

JAN 25 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GEOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIPS WHEREBY ALTERNATIVE SHELTER AND CARE RESOURCES FOR SENIORS ARE ACCESSIBLE AND ORGANIZATIONALLY COORDINATED.

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

1 SECTION 1. Traditional assessments of the unmet housing
2 needs of low-income older adults have focused primarily on the
3 unaffordability or physical disrepair of their dwellings.
4 Government, however, has a responsibility to respond to growing
5 populations of seniors who are not only poor and living in
6 inadequate housing, but also who are experiencing physical and
7 cognitive disabilities and chronic health problems that make it
8 difficult for them to live independently in their current
9 dwellings without help.

10 The legislature finds that Hawaii faces a number of
11 economic, social, and political challenges in its attempt to
12 offer affordable shelter and care options for its low-income
13 frail elderly population. The State's efforts to respond
14 effectively are complicated by greatly increased numbers of
15 frail and low-income older adults, its tight and very expensive
16 housing market, its high land and building costs, its failure to



1 receive adequate federal housing program subsidies, an island
2 geography that makes service integration and delivery more
3 difficult and expensive, its already small and overtaxed nursing
4 home inventory that cannot easily be cut back to save long-term
5 care expenditures, its failure to encourage partnerships with
6 private-pay assisted living facility providers, its medicaid
7 budget that will have difficulty funding a steadily growing need
8 for affordable shelter and care options, and the very real
9 prospect that family caregiving will steadily weaken.

10 The purpose of this Act is to increase the shelter and care
11 opportunities for Hawaii's seniors by requiring the Hawaii
12 public housing administration to establish "geographic
13 partnerships" for alternative senior housing.

14 SECTION 2. The Hawaii public housing administration shall
15 establish "geographic partnerships" whereby alternative shelter
16 and care resources are locationally accessible and
17 organizationally coordinated.

18 Geographic partnerships may include: the sharing of vans
19 or buses currently operated by different government and
20 nonprofit groups; the visiting of multiple rental facilities by
21 mobile health service teams, the location of adult day care
22 facilities on or near the sites of affordable rent-assisted



1 facilities; and several rent-assisted housing facilities pooling
 2 their buying power to enter into mutually beneficial
 3 arrangements with home health providers, pharmacies, malls, or
 4 grocery and other retail stores.

5 The Hawaii public housing administration shall initiate
 6 meetings between public, quasi-public, and private housing and
 7 service providers located within the same geographic area to
 8 address common service delivery concerns.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000, or so much
 11 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for the purposes
 12 of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
 14 Hawaii public housing administration for the purposes of this
 15 Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
 17 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

18

INTRODUCED BY: 

By Request



SB 2442

Report Title:

Hawaii Public Housing Administration; Elderly; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to provide for the establishment of geographic partnerships whereby alternative shelter and care resources are locationally accessible and organizationally coordinated.

