
SENATE 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
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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
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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
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
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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, the University of Hawaii Center on the Family
12 reports that between the years 2000 and 2030, the number of
13 adults in Hawaii that are sixty years or older will increase by
14 nearly ninety-four per cent and the number of adults that are
15 eighty-five years or older will increase by one hundred
16 seventy-four per cent; and
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18 WHEREAS, by 2030, the age distribution will be a smaller
19 proportion of children and younger adults in relation to those
20 who are sixty years or older; and
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22 WHEREAS, national estimates of the frequency of abuse
23 towards this population range from five to ten per cent, which
24 suggests that there may be four thousand or more cases of abuse
25 in Hawaii each year; and
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27 WHEREAS, however, the Department of Human Services
28 indicates that in 2006, it investigated five hundred fourteen
29 cases, which suggests a large gap between those receiving
30 services and those possibly experiencing abuse; and
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32 WHEREAS, there has been a great deal of discussion
33 regarding whether the Department of Human Services is serving
34 those who are most in need of adult protective services; and
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36 WHEREAS, there has also been concern regarding whether any
37 changes to the current Adult Protective Services Law would
38 result in an increased case load and consequential strain on
39 case workers; now, therefore,
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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
43 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative



1 Reference Bureau is requested to study other states' adult
2 protective services; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the study, the
5 Legislative Reference Bureau should:
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7 (1) Examine the other states' adult protective services
8 laws and their implementation in the respective
9 states;
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11 (2) Obtain information regarding the total number of cases
12 reported to the adult protective services of each
13 state and the ratio of cases per capita for each
14 state; and
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16 (3) Discuss the typical case load for case workers in each
17 state; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
20 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the
21 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
22 the 2008 Regular Session; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Acting Director of
26 the Legislative Reference Bureau.

