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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO COLLECT DATA AND  
REPORT STATISTICS RELATED TO CASES OF ABUSE OF VULNERABLE  
ADULTS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's disabled and elderly adults are some of  
2 the most vulnerable individuals in the state; and  
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4 WHEREAS, this population is highly susceptible to physical  
5 abuse and financial and economic exploitation, recently  
6 demonstrated in Hawaii, as cases of fraud and abuse have  
7 escalated; and  
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9 WHEREAS, while all of Hawaii's people are prone to physical  
10 abuse and financial exploitation, the disabled and elderly are  
11 often less able to protect themselves, requiring assistance from  
12 others; and  
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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services (DHS), Adult  
15 Protective Services (APS), is responsible for receiving and  
16 investigating reports of abuse on adults who are dependent on  
17 another person, organization, or facility because of mental or  
18 physical impairment; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the Legislature has considered proposals to expand  
21 the scope of APS to include all vulnerable adults, including the  
22 elderly; and  
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24 WHEREAS, APS should also be expanded to include  
25 investigations of financial and economic exploitation, a growing  
26 concern in society today; and  
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28 WHEREAS, regardless of whether legislation is passed during  
29 the Regular Session of 2007, DHS should consider ways that APS  
30 can be improved; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
3 Session of 2007, that DHS is requested to collect data and  
4 report statistics related to cases of abuse of vulnerable  
5 adults; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to collect  
8 data to determine who is being served, who is being turned away,  
9 and the reasons why they are being turned away; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the community agencies and  
12 mandated reporters are encouraged to report all incidents of  
13 abuse of vulnerable adults; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DHS is requested to submit a  
16 report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no  
17 later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
18 of 2008; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services.

