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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CENTER ON AGING TO CONVENE A  
HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A  
STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that too many of our seniors  
2 suffer devastating and many times deadly injuries due to falls;  
3 and

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5           WHEREAS, one third of our kupuna fall each year; and

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7           WHEREAS, every five hours a senior is injured so severely  
8 by a fall that the senior must be hospitalized, often never  
9 returning home; and

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11           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, on average, emergency room,  
12 hospitalization, rehabilitation and long-term care costs  
13 directly related to senior falls total \$92 million dollars per  
14 year, which equals \$252,000 per day; and

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16           WHEREAS, the physical and emotional cost to our families is  
17 incalculable; and

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19           WHEREAS, falls are preventable and are not inevitable due  
20 to aging; and

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22           WHEREAS, balance screening, medication reviews, and vision  
23 examinations are just some of the programs that can help  
24 determine those seniors who are at risk of falling; and

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26           WHEREAS, a variety of evidence-based best practice programs  
27 can prevent falls, especially when incorporated with tai chi or  
28 other exercise programs; now, therefore,

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30           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
32 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii



1 (UH) Center on Aging is requested to convene a Hawaii State Fall  
2 Prevention Task Force (Task Force) to develop a statewide  
3 approach to reducing falls among older adults by:

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- 5 (1) Investigating and examining the immediate and long-  
6 term dangers of fall injuries on our senior  
7 population;
  - 8
  - 9 (2) Examining the fiscal impact of senior falls on our  
10 medical system and health care costs; and
  - 11
  - 12 (3) Recommending appropriate interventions and prevention  
13 programs to reduce falls and health care costs  
14 associated with falls;

15 and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force consist of five  
18 members appointed by the Governor, five members appointed by the  
19 President of the Senate, five members appointed by the Speaker  
20 of the House of Representatives, and six additional members, who  
21 are leaders in their industry or directors of their departments,  
22 or their designees, and who shall collaborate with and support  
23 the work of the Task Force as requested. These additional six  
24 members are to include:

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- 26 (1) The Medical Director or Corporate Executive Officer of  
27 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;
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  - 29 (2) The Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns  
30 School of Medicine;
  - 31
  - 32 (3) A representative of the Fall Prevention Consortium;
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  - 34 (4) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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  - 36 (5) The Director of the Executive Office on Aging or the  
37 Director's designee; and
  - 38
  - 39 (6) The Director of the Elderly Affairs Division of the  
40 City and County of Honolulu or the Director's  
41 designee;

42 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force have  
2 a background in elderly services, geriatric medicine, geriatric  
3 pharmacology, business, insurance, health care, long-term care,  
4 hospital administration, risk management, or public policy  
5 development, or be an advocate for or consumer of elderly care  
6 services; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force:

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10 (1) Be appointed as soon as practicable, but no later than  
11 July 1, 2010;  
12  
13 (2) Are requested to convene before August 15, 2010,  
14 whether or not all membership appointments have been  
15 made at that time; and  
16  
17 (3) Are requested to convene at a place chosen by the  
18 convener;

19  
20 and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Task Force is unable to  
23 fill any vacancies to which it is entitled, the Task Force may,  
24 fill any vacancies that may exist as of August 15, 2010; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Executive  
27 Office on Aging is designated as the chair of the Task Force;  
28 and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and  
31 Executive Office on Aging is requested to provide administrative  
32 support; and the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to  
33 assist the Task Force in drafting any legislation resulting from  
34 the Task Force; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of its review, the Task  
37 Force is requested to:

- 38  
39 (1) Investigate the most effective means to enhance public  
40 awareness that falls are preventable;  
41  
42 (2) Review the potential for increasing the availability  
43 and accessibility of fall prevention programs  
44 statewide for caregivers and the elderly on how to



1 prevent falls and effectively use community resources;  
2 and

3  
4 (3) Investigate the best way to expand the role of medical  
5 and health care professionals in screening, educating,  
6 and referring elderly persons to fall prevention  
7 programs;

8 and

9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to  
11 collaborate with interested stakeholders, including health care  
12 facilities, community coalitions, government agencies, and  
13 organizations concerned with protecting kupuna and preventing  
14 falls; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit an  
17 interim report to the Legislature no later than 20 days before  
18 the convening of the Regular Session of 2011, describing the  
19 progress made in the review of fall prevention data and impact  
20 of senior falls on the State's medical system and health care  
21 costs; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit a final  
24 report, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature  
25 no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular  
26 Session of 2012; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Medical  
30 Director of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Dean of  
31 Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Fall  
32 Prevention Consortium, Director of Health, Director of the  
33 Executive Office on Aging, Director of the University of Hawaii  
34 Center on Aging, and Director of the Elderly Affairs Division of  
35 the City and County of Honolulu.

