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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK ON THE LONG TERM LIVING INITIATIVE.

1           WHEREAS, the definition of long term care includes a broad  
2 range of health and support services required by individuals  
3 with disabilities, or those who are aging, or become disabled;  
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6           WHEREAS, Hawaii's life expectancy rate is the highest in  
7 the nation, the percentage of individuals sixty-five years and  
8 older is increasing at 2.5 times the national average, and  
9 seventy per cent of these individuals over the age of sixty-five  
10 require long term care services; and

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12           WHEREAS, the ratio of nursing home beds to the elder  
13 population in Hawaii is significantly lower than the national  
14 rate and the level of disability of our nursing home residents  
15 is substantially higher than the national average; and

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17           WHEREAS, there is a natural tendency to avoid planning for  
18 long term needs until faced with the immediacy of providing or  
19 obtaining such care and services either for oneself or for a  
20 loved one; and

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22           WHEREAS, advanced planning provides individuals with better  
23 alternatives and knowledge about the range of available private  
24 and governmental services, the cost of care, payment options,  
25 and choice and control over where and how these services are to  
26 be received; and

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28           WHEREAS, a coordinated policy structure and system of long  
29 term care is needed to address the growing need for services in  
30 the State of Hawaii; and



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WHEREAS, there is a need to shift the emphasis of long term care to that of long term living which prioritizes home and community-based care, and a strengthened work force and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Concurrent Resolution is to encourage the Long Term Living Initiative work groups to continue their work in the areas of expanding infrastructure and projected long term care, work force development, and long term care financing, as well as begin a new focus on engaging the county governments as partners in planning an integrated and coordinated policy with the State of Hawaii; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Departments of Health and Human Services, together with the Executive Office on Aging and the State Health Planning and Development Agency, shall continue their work on the Long Term Living Initiative to expand long term care infrastructure, workforce development, and financing mechanisms, as well as begin a new focus on engaging county government as partners in planning an integrated and coordinated policy with the State of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Health and Human Services, together with the Executive Office on Aging and the State Health Planning and Development Agency, shall focus the work of the Long Term Living Initiative on the following areas:

- (1) Infrastructure and projected long term care needs, which shall include ongoing review of the regulations and funding mechanisms for long term care, and continue to monitor trends in areas including demographics, disability status, changing family dynamics, and availability and cost of long term care with an emphasis on increasing the availability of home and community-based care and "specialty units" in nursing facilities that can address the unique needs of challenging patients;
- (2) Workforce development, which shall increase the number of qualified caregivers, particularly certified nurse

1 assistants (CNAs) who are the front line providers in  
2 long term care, increase support for family caregivers  
3 who play a critical role in allowing many family  
4 members to remain at home, and increase training and  
5 access to information on available services, including  
6 respite care;

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8 (3) Financing and long term care, which shall examine the  
9 cost of long term care services and how they can be  
10 made more affordable, encourage families to plan for  
11 their future to ensure dignity and choice in available  
12 services, pursue the federal "Own Your Future"  
13 campaign, and support the provision of incentives to  
14 encourage responsible planning; and

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16 (4) County connections, which shall convene discussions  
17 with stakeholders including consumers, providers, and  
18 regulators at the county level to learn the best  
19 practice and educational information that has been  
20 generated by the Long Term Living Initiative, to study  
21 the unique issues of long term living that are present  
22 in each county, to encourage grass roots awareness  
23 about the upcoming long term care crisis that faces  
24 citizens of each island, to be a source of grassroots  
25 input into the State-wide Long Term Living Initiative,  
26 and to act as a sounding board for the ideas of the  
27 other State-wide Long Term Living Initiative areas of  
28 focus such as the work of the Joint Legislative  
29 Committee on Family Caregiving and the Kupuna Caucus;  
30 and

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32 (5) A public process shall be developed and implemented in  
33 order to achieve the above objectives; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
37 Executive Office on Aging, the Director of Health, the Director  
38 of Human Services, the Administrator of the State Health  
39 Planning and Development Agency, and the Administrator of the  
40 Maui Long Term Care Partnership.  
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