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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the mission of the  
2 center on aging research and education is to assure the well-  
3 being of the State's older adults by stimulating and  
4 coordinating gerontological and aging instruction, research, and  
5 community services. The legislature further finds that a goal  
6 of the center on aging research and education is to develop a  
7 research center that is renowned for its generation of knowledge  
8 that supports the development of relevant social and economic  
9 policies pertaining to the elder population, as no such entity  
10 exists in Hawaii or the region.

11           The population of the State of Hawaii currently has the  
12 longest life expectancy and the fastest-growing elderly  
13 population in the nation. While this represents a triumph of  
14 public health, the situation will also present many challenges  
15 to the State in the future.

16           To help prepare to face these challenges, the University of  
17 Hawaii needs a center that is focused on aging. Gerontology is



1 a multi-disciplinary field, engaging people from medicine,  
2 nursing, social work, law, public health, architecture,  
3 engineering, and a range of other areas. The center for aging,  
4 research, and education will help concentrate resources from  
5 various University of Hawaii departments and schools to help:

- 6 (1) Identify ways to expand work and volunteer options for  
7 healthy seniors to keep the seniors contributing to  
8 society;
- 9 (2) Test ways to keep people healthier as they age so that  
10 disability can be prevented or delayed, which will  
11 represent savings in both human capital and health  
12 care costs;
- 13 (3) Develop ways to adapt homes and communities so that  
14 seniors can continue to age-in-place and avoid  
15 institutionalization;
- 16 (4) Respond to the needs of policy decision-makers at all  
17 levels of government and in the private sector; and
- 18 (5) Train an adequate, quality workforce for eldercare,  
19 reducing the need to import eldercare workers and  
20 thereby helping to defray the cost to the State.

21 However, reliable general funding is necessary to attract  
22 renowned scholars from the Asian and Pacific regions and



1 nationally to study the aging phenomenon and serve to train  
2 professionals for work in the field of gerontology. The  
3 legislature believes that, given proper staffing levels, the  
4 center on aging research and education can become a viable  
5 research and training center for addressing local and Asian and  
6 Pacific regional issues.

7       The purpose of this Act is to establish five additional  
8 faculty positions at the center on aging research and education  
9 to assist the center in the fulfillment of its mission, and to  
10 appropriate funds for that purpose.

11       SECTION 2. The University of Hawaii shall establish five  
12 additional faculty positions at the center on aging research and  
13 education to assist the center on aging research and education  
14 in the fulfillment of its mission.

15       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,000, or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the  
18 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
19 2008-2009, for five additional faculty positions to staff the  
20 center on aging research and education.

21       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
22 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Appropriation; Center on Aging Research and Education

**Description:**

Establishes five additional faculty positions at the center on aging research and education to assist in the fulfillment of its mission and appropriates funds for that purpose. (SD1)

