs in next 2 years.

Level of Concern about Paying For Prescription Medication in next 2 yrs.	Total % (N=1,002)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=249)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=238)	Annual Income \$50K to \$74.9K (n=128)	Annual Income \$75K+ (n=111)
Very concerned	28%	41%	25%	24%	32%
Somewhat concerned	24	29	19	23	24
Not very concerned	21	17	17	27	26
Not at all concerned	27	13	39	26	17
Don't know/no answer	1	--	1	1	--

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

Table 2: Taken Prescription Medication in the last 12 months.

Take Rx medication in last 12 months	Total % (N=1,002)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=249)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=238)	Annual Income \$50K to \$74.9K (n=128)	Annual Income \$75K+ (n=111)
Yes	60%	66%	52%	67%	77%
No	40	34	49	33	23
Don't know/no answer	--	--	--	--	--

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

Table 3: Number of prescription medications taken each day

Number of prescription medication taken each day	Total % (N=452)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=127)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=83)	Annual Income \$50K+ (n=120)
1 medication per day	36%	27%	34%	45%
2-3 medications per day	41	41	40	38
4-5 medications per day	12	15	16	9
6 or more medications per day	11	17	10	9
Don't know/no answer	--	--	--	--

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

* Results should be interpreted with caution due to a low number of respondents reporting annual incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999.

Table 4: Amount of money spent out-of-pocket in past 90 days

Amount spent out-of-pocket in last 90 days	Total % (N=452)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=127)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=83)	Annual Income \$50K + (n=120)
Nothing	17%	24%	17%	10%
Less than \$25	18	13	12	22
\$25 to \$49	15	8	9	24
\$50 to \$99	21	25	21	19
\$100 or more	27	29	35	27
Don't know/no answer	3	2	--4	1

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

* Results should be interpreted with caution due to a low number of respondents reporting annual incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999

Table 5: Burden presented by paying for prescription drugs

Level Of Difficulty Paying For Prescription Medication	Total % (N=452)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=127)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=83)	Annual Income \$50K + (n=120)
Major Financial Problem	18%	24%	30%	11%
Minor Financial Problem	33	34	31	31
Not a problem	48	42	38	57
Don't know/no answer	1	--	--	--

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

* Results should be interpreted with caution due to a low number of respondents reporting annual incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999.

Table 6a: Cut back on necessities – food or utilities

Cut back on necessities in order to afford prescription medications	Total % (N=452)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=127)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=83)	Annual Income \$50K + (n=120)
Yes	14%	22%	22%	2%
No	85	79	77	97
Don't know/no answer	--	--	--	--

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

* Results should be interpreted with caution due to a low number of respondents reporting annual incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999.

Table 6b: Decreased dosage

Decreased dosage in order to afford prescription medications	Total % (N=452)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=127)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=83)	Annual Income \$50K + (n=120)
Yes	11%	16%	15%	5%
No	88	84	84	94
Don't know/no answer	--	--	--	--

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

* Results should be interpreted with caution due to a low number of respondents reporting annual incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999.

Table 6c: Delayed filling prescription

Delayed filling rx in order to afford prescription medications	Total % (N=452)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=127)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=83)	Annual Income \$50K + (n=120)
Yes	17%	22%	23%	11%
No	83	78	76	89
Don't know/no answer	--	--	--	--

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

* Results should be interpreted with caution due to a low number of respondents reporting annual incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999.

Table 6d: Ordered prescription through mail/internet

Ordered rx through mail/internet in order to afford prescription medications	Total % (N=452)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=127)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=83)	Annual Income \$50K + (n=120)
Yes	10%	6%	8%	17%
No	90	94	92	82
Don't know/no answer	--	--	--	--

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

* Results should be interpreted with caution due to a low number of respondents reporting annual incomes from \$30,000 to \$49,999.

Table 7: Level of importance for state-funded prescription drug program

Level of Importance for State Funded Prescription Drug Program	Total % (N=1,002)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=249)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=238)	Annual Income \$50K to \$74.9K (n=128)	Annual Income \$75K+ (n=111)
Very important	57%	76%	48%	56%	52%
Somewhat important	27	19	27	32	34
Not very important	4	1	6	4	7
Not at all important	7	1	9	6	5
Don't know/no answer	6	3	10	3	2

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

Table 8: Support for Healthy Hawai'i – state prescription drug program

Level of Support for Healthy Hawai'i Program	Total % (N=1,002)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=249)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=238)	Annual Income \$50K to \$74.9K (n=128)	Annual Income \$75K+ (n=111)
Strongly support	46%	58%	36%	46%	47%
Somewhat support	31	26	32	35	30
Somewhat oppose	4	4	3	3	10
Strongly oppose	4	4	4	3	5
Don't know/no answer	16	8	24	12	8

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

Table 9: Support for the Hawai'i Rx state prescription drug program

Level of Support for Hawai'i Rx Program	Total % (N=1,002)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=249)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=238)	Annual Income \$50K to \$74.9K (n=128)	Annual Income \$75K+ (n=111)
Strongly support	51%	69%	40%	54%	59%
Somewhat support	27	19	29	30	20
Somewhat oppose	4	5	4	5	9
Strongly oppose	4	3	3	2	7
Don't know/no answer	15	4	24	9	5

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

Table 10: Likelihood of voting for a candidate who supports implementing Healthy Hawai'i.

Likelihood of Voting for Candidate who supports implementing Healthy Hawai'i	Total % (N=1,002)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=249)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=238)	Annual Income \$50K to \$74.9K (n=128)	Annual Income \$75K+ (n=111)
More likely	56%	63%	52%	59%	56%
Less likely	7	6	3	7	12
Makes no difference	21	23	18	29	22
Don't know/no answer	16	7	27	6	9

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

Table11: Likelihood of voting for a candidate who supports implementing Hawai'i Rx.

Likelihood of Voting for Candidate who supports implementing Hawai'i Rx	Total % (N=1,002)	Annual Income <\$30,000 (n=249)	Annual Income \$30K to \$49.9K (n=238)	Annual Income \$50K to \$74.9K (n=128)	Annual Income \$75K+ (n=111)
More likely	58%	66%	50%	58%	60%
Less likely	8	9	6	6	13
Makes no difference	19	19	19	28	21
Don't know/no answer	15	7	25	9	7

-- :less than 1 percent or zero

APPENDIX B

ANNOTATED SURVEY

Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs in Hawai'i: An AARP Survey

Response Rate: 60% Cooperation Rate: 67% Margin of Error: $\pm 3\%$

INTRODUCTION:

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from Mattson-Sunderland Research, a national research firm. This is not a telemarketing call, we are not calling for an insurance company, and we're not selling anything. We are conducting a survey in Hawai'i to learn more about how people like you are affected by prescription drug costs. Your views are important and we appreciate your participation. Our questions for you should only take about 8-10 minutes of your time. Can you hear me okay? (IF NECESSARY)

Screening

S1. First, just to verify, are you a resident of Hawai'i who is age 18 or older?

Yes

No (ASK TO SPEAK TO HAWAI'I RESIDENT AGE 18+. IF NONE IN HH, THANK AND TERMINATE)

Don't know (ASK TO SPEAK TO HAWAI'I RESIDENT AGE 18+. IF NONE, THANK AND TERMINATE)

Refused (THANK AND TERMINATE)

Questionnaire

First, I'd like to begin by asking you some questions about your health care coverage.

1. How concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of your prescription drugs over the next two years? *Would you say you are.....*

28% Very concerned
24% Somewhat concerned
21% Not very concerned
27% Not at all concerned
1% (DON'T READ) Not sure

2. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance? This would include any private or employee health insurance plan and government programs like Medicare or Medicaid.

92% Yes
8% No **SKIP TO QUESTION 5**

3. Which of the following is your **MAIN** source of health insurance coverage?
[READ LIST.] CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE ONLY]

- 53% Health insurance through a current employer or union (yours or someone else's – spouse, parent, sibling)
- 7% Health insurance through a former employer or union (yours or someone else's – spouse, parent, sibling)
- 9% Health insurance through some other source like individually purchased insurance
- 11% Medicare, the government health insurance program for persons age 65 and older
- 0% Medigap, a supplement plan that covers helps cover costs not paid by Medicare
- 3% Medicaid, the government program that provides health insurance for low income families
- 6% Some other government program like the Veteran's, Dept. of Defense, CHAMPUS
- 3% Other (Specify)
- * Not sure
- 8% No Answer

3B. Do you have any other sources of health coverage?
[READ LIST AGAIN IF NECESSARY. CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY]

- 2% Health insurance through a current employer or union (yours or someone else's spouse, parent, sibling)
- 1% Health insurance through a former employer or union (yours or someone else's – spouse, parent, sibling)
- 4% Health insurance through some other source like individually purchased insurance
- 5% Medicare, the government health insurance program for persons age 65 and older
- 0% Medigap, a supplement plan that covers helps cover costs not paid by Medicare
- * Medicaid, the government program that provides health insurance for low income families
- 3% Some other government program like the Veteran's, Dept. of Defense, CHAMPUS
- * Other (Specify)
- * Not Sure
- 78% None
- 8% No Answer

4. Does/do any of this/these health care plan(s) provide coverage for prescription medications(s)?

- 84% Yes
- 7% No
- 1% (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 8% No Answer

5. Do you participate in any prescription drug discount programs or have a prescription discount card? **[INTERVIEWER PROMPT: If respondent seems confused, clarify with "... such as those offered through a local drug store or pharmacy, a doctor's office, a membership organization like AARP, a retailer like Walmart or Rite Aid, or a pharmaceutical company)**

10% Yes
 90% No
 * (DON'T READ) Don't know

6. Have you taken any prescription medications in the last 12 months?

60% Yes
 40% No **SKIP TO QUESTION 15**
 0% (DON'T READ) Don't know **SKIP TO QUESTION 15**
 0% (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused **SKIP TO QUESTION 15**

7. Are you currently taking prescription medications on a *regular* basis? **[INTERVIEWER: if respondent's needs *regular* defined, say "medication that you have to take daily, weekly, monthly for an extended period of time – a year or so or possibly a lifetime]. (n=601)**

75% Yes
 25% No **SKIP TO QUESTION 15**
 0% (DON'T READ) Don't know **SKIP TO QUESTION 15**
 0% (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused **SKIP TO QUESTION 15**

8. Approximately how many prescription medications do you take each day? **[DO NOT READ RESPONSES – USE FOR CODING (n=452)**

_____ - **INTERVIEWER: RECORD NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS – CODE AS FOLLOWS:**

36% 1
 41% 2 -3
 12% 4 – 5
 11% 6 or more
 0% Don't know

9. In the last three months or 90 days, approximately how much money did you spend out-of-pocket on prescription drugs? **[DO NOT READ RESPONSES – USE FOR CODING] (n=452)**

17% Nothing
 5% Less than \$10
 13% \$10 but less than \$25
 15% \$25 but less than \$50
 11% \$50 but less than \$75
 10% \$75 but less than \$100
 15% \$100 but less the \$250
 7% \$250 but less than \$500
 2% \$500 but less than \$750
 2% \$750 but less than \$1,000
 1% \$1,000 or more
 3% Don't know

10. Would you say that *paying* for these prescription medications is a major financial problem, a minor financial problem, or not a financial problem for you? (n=452)
- 18% Major problem
 - 33% Minor problem
 - 48% Not a problem
 - 1% (DON'T READ) Don't know
 - * (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused
11. In the past 12 months, have you cut back on other necessary items such as food or utilities to be able to afford a prescription medication? (n=452)
- 14% Yes
 - 85% No
 - * (DON'T READ) Don't know
 - * (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused
12. In the past 12 months have you decreased your dosage of medication so that it would last longer because you didn't have enough money to fill the next prescription? (n=452)
- 11% Yes
 - 88% No
 - 0% (DON'T READ) Don't know
 - * (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused
13. (In the past 12 months) have you put off getting a prescription filled because you didn't have enough money to pay for it? (n=452)
- 17% Yes
 - 83% No
 - 0% (DON'T READ) Don't know
 - * (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused
 - 0% No Answer
14. In the past 12 months have you ordered prescription drugs by mail or over the internet because they cost less? (n=452)
- 10% Yes
 - 90% No
 - 0% (DON'T READ) Don't know
 - * (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused
15. How important is it to you that Hawai'i offer a state-funded prescription drug program for persons who may need help paying for their medications? *is that very important, somewhat important....*)
- 57% Very important
 - 27% Somewhat important
 - 4% Not that important
 - 6% Not at all important
 - 6% (DON'T READ) Don't know
 - * (DON'T READ) Refused

In 2002, Hawai'i passed legislation creating two state prescription drug assistance programs. To date, neither law has been implemented. The first prescription drug program that was passed into law last year is called Healthy Hawai'i. This program would expand the state Medicaid income eligibility requirements for purchasing prescription drugs. Under this program, qualified Hawai'i residents whose annual incomes are at or below 300% of the federal poverty level will be able to utilize this prescription drug benefit. For an individual, this would be an annual income of \$32,000, and for a couple this would be a combined annual income of \$64,000 per year.

16. Would you support or oppose Hawai'i putting this program into effect? *Is that strongly or somewhat?*

- 46% Strongly support
- 31% Somewhat support
- 4% Somewhat oppose **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**
- 4% Strongly oppose **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**
- 16% (DON'T READ) Not sure **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**
- * (DON'T READ) Refused **SKIP TO QUESTION 18**
- 0% No Answer

17. Would you still support Hawai'i offering this prescription drug program even if you were not eligible to receive its benefits? (n=764)

- 95% Yes
- 3% No
- 2% (DON'T READ) Not sure
- 0% (DO NOT READ) Refused

18. Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supported putting this program into effect?

- 56% More likely
- 7% Less likely
- 21% Would not make a difference
- 16% (DON'T READ) Not sure
- * (DO NOT READ) Refused

The second program, called Hawai'i RX, would ask pharmacies or drug manufacturers to enter into a rebate agreement with the state. This agreement would allow the state to buy large quantities of prescription drugs at prices below the average wholesale price. The prescription drugs bought under this program will match the needs of residents of the state, and all persons would eligible regardless of their age or income level.

19. Would you support or oppose Hawai'i putting this program into effect? *Is that strongly or somewhat....?*

- 51% Strongly support
- 27% Somewhat support
- 4% Somewhat oppose
- 4% Strongly oppose
- 15% (DO NOT READ) Not sure
- * (DO NOT READ) Refused

20. Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supported putting *this* program into effect?

- 58% More likely
- 8% Less likely
- 19% Would not make a difference
- 15% **(DO NOT READ)** Not sure
- * **(DO NOT READ)** Refused

Demographics

Finally, the following few questions are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.

D1. (DO NOT READ) Is respondent male or female?

- 42% Male
- 58% Female

D2. What is your current marital status? **(READ LIST)**

- 59% Now Married
- 3% Currently living with partner/significant other
- 7% Widowed
- 9% Divorced
- 1% Separated
- 21% Never Married
- * **(DON'T READ)** Don't Know
- * **(DON'T READ)** No answer/Refused

D3. What is the highest level of education that you completed? **(READ LIST)**

- 3% Less than high school
- 37% High school graduate or equivalent
- 29% Some college or technical training beyond high school
- 22% College graduate (4 years)
- 9% Post graduate or professional degree
- 0% **(DON'T READ)** Don't Know
- * **(DON'T READ)** No answer/Refused

D4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? **(READ LIST)**

- 54% Employed or self-employed full-time
- 10% Employed or self-employed part-time
- 17% Retired and not working
- 4% Unemployed and looking for work
- 10% Homemaker
- 2% Disabled
- 3% Student
- * Something Else (specify)
- * **(DON'T READ)** Don't Know
- 0% **(DON'T READ)** No answer/Refused

D5. What was your annual household income before taxes in 2002?

6% Less than \$10,000
7% \$10,000 to \$19,999
12% \$20,000 to \$29,999
15% \$30,000 to \$39,999
9% \$40,000 to \$49,999
13% \$50,000 to \$74,999
11% \$75,000 or more
16% (DON'T READ) Don't Know
12% (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused

D6. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

5% Yes
95% No
* (DON'T READ) Don't know
* (DON'T READ) No answer/Refused

D7. What is your race?

5% Chinese
14% Filipino
16% Hawaiian/part Hawaiian
24% Japanese
29% White/Caucasian
2% Black/African American
9% Other
* Don't know
* Refused

D8. What is your age as of your last birthday? **(in years)** _____

11% 18-24
19% 25-34
31% 35-49
16% 50-59
5% 60-64
9% 65-74
8% 75 or older
0% No answer/Refused

D9. What is your 5-digit zip code? RECORD FROM SAMPLE) _____

73% Oahu
12% Big Island
11% Kauai
3% Maui
1% Molokai
1% Lanai

Thank you for completing this survey!

AARP

Knowledge Management

For more information please contact Jennifer H. Sauer (202) 434-6207