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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAREGIVING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that families, rather  
2 than institutions, are the primary providers of long-term care  
3 for older adults in the state. According to the executive  
4 office on aging, in 2003, approximately twenty-one per cent of  
5 Hawaii's adult population provides care or assistance to persons  
6 age sixty or older, with twenty-nine per cent caring for a  
7 parent. Caregivers are motivated to provide care to family  
8 members because of their values, the preference of the elderly  
9 to remain at home with their families, and the high cost of  
10 institutional long-term care.

11           In Hawaii, the likelihood of becoming a caregiver is  
12 similar across different demographic groups and among persons  
13 with varied socioeconomic characteristics. Adults of any  
14 household income have a similar likelihood of providing care to  
15 an elderly person. Married persons in Hawaii are just as likely  
16 to provide care to an older adult as their unmarried  
17 counterparts.



1        Among the different ethnic groups in Hawaii, native  
2        Hawaiians are most likely to provide regular care to an older  
3        adult, followed by Filipinos, Japanese, and Caucasians. Twelve  
4        per cent of men and sixteen per cent of women provide care or  
5        assistance to someone age sixty or older, according to the  
6        executive office on aging. In national studies, women are more  
7        likely than men to be primary caregivers, providing higher  
8        intensity and frequency of care.

9        According to the executive office on aging, sixty-five per  
10       cent of Hawaii's caregivers are employed. To balance their  
11       employment and eldercare roles, working caregivers take leaves  
12       of absence, report to work late or leave early, change from  
13       full-time to part-time employment, change to less demanding  
14       jobs, retire early, or give up work completely. As a  
15       consequence, caregiving may reduce a caregiver's retirement  
16       income since reduced hours on the job or fewer years in the  
17       workforce may mean fewer contributions to pensions, social  
18       security, and other retirement savings.

19       By 2020, more than one in four individuals will be sixty  
20       years old or older. The need for personal care due to physical,  
21       sensory, cognitive, and self-care disabilities increases with  
22       age. As Hawaii's population ages, many more families will be



1 providing higher levels of long-term care to frail and disabled  
2 older adults at home.

3 The purpose of this Act is to provide for the coordination  
4 and development of family caregiver support services.

5 SECTION 2. The executive office on aging shall coordinate  
6 a statewide system of caregiver support services by, among other  
7 things:

- 8 (1) Integrating family caregiver support with the aging  
9 and disability resource center demonstration project;
- 10 (2) Analyzing the long-term care needs of older adults and  
11 the capacity of family and informal caregivers to help  
12 them remain safely at home;
- 13 (3) Advocating, mobilizing, and coordinating employer and  
14 community resources to enable and augment family  
15 caregiver support;
- 16 (4) Establishing and maintaining protocols and standards  
17 for federal and state caregiver services administered  
18 by state, county, or other local agencies on aging;
- 19 (5) Establishing and supervising the alignment of  
20 long-term care advocacy assistance staff caregiver  
21 support objectives with the planning, resource  
22 development, grants management, data management, and



1 evaluation functions of the executive office on aging;  
2 and

3 (6) Coordinating statewide support for grandparents and  
4 other aging relative caregivers of children eighteen  
5 and under.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for  
9 the executive office on aging to coordinate a statewide system  
10 of family caregiver support services.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
12 health for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



S. B. NO. 0250  
S. O. 2, H. D. 1

**Report Title:**

Family Caregiver Support Services; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for the executive office on aging to coordinate a statewide system for family caregiver support services. (SB3252 HD1)

