
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 5,000,000 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
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13 WHEREAS, adult protective services are mandated for adult
14 victims of abuse in each of the 50 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 60 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 who have gone largely
28 unidentified and unnoticed; and
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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 WHEREAS, here in Hawaii, adult protective services provide
2 crisis intervention, investigation, and emergency services to
3 dependent adults who are reported to be abused, neglected, or
4 financially exploited by others or seriously endangered due to
5 self-neglect; and

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7 WHEREAS, there are just over 84,000 elders who are 75 years
8 or older in Hawaii; and

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10 WHEREAS, national estimates of the frequency of abuse
11 towards this population range from five to ten per cent, which
12 suggests that there may be 4,000 or more cases of abuse in
13 Hawaii each year; and

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15 WHEREAS, however, the Department of Human Services
16 indicates that in 2006, it investigated 514 cases, which
17 suggests a large gap between those receiving services and those
18 possibly experiencing abuse; and

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20 WHEREAS, according to the University of Hawaii Center on
21 the Family, between 2000 and 2030, the number of adults in
22 Hawaii who will be 60 years and older will increase by 93.8 per
23 cent and those 85 years and older will increase by 174 per cent;
24 this, in turn, will result in a small proportion of children and
25 younger adults in relation to those 60 years and older; and

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27 WHEREAS, Hawaii's adult protective services law has been
28 described in recent newspaper articles as one of the most
29 restrictive in the nation; and

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31 WHEREAS, there has also been concern regarding whether any
32 changes to the current Adult Protective Services Law would
33 result in an increased case load and consequential strain on
34 case workers; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
38 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative
39 Reference Bureau is requested to study other states' adult
40 protective services and compare them to Hawaii's adult
41 protective services; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the study, the
2 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to:

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4 (1) Examine the other states' adult protective services
5 laws and their implementation in the respective
6 states; and

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8 (2) Obtain information regarding:

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10 (A) The total number of cases reported to the adult
11 protective services of each state and the ratio
12 of cases per capita for each state;

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14 (B) What changes to Hawaii's adult protective
15 services law would need to be made to make the
16 applicability of Hawaii's law more comparable to
17 those in other states; and

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19 (C) The estimated increase or decrease in the number
20 of cases that would be reported in Hawaii as a
21 result of those changes;

22
23 and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
26 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the
27 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
28 the 2008 Regular Session; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Acting Director of
32 the Legislative Reference Bureau.

