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# 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 measure is to follow-up on the findings  
6 of 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 the joint legislative committee on aging in place, to  
11 explore various funding mechanisms that could potentially  
12 support caregivers, including but not limited to, income tax  
13 credits, temporary disability insurance benefits, unemployment  
14 insurance benefits, and the like.

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

- 18 (1) State 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) An economics professor or researcher at the University
- 3                 of Hawaii;
- 4           (8) Society for Human Resource Management;
- 5           (9) International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 142;
- 6           (10) Policy advisory board of elder affairs; and
- 7           (11) Hawaii Government Employees Association.

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

10           (d) The working group shall serve without compensation and  
11 shall receive no reimbursements for expenses.

12           (e) Administrative support for the working group shall be  
13 provided by the department of labor and industrial relations.  
14 Legislative drafting services shall be provided by the  
15 legislative reference bureau.

16           (f) The working group shall report its findings and  
17 recommendations, including legislative amendments, to the  
18 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
19 the regular session of 2009.

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



**Report Title:**

Family Caregivers; Working Group

**Description:**

Creates a working group to address issues concerning support of family caregivers. (SD1)

