
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION TASK FORCE TO
DEVELOP A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO REDUCING FALLS AMONG OLDER
ADULTS.

1 WHEREAS, too many of our seniors suffer devastating and
2 many times deadly injuries due to falls; and
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4 WHEREAS, one third of our kupuna fall each year; and
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6 WHEREAS, every five hours a senior is injured so severely
7 by a fall that the senior must be hospitalized, often never
8 returning home; and
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10 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, on average, emergency room,
11 hospitalization, rehabilitation and long-term care costs
12 directly related to senior falls total \$92 million dollars per
13 year, which equals \$252,000 per day; and
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15 WHEREAS, the physical and emotional cost to our families is
16 incalculable; and
17

18 WHEREAS, falls are preventable and are not inevitable due
19 to aging; and
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21 WHEREAS, balance screening, medication reviews, and vision
22 examinations are just some of the programs that can help
23 determine those seniors who are at risk of falling; and
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25 WHEREAS, a variety of evidence-based best practice programs
26 can prevent falls, especially when incorporated with tai chi or
27 other exercise programs; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2010, that the University of Hawaii (UH) Center on Aging is
32 requested to convene a Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force
33 (Task Force) to develop a statewide approach to reducing falls
34 among older adults by:



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

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

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

37 and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force have
40 a background in elderly services, geriatric medicine, geriatric
41 pharmacology, business, insurance, health care, long-term care,
42 hospital administration, risk management, or public policy
43 development, or be an advocate for or consumer of elderly care
44 services; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force:

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

12
13 and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Task Force is unable to
16 fill any vacancies to which it is entitled, the Task Force may
17 fill any vacancies that may exist as of August 15, 2010; and

18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Executive
20 Office on Aging is designated as the chair of the Task Force;
21 and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and
24 Executive Office on Aging is requested to provide administrative
25 support; and the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to
26 assist the Task Force in drafting any legislation resulting from
27 the Task Force; and

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

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- 32 (1) Investigate the most effective means to enhance public
33 awareness that falls are preventable;
- 34
- 35 (2) Review the potential for increasing the availability
36 and accessibility of fall prevention programs
37 statewide for caregivers and the elderly on how to
38 prevent falls and effectively use community resources;
39 and
- 40
- 41 (3) Investigate the best way to expand the role of medical
42 and health care professionals in screening, educating,
43 and referring elderly persons to fall prevention
44 programs;



1 and

2
3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
4 collaborate with interested stakeholders, including health care
5 facilities, community coalitions, government agencies, and
6 organizations concerned with protecting kupuna and preventing
7 falls; and

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

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

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Medical Director of
23 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Dean of Geriatric
24 Medicine of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Fall
25 Prevention Consortium, Director of Health, Director of the
26 Executive Office on Aging, Director of the University of Hawaii
27 Center on Aging, and Director of the Elderly Affairs Division of
28 the City and County of Honolulu.

