
SENATE 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
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34 WHEREAS, here in Hawaii, adult protective services provides
35 crisis intervention, investigation, and emergency services to



1 dependent adults who are reported to be abused, neglected, or
2 financially exploited by others or seriously endangered due to
3 self-neglect; and

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5 WHEREAS, there are just over eighty-four thousand elders
6 that are seventy-five years or older in Hawaii; and

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8 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Center on the Family
9 reports that between the years 2000 and 2030, the number of
10 adults in Hawaii that are sixty years or older will increase by
11 nearly ninety-four per cent and the number of adults that are
12 eighty-five years or older will increase by one hundred
13 seventy-four per cent; and

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15 WHEREAS, by 2030, the age distribution will be a smaller
16 proportion of children and younger adults in relation to those
17 who are sixty years or older; and

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19 WHEREAS, national estimates of the frequency of abuse
20 towards this population range from five to ten per cent, which
21 suggests that there may be four thousand or more cases of abuse
22 in Hawaii each year; and

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24 WHEREAS, however, the Department of Human Services
25 indicates that in 2006, it investigated five hundred fourteen
26 cases, which suggests a large gap between those receiving
27 services and those possibly experiencing abuse; and

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

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

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

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the study, the
44 Legislative Reference Bureau should:

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- (1) Examine the other states' adult protective services laws and their implementation in the respective states;
- (2) Obtain information regarding the total number of cases reported to the adult protective services of each state and the ratio of cases per capita for each state; and
- (3) Discuss the typical case load for case workers in each state; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

