
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAREGIVERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Act 204, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, mandated
2 the joint legislative committee on family caregiving, created by
3 Act 285, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, to explore, among other
4 things, alternative means of providing financial support for
5 family caregivers in Hawaii. Pursuant thereto, a *Family*
6 *Caregiver Needs Assessment* was prepared by a private contractor
7 for the joint legislative committee. The assessment stated, in
8 relevant part:

- 9 (1) It is estimated that nine per cent of caregivers in
10 the United States quit their jobs to provide care;
- 11 (2) Caregiving affected employment of one-quarter of
12 caregivers, mainly in reduced work hours or taking
13 leaves of absence;
- 14 (3) A state income tax credit for caregivers has the
15 greatest support among caregivers;
- 16 (4) Although caregivers are doing well overall in their
17 ability to provide care, there are certain impacts on



1 physical and mental health, finances, and employment,
2 for up to thirty per cent of all caregivers; and
3 (5) Caregivers tend to have lower income than expected,
4 especially given the high cost of living in Hawaii.

5 The purpose of this Act is to follow-up on the findings of
6 the *Family Caregiver Needs Assessment* by convening a working
7 group to explore various funding mechanisms that could
8 potentially support caregivers.

9 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a working group, to
10 be under and report to the joint legislative committee on aging
11 in place, to explore various funding mechanisms that could
12 potentially support caregivers, including income tax credits,
13 temporary disability insurance benefits, and unemployment
14 insurance benefits.

15 (b) The members of the working group shall include
16 representatives of the following entities to be selected by that
17 entity:

- 18 (1) Department of taxation;
- 19 (2) Department of labor and industrial relations;
- 20 (3) Department of human services;
- 21 (4) Executive office on aging;
- 22 (5) National Federation of Independent Business;



- 1 (6) The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;
- 2 (7) University of Hawaii, department of economics;
- 3 (8) Society for Human Resource Management;
- 4 (9) International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 142;
- 5 (10) Policy advisory board for elder affairs; and
- 6 (11) Hawaii Government Employees Association.

7 (c) The members of the working group shall designate a
8 chair from among its members.

9 (d) The working group shall serve without compensation and
10 shall receive no reimbursements for expenses. After making its
11 report to the joint legislative committee on aging in place
12 pursuant to subsection (a), the working group shall cease to
13 exist on June 30, 2009.

14 (e) The department of labor and industrial relations shall
15 provide administrative support for the working group. The
16 legislative reference bureau shall provide drafting services for
17 the working group.

18 (f) The joint legislative committee on aging in place
19 shall report findings and recommendations of the working group,
20 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
21 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
22 of 2009.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Family Caregivers; Working Group

Description:

Creates a working group to explore various funding mechanisms that could potentially support family caregivers. (HB2520 SD2)

