

JAN 17 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that our elderly
2 population is growing to unprecedented heights as the baby
3 boomers enter retirement. It is inevitable that some of these
4 seniors will need assistance with their day-to-day activities,
5 while maintaining their much deserved independence. However,
6 many of our seniors do not require the level of care that is
7 provided by skilled nursing facilities. Instead, safe assisted
8 living arrangements are the most desired options for these
9 individuals.

10 The purpose of this Act is to promote choice and autonomy
11 by providing seniors with safe assisted living options.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§321- Assisted living facilities; safety. No later
16 than July 1, 2008, any assisted living facility that accepts or
17 retains any individual with a physical, cognitive, or other



1 impairment that prevents the individual from safely evacuating
2 the facility with minimal assistance shall:

3 (1) Maintain sufficient staff on the premises twenty-four
4 hours a day, seven days a week who are able to assist
5 in evacuations;

6 (2) Include an individualized evacuation plan in the
7 service plan of each resident;

8 (3) Be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system in
9 compliance with the National Fire Protection
10 Association Code 13 or National Fire Protection Code
11 13R, and an automated fire door system and smoke
12 alarms in compliance with 13-3.4 of the 1997 Life
13 Safety Codes for Existing Health Care Occupancy, or
14 for multilevel facilities, be equipped with an
15 automatic sprinkler system in compliance with National
16 Fire Protection Association Code 13 and each floor
17 shall be divided into at least two smoke sections with
18 fire alarms in compliance with 13-3.4 of the 1997 Life
19 Safety Codes for Existing Health Care Occupancy;

20 (4) Establish procedures to provide residents with the
21 opportunity to explore the facility, and if
22 appropriate, its grounds; and



1 (5) Use a personal electronic monitoring device for any
 2 resident whose physician recommends the use of such a
 3 device."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Assisted Living Facilities; Safety

Description:

Allows assisted living facilities with twenty-four hour staff, individualized evacuation plans, and sprinkler and fire door systems to accept individuals with an impairment that prevents the resident from safely evacuating with minimal assistance.

