
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK ON THE LONG TERM LIVING INITIATIVE.

1 WHEREAS, the definition of long term care includes a broad
2 range of health and support services required by individuals
3 with disabilities, or those who are aging, or become disabled;
4 and
5

6 WHEREAS, Hawaii's life expectancy rate is the highest in
7 the nation, the percentage of individuals sixty-five years and
8 older is increasing at 2.5 times the national average, and
9 seventy per cent of these individuals over the age of sixty-five
10 require long term care services; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the ratio of nursing home beds to the elder
13 population in Hawaii is significantly lower than the national
14 rate and the level of disability of our nursing home residents
15 is substantially higher than the national average; and
16

17 WHEREAS, there is a natural tendency to avoid planning for
18 long term needs until faced with the immediacy of providing or
19 obtaining such care and services either for oneself or for a
20 loved one; and
21

22 WHEREAS, advanced planning provides individuals with better
23 alternatives and knowledge about the range of available private
24 and governmental services, the cost of care, payment options,
25 and choice and control over where and how these services are to
26 be received; and
27

28 WHEREAS, a coordinated policy structure and system of long
29 term care is needed to address the growing need for services in
30 the State of Hawaii; and
31



1
2 WHEREAS, there is a need to shift the emphasis of long term
3 care to that of long term living which prioritizes home and
4 community-based care, and a strengthened work force and
5 infrastructure; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the purpose of this Concurrent Resolution is to
8 encourage the Long Term Living Initiative work groups to
9 continue their work in the areas of expanding infrastructure and
10 projected long term care, work force development, and long term
11 care financing, as well as begin a new focus on engaging the
12 county governments as partners in planning an integrated and
13 coordinated policy with the State of Hawaii; now, therefore;
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
17 House of Representatives concurring, that the Departments of
18 Health and Human Services, together with the Executive Office on
19 Aging and the State Health Planning and Development Agency,
20 shall continue their work on the Long Term Living Initiative to
21 expand long term care infrastructure, workforce development, and
22 financing mechanisms, as well as begin a new focus on engaging
23 county government as partners in planning an integrated and
24 coordinated policy with the State of Hawaii; and
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Departments of Health and
27 Human Services, together with the Executive Office on Aging and
28 the State Health Planning and Development Agency, shall focus
29 the work of the Long Term Living Initiative on the following
30 areas:
31

- 32 (1) Infrastructure and projected long term care needs,
33 which shall include ongoing review of the regulations
34 and funding mechanisms for long term care, and
35 continue to monitor trends in areas including
36 demographics, disability status, changing family
37 dynamics, and availability and cost of long term care
38 with an emphasis on increasing the availability of
39 home and community-based care and "specialty units" in
40 nursing facilities that can address the unique needs
41 of challenging patients;
42
43 (2) Workforce development, which shall increase the number
44 of qualified caregivers, particularly certified nurse



1 assistants (CNAs) who are the front line providers in
2 long term care, increase support for family caregivers
3 who play a critical role in allowing many family
4 members to remain at home, and increase training and
5 access to information on available services, including
6 respite care;

7
8 (3) Financing and long term care, which shall examine the
9 cost of long term care services and how they can be
10 made more affordable, encourage families to plan for
11 their future to ensure dignity and choice in available
12 services, pursue the federal "Own Your Future"
13 campaign, and support the provision of incentives to
14 encourage responsible planning; and

15
16 (4) County connections, which shall convene discussions
17 with stakeholders including consumers, providers, and
18 regulators at the county level to learn the best
19 practice and educational information that has been
20 generated by the Long Term Living Initiative, to study
21 the unique issues of long term living that are present
22 in each county, to encourage grass roots awareness
23 about the upcoming long term care crisis that faces
24 citizens of each island, to be a source of grassroots
25 input into the State-wide Long Term Living Initiative,
26 and to act as a sounding board for the ideas of the
27 other State-wide Long Term Living Initiative areas of
28 focus; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
32 Executive Office on Aging, the Director of Health, the Director
33 of Human Services, the Administrator of the State Health
34 Planning and Development Agency, and the Administrator of the
35 Maui Long Term Care Partnership.

