

JAN 23 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONVENING A TASK FORCE ON AGING TO STUDY THE NEED FOR AND
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF AGING.

1 WHEREAS, in 1980, older adults comprised twelve per cent of
2 the State's total population; and
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4 WHEREAS, in 2000, the population nearly doubled, with over
5 two hundred seven thousand older adults comprising seventeen per
6 cent of Hawaii's total population; and
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8 WHEREAS, this trend is expected to continue; and
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10 WHEREAS, according to a May 2006 report prepared by the
11 Executive Office on Aging, Profiles of Hawaii's Older Adults and
12 Their Caregivers, by the year 2020, persons age sixty and older
13 will constitute nearly one-third, or thirty per cent, of
14 Hawaii's adult population; and
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16 WHEREAS, moreover, the number of persons who are eighty-
17 five years of age and older is projected to continue to increase
18 dramatically, from 5,561 in 1980 to 33,800 in 2020; and
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20 WHEREAS, the array of publicly-funded programs and services
21 that serve the older population in the areas of health care,
22 disability services, insurance, long-term care, caregiver
23 support, Medicaid, Medicare, and institutional and community-
24 based adult care, for example, are scattered among many state
25 departments; and
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27 WHEREAS, these programs and services help to meet the
28 multi-faceted needs of older adults and are provided by various
29 county, state, federal, private, and not-for-profit entities but
30 can be challenging for care recipients, caregivers, and families
31 to navigate; and
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1 WHEREAS, as a central agency, the Executive Office on Aging
2 currently coordinates some of the programs and services
3 available to Hawaii's older population; however, the scope and
4 magnitude of overlapping issues facing the elderly may
5 necessitate department-level attention; and
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7 WHEREAS, a departmental agency could better focus resources
8 and personnel by directly addressing with top-level policy
9 makers the multi-faceted needs of Hawaii's older population;
10 now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
14 House of Representatives concurring, that the President of the
15 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are
16 requested to convene a Task Force on Aging to study the need
17 for, feasibility of, and preliminary plans for the consolidation
18 of publicly-funded programs and services that would
19 appropriately fall within the jurisdiction of a new Department
20 of Aging; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on Aging be
23 comprised of eight members as follows:
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25 (1) Four members of the Senate, consisting of three
26 members from the majority party and one member from
27 the minority party, who shall be appointed by the
28 President of the Senate; and
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30 (2) Four members of the House of Representatives,
31 consisting of three members from the majority party
32 and one member from the minority party, who shall be
33 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
34 Representatives; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on Aging select
37 a chairperson from its membership; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on Aging is
40 requested to gather input from, but not limited to:
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42 (1) The Department of Health, the Department of Human
43 Services, the Department of Transportation, the
44 University of Hawaii, and the Executive Office on



1 Aging, regarding specific programs and services, to be
2 identified by their current State of Hawaii program
3 structure identification numbers, currently within
4 their jurisdiction, which would appropriately fall
5 within the jurisdiction of the new Department of
6 Aging;

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8 (2) The Department of Budget and Finance, the Department
9 of Human Resources Development, the Department of the
10 Attorney General, and the Department of Accounting and
11 General Services, regarding the budget, personnel,
12 legal, and administrative impacts of shifting programs
13 from the specified departments to the new Department
14 of Aging; and

15
16 (3) The Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs, the
17 Hawaii Alliance of Retired Americans, the Kokua
18 Council, the Hawaii Aging Advocates Coalition, AARP
19 Hawaii, the Hawaii Caregiver Coalition, the City and
20 County of Honolulu Elderly Care Division, the Hawaii
21 County Office of Aging, the Maui County Office on
22 Aging, the Kauai agency on Elder Affairs, and other
23 elderly, disability, business, and faith based
24 organizations and advocates regarding the need for a
25 specific Department of Aging and the programs and
26 services that would appropriately fall within the
27 jurisdiction of the new Department of Aging; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force on Aging, with
30 the assistance of the Executive Office on Aging to draft its
31 report, is requested to submit its findings and recommendations,
32 including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
34 2009; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
38 Hawaii State Senate, Speaker of the Hawaii State House of
39 Representatives, Director of Health, Director of Human Services,



S.C.R. NO. 25

1 Director of the Executive Office on Aging, and President of the
2 University of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY:

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Norman Sakomura
[Signature]
Geordy H Baker

