
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING 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, that a Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force (Task
33 Force) is established to develop a statewide approach to reduce
34 falls among older adults by investigating and examining the
35 immediate and long-term dangers of fall injuries on our senior



1 population, examining the fiscal impact of senior falls on our
2 medical system and health care costs, and recommending
3 appropriate interventions and prevention programs to reduce
4 falls and health care costs associated with falls; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall
7 Prevention Task Force consist of five members appointed by the
8 Governor, five members appointed by the President of the Senate,
9 five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives, and six additional members, who are leaders in
11 their industry or directors of their departments, or their
12 designees, and who shall collaborate with and support the work
13 of the Task Force as requested. These additional six members
14 are to include:
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- 16 (1) The Medical Director or Corporate Executive Officer of
17 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;
- 18 (2) The Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns
19 School of Medicine;
- 20 (3) A representative of the Fall Prevention Consortium;
- 21 (4) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
- 22 (5) The Director of the Executive Office on Aging or the
23 Director's designee; and
- 24 (6) The Director of the Elderly Affairs Division of the
25 City and County of Honolulu or the Director's
26 designee; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for administrative purposes,
34 the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau is directed to
35 designate a convener from among the membership of the Hawaii
36 State Fall Prevention Task Force; the Hawaii State Fall
37 Prevention Task Force shall be convened before August 15, 2010,
38 whether or not all membership appointments have been made at
39 that time; the Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force shall be
40 convened at a place chosen by the designated convener; and the
41 Legislative Reference Bureau shall provide administrative
42 support; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Hawaii State Fall
2 Prevention Task Force may fill any vacancies that may exist as
3 of August 15, 2010; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of its review, the
6 Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force is requested to:
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- 8 (1) Investigate the most effective means to enhance public
9 awareness that falls are preventable;
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- 11 (2) Review the potential for increasing the availability
12 and accessibility of fall prevention programs
13 statewide for caregivers and the elderly on how to
14 prevent falls and effectively use community resources;
15 and
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- 17 (3) Investigate the best way to expand the role of medical
18 and health care professionals in screening, educating,
19 and referring elderly to fall prevention programs; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall
22 Prevention Task Force is requested to collaborate with
23 interested stakeholders, including health care facilities,
24 community coalitions, government agencies, and organizations
25 concerned with protecting our kupuna and preventing falls; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii State
28 Fall Prevention Task Force have a background in elderly
29 services, geriatric medicine, geriatric pharmacology, business,
30 insurance, health care, long-term care, hospital administration,
31 risk management, or public policy development, or be an advocate
32 for or consumer of elderly care services; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii State
35 Fall Prevention Task Force be appointed as soon as practicable,
36 but by no later than July 1, 2010; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall
39 Prevention Task Force submit an interim report to the
40 Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of
41 the Regular Session of 2011, describing the progress made in the
42 review of fall prevention data and impact of senior falls on the
43 State's medical system and health care costs; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall
2 Prevention Task Force submit a final report, including any
3 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
4 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the
8 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Medical
9 Director of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, the Dean of
10 Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the
11 Fall Prevention Consortium, the Director of Health, the Director
12 of the Executive Office on Aging, and the Director of the
13 Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:

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John M. W. [Signature]
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Gretchen Nielsen

JAN 20 2010

