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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY OTHER  
STATES' ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND COMPARE THEM TO  
HAWAII'S ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Senate Special Committee on  
2 Aging has estimated that up to five million adults each year are  
3 victims of neglect, exploitation, or other abuse; and  
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5 WHEREAS, other studies indicate that up to six per cent of  
6 the national population of older adults has experienced some  
7 type of abuse, neglect, or exploitation; and  
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9 WHEREAS, there is no national, uniform reporting system to  
10 document the numbers of older Americans who experience abuse, so  
11 the number of these individuals can only be estimated; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, adult protective services are mandated for adult  
14 victims of abuse in each of the fifty states and the District of  
15 Columbia; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the eligible recipients of these services vary by  
18 jurisdiction; and  
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20 WHEREAS, in most states, services are provided to any  
21 vulnerable adult, while in other states the services are  
22 provided only to individuals age sixty years and older or to  
23 younger individuals with disabilities; and  
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25 WHEREAS, results of a recent Elder Abuse Incidence Study  
26 shed light on a significant problem of elder abuse and neglect  
27 among elders living in their own homes and who have gone largely  
28 unidentified and unnoticed; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, the study noted that only one in five new  
31 incidents of abuse, neglect, or self-neglect are reported to  
32 adult protective services agencies; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, here in Hawaii, adult protective services provides  
3 crisis intervention, investigation, and emergency services to  
4 dependent adults who are reported to be abused, neglected, or  
5 financially exploited by others or seriously endangered due to  
6 self-neglect; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, there are just over eighty-four thousand elders  
9 that are seventy-five years or older in Hawaii; and  
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11 WHEREAS, national estimates of the frequency of abuse  
12 towards this population range from five to ten per cent, which  
13 suggests that there may be four thousand or more cases of abuse  
14 in Hawaii each year; and  
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16 WHEREAS, however, the Department of Human Services  
17 indicates that in 2006, it investigated five hundred fourteen  
18 cases, which suggests a large gap between those receiving  
19 services and those possibly experiencing abuse; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, there has been a great deal of discussion  
22 regarding whether the Department of Human Services is serving  
23 those who are most in need of adult protective services; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, there has also been concern regarding whether any  
26 changes to the current Adult Protective Services Law would  
27 result in an increased case load and consequential strain on  
28 case workers; now, therefore,  
29

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
32 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative  
33 Reference Bureau is requested to study other states' adult  
34 protective services and compare them to Hawaii's adult  
35 protective services; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the study, the  
38 Legislative Reference Bureau should:  
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- 40 (1) Examine the other states' adult protective services  
41 laws and their implementation in the respective  
42 states;  
43



- 1 (2) Obtain information regarding the total number of cases  
 2 reported to the adult protective services of each  
 3 state and the ratio of cases per capita for each  
 4 state;  
 5  
 6 (3) Discuss the typical case load for case workers in each  
 7 state; and  
 8  
 9 (4) Discuss the consequences of any expansion of services  
 10 or changes to adult protective services laws in the  
 11 various states, including whether the total number of  
 12 cases increased or decreased and the resulting case  
 13 load for case workers; and  
 14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
 16 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the  
 17 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 18 the 2008 Regular Session; and  
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
 22 Legislative Reference Bureau.  
 23  
 24  
 25

OFFERED BY:

*Tony Van*  
*OK*  
*Halbrook*  
*Tom Brown*  
*Alex M. Sun*

*John M. Nguyen*  
*Marilyn Nguyen*  
*Cindy Evans*  
*LL*  
*Melie Canale*  
*Ed*  
*Stephen*

MAR 14 2007

