
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO AGING IN PLACE AND TO FACILITATE MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING.

1 WHEREAS, by the year 2010, the population of older adults,
2 defined as individuals sixty years of age and older, will
3 increase by twenty per cent, and according to the Executive
4 Office on Aging's *Hawaii State Plan on Aging, 2008-2011*, by the
5 year 2030 more than one in four individuals is expected to be an
6 older adult; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the growing proportion of older adults will pose
9 significant challenges to the State's economic, physical, and
10 social infrastructure; and

11
12 WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Aging expects a
13 significant increase in demand for services and housing for
14 older adults, and has identified the need to establish more
15 housing options and formulate flexible and creative service
16 models to accommodate older adults and individuals with
17 disabilities and their wide range of needs; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the United States Administration on Aging's
20 blueprint for long-term care systems, *Choices for Independence*,
21 promotes the goal of enabling older adults to remain in their
22 own homes with a high quality of life for as long as possible;
23 and

24
25 WHEREAS, according to United States Census Bureau, Census
26 2000 data, over seventy-four per cent of older adults in Hawaii
27 own their own homes; and

28
29 WHEREAS, multigenerational housing serves the dual purpose
30 of facilitating the provision of support services to older
31 adults and persons with disabilities by family caregivers while
32 additionally providing shelter for families struggling with the
33 scarcity of affordable housing; and
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1 WHEREAS, various building code provisions prevent families
2 from converting existing homes into multigenerational homes; and
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4 WHEREAS, given the high percentage of older adults who own
5 their own homes and the expected surge of demand for housing for
6 older adults as that population grows, it is important to
7 identify structural modifications that will accommodate the
8 physical limitations and needs of older adults and persons with
9 disabilities; and
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11 WHEREAS, modifications to preexisting structures will
12 require individualized assessments by architectural, medical,
13 and construction professionals properly trained to identify
14 limitations and medical conditions of older adults and persons
15 with disabilities and suggest viable modifications to
16 accommodate these limitations and medical conditions; and
17

18 WHEREAS, if new construction projects and renovations to
19 preexisting structures incorporate principles of universal
20 design, which foster environments that are usable by all people
21 without the need for adaptation or specialized design, the
22 projects and renovations will facilitate future
23 multigenerational living and improve the likelihood that older
24 adults and persons with disabilities can "age in place" or
25 remain in their own homes with a high quality of life; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the public should be educated about the benefits
28 of universal design and the use of universal design principles
29 to facilitate multigenerational living and allow older adults
30 and persons with disabilities to age in place or remain in their
31 own homes; now, therefore,
32

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2009, that the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place
36 requests the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
37 of Representatives, and the Governor to form the Home for Life
38 Task Force to coordinate research and action to reduce barriers
39 to aging in place and to facilitate multigenerational living;
40 and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate,
43 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor
44 shall each appoint six individuals from the following categories



1 to serve on the task force: master-planned community developers;
2 architects or planners who have a background in universal design
3 or are designated as certified aging-in-place specialists;
4 contractors with experience developing multigenerational homes;
5 contractors with experience renovating existing homes to
6 facilitate aging in place; trade or professional organizations
7 involved in developing housing; the Hawaii chapters of the
8 American Institute of Architects, American Society of Interior
9 Design, and American Physical Therapy Association; the Building
10 Industry Association; AARP Hawaii; the state Disability and
11 Communications Access Board; county building officials; the
12 state Building Code Council, created by Act 82, Session Laws of
13 Hawaii 2007; educational institution administrators; the Hawaii
14 Association of Realtors; the Healthcare Association of Hawaii;
15 private agencies that assist older adults and individuals with
16 disabilities with housing issues; and members of the community
17 who have first-hand experience with aging in place and
18 multigenerational living; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Legislative Committee
21 on Aging in Place may assist the President of the Senate, the
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor, in
23 coordinating appointments to the task force; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may add
26 additional members which the task force believes may contribute
27 to the work of the task force, and shall at its first meeting
28 select a Home for Life Task Force chairperson who shall be
29 responsible for convening future meetings; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is directed to
32 examine the following issues:
33

34 (1) Building and zoning codes that present barriers to
35 converting an existing single-family dwelling into a
36 multigenerational home, and to:
37

38 (A) Identify any previous legislative attempts to
39 facilitate the creation of multigenerational
40 homes;
41

42 (B) Recommend legislation for reasonable and
43 appropriate changes to building and zoning codes



1 that will facilitate the creation of or
2 conversion to multigenerational homes;

3
4 (C) Draft recommendations to submit to the state
5 Building Code Council that will facilitate the
6 creation of multigenerational housing; and

7
8 (D) Identify public and private entities that resist
9 changes to the building and zoning codes that
10 would allow multigenerational housing, and the
11 reasons behind the resistance; and

12
13 (2) Modifications that can be made to existing homes that
14 would allow older adults and persons with disabilities
15 to age in place or remain in their own homes for a
16 longer period of time, and to further identify:

17
18 (A) The most common impairments faced by older adults
19 and persons with disabilities that limit their
20 ability to remain at home;

21
22 (B) Structural modifications that can be made to
23 dwelling structures to accommodate the most
24 common impairments;

25
26 (C) The costs associated with the foregoing
27 structural modifications; and

28
29 (D) Sources of funding, supplies, and voluntary labor
30 to complete the structural modifications,
31 including: suppliers willing to donate or provide
32 at a reduced cost tools, equipment, and supplies;
33 available public or private loan or grant
34 programs that would finance the modifications;
35 and the potential use of building industry
36 apprentices or volunteers to provide labor for
37 the modifications (and to further identify
38 amendments to licensing requirements under title
39 25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that may be
40 necessitated by the use of apprentices or
41 volunteers); and

42
43 (3) Mechanisms by which personnel may be trained to
44 analyze and make recommendations for structural



1 modifications to existing structures, and, in
2 particular, to pinpoint:

3
4 (A) Agencies or individuals who currently engage in
5 assessing homes for structural modification, and
6 evaluating practices for assessments currently in
7 place;

8
9 (B) Skills necessary to conduct structural
10 modification assessments and the feasibility of
11 introducing training programs relating to these
12 skills in local educational institutions; and

13
14 (C) The viability of including in the training and
15 assessment process an evaluation team comprising
16 medical, architectural, and construction
17 professionals; and

18
19 (4) The use of universal design principles in new
20 construction projects and renovations of existing
21 structures, prioritizing the investigation of:

22
23 (A) Incentives that would motivate builders and
24 developers to incorporate universal design
25 principles;

26
27 (B) Programs used in other states to support
28 universal designs;

29
30 (C) The existence of industry support for creating a
31 certification program for universal design
32 structures, and the subsequent creation of a
33 symbol signifying universal design certification
34 to be used by real estate professionals and
35 development marketers in their advertising
36 campaigns; and

37
38 (D) Proposed amendments to existing building and
39 zoning codes to facilitate the incorporation of
40 universal design principles; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Home for Life Task Force is
43 directed to:



- 1 (1) Create a comprehensive guide for older adults and
2 persons with disabilities that lists resources
3 available for structural modification of their homes,
4 including sources of low-cost or free supplies,
5 voluntary labor, and available grants or loan
6 programs;
7
- 8 (2) Prepare a guide to incorporating universal design
9 principles into construction design and renovation, to
10 be made available to architectural and building
11 professionals and the public;
12
- 13 (3) Collect examples of best practices in retrofitting
14 existing homes, designing and building
15 multigenerational housing, and using universal design
16 principles in both retrofitted and new construction,
17 and solicit ideas and suggestions from professionals
18 and students of architecture, interior design,
19 gerontology, and construction;
20
- 21 (4) Encourage the Building Industry Association of Hawaii
22 to include in its annual "Parade of Homes" one new
23 universal design home, one home that was renovated
24 using universal design principles, and one home
25 adapted for multigenerational living;
26
- 27 (5) Organize an exhibit of best practices to be made
28 available for viewing across the State;
29
- 30 (6) Solicit ideas from older adults and persons with
31 disabilities relating to the designs they believe
32 would facilitate comfortable continued living in their
33 own homes; and
34
- 35 (7) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations to
36 the Legislature and to the Joint Legislative Committee
37 on Aging in Place no later than twenty days prior to
38 the convening of the 2010 Regular Session; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and county building and
41 zoning councils, including the State Building Code Council,
42 select representatives from their respective departments to
43 assist the Home for Life Task Force in its work; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Co-Chairs of the Joint
2 Legislative Committee on Aging in Place may provide
3 administrative assistance to the task force; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Center
6 on Aging shall convene the first meeting of the Home for Life
7 Task Force and may provide any possible assistance to the work
8 of the Home for Life Task Force; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the
12 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
13 Director of the Executive Office on Aging, the Executive
14 Director of the Building Code Council, the Comptroller, the
15 Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, the
16 Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
17 Corporation, the Licensing Administrator for the Department of
18 Commerce and Consumer Affairs Professional Licensing Division,
19 the President of the University of Hawaii System, the Executive
20 Director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and the President
21 of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii.
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