
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LONG TERM CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The executive office on aging's long-term care
2 ombudsman program is mandated by the U.S. Administration on
3 Aging through the Older Americans Act. The program provides
4 ombudsmen to advocate for and protect the rights of residents of
5 nursing homes, adult residential care homes, expanded adult
6 residential care homes, and assisted living facilities. The
7 long-term care ombudsman program staff investigate and expedite
8 resolution of residents' complaints statewide, on a confidential
9 basis.

10 The long-term care ombudsman program also provides
11 information and referral assistance, conducts educational
12 activities to increase community awareness of elder rights,
13 advocates at the legislature, and provides training to long-term
14 care staff, family councils and resident councils.

15 The program currently is staffed by two qualified ombudsman
16 specialists who are charged with assuring advocacy and patient
17 rights protection for an estimated eight thousand residents of
18 the seven hundred thirty-one licensed facilities in Hawaii. In



1 recent years, appropriations for the recruiting, training, and
2 retaining of volunteers to augment the ombudsman staff in order
3 to assure program services to the neighbor islands have proved
4 inadequate. Moreover, the volunteer program has not been a
5 feasible solution to address the needs of all licensed facility
6 residents, many of whom do not have family members to assure
7 their quality of care in an institutional setting.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
9 establish ombudsman specialist positions for Kauai, Maui, and
10 Hawaii counties, to fund a clerk typist II position for the
11 executive office of aging, and for operating costs to support
12 the neighbor island long-term care ombudsman and volunteer
13 programs.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$191,980, or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for one
17 permanent clerk typist II and three permanent program specialist
18 IV positions for operation and delivery of the long-term care
19 ombudsman program on the neighbor islands.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 health for the purposes of this section.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000, or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for the
 4 recruitment, training, and sustaining of volunteers to augment
 5 the long-term care ombudsman program staff and for operating
 6 costs of the neighbor island long term care ombudsman program
 7 staff.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 9 health for the purposes of this section.

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

11

INTRODUCED BY: 

Report Title:

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the long term care ombudsman program to establish three ombudsman specialist positions in order to ensure adequate services for the neighbor islands, and for funds to support the program's operating costs.

