
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF DETERMINING THE CAUSES OF ELDERLY ABUSE, DETERMINING BEST PRACTICES, AND ESTABLISHING A SENIOR LEGAL HELP LINE.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Senate Special Committee on
2 Aging has estimated that up to 5,000,000 adults each year are
3 victims of neglect, exploitation, or other abuse; and
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5 WHEREAS, other studies indicate that up to six per cent of
6 the national population of older adults has experienced some
7 type of abuse, neglect, or exploitation; and
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9 WHEREAS, adult protective services are mandated for adult
10 victims of abuse in each of the 50 states and the District of
11 Columbia; and
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13 WHEREAS, results of a recent Elder Abuse Incidence Study
14 shed light on a significant problem of elder abuse and neglect
15 among elders living in their own homes who have gone largely
16 unidentified and unnoticed; and
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18 WHEREAS, the study noted that only one in five new
19 incidents of abuse, neglect, or self-neglect are reported to
20 adult protective services agencies; and
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22 WHEREAS, here in Hawaii, adult protective services provide
23 crisis intervention, investigation, and emergency services to
24 dependent adults who are reported to be abused, neglected, or
25 financially exploited by others or seriously endangered due to
26 self-neglect; and
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28 WHEREAS, there are just over 84,000 elders who are 75 years
29 or older in Hawaii; and
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1 WHEREAS, national estimates of the frequency of abuse
2 towards this population range from five to ten per cent, which
3 suggests that there may be 4,000 or more cases of abuse in
4 Hawaii each year; and

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6 WHEREAS, however, the Department of Human Services
7 indicates that in 2006, it investigated 514 cases, which
8 suggests a large gap between those receiving services and those
9 possibly experiencing abuse; and

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11 WHEREAS, according to the University of Hawaii Center on
12 the Family, between 2000 and 2030, the number of adults in
13 Hawaii who will be 60 years and older will increase by 93.8 per
14 cent and those 85 years and older will increase by 174 per cent;
15 this, in turn, will result in a small proportion of children and
16 younger adults in relation to those 60 years and older; and

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18 WHEREAS, there has also been concern regarding whether any
19 changes to the current Adult Protective Services Law would
20 result in an increased case load and consequential strain on
21 case workers; and

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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services, Adult Protection
24 Services is only available during regular business hours, which
25 has been reduced by furloughs, and does not provide any legal
26 assistance or provide assistance unless the person consents to a
27 social worker's evaluation; and

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29 WHEREAS, California has created a Senior Legal Hotline to
30 provide seniors with fast, accurate advice on any legal subject,
31 by phone and Internet; and

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33 WHEREAS, the California Senior Legal Hotline is funded
34 primarily through a federal grant, which mandates statewide
35 coverage, however more funding would be needed to provide this
36 coverage; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2010, that the Executive Office on Aging is requested to
41 convene a task force for the purpose of determining the causes



1 of increased elder abuse in Hawaii, the needs of elders, law
2 enforcement, and the community at large to determine the best
3 practices in preventative measures, and investigate the
4 development of a statewide Senior Legal Helpline established
5 with Federal Grants and non-profit organization funding; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be chaired by
8 the Executive Director for the Executive Office on Aging and
9 consist of the following members:



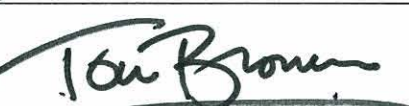
- 10 (1) The Director of the Department of Human Services;
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- 12 (2) The police chiefs of each county, or their designees;
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- 14 (3) The Executive Director of Legal Aid Society of Hawaii;
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- 16 (4) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
- 17 Senate President;
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- 19 (5) One member of the House of Representatives, to be
- 20 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 21 Representatives; and
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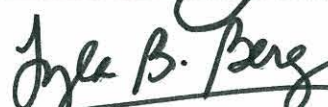

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force submit their
25 recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
26 prior to the convening of the 2011 Regular Session; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the
30 Executive Office on Aging, the director of Human Services, the
31 police chiefs of each county, the Executive Director of Legal
32 Aid Society of Hawaii.



33 OFFERED BY: 


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Ray Hanover
~~Ray~~ D.C. Koch-Gee
Kal Thrush
Karen Avarna

MAR 10 2010

