

JAN 21 2010

## SENATE CONCURRENT 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

4  
5 WHEREAS, one third of our kupuna fall each year; and

6  
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

10  
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

18  
19 WHEREAS, falls are preventable and are not inevitable due  
20 to aging; and

21  
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

25  
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,

29  
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the  
32 House of Representatives concurring, that a Hawaii State Fall



1 Prevention Task Force (Task Force) is established to develop a  
2 statewide approach to reduce falls among older adults by  
3 investigating and examining the immediate and long-term dangers  
4 of fall injuries on our senior population, examining the fiscal  
5 impact of senior falls on our medical system and health care  
6 costs, and recommending appropriate interventions and prevention  
7 programs to reduce falls and health care costs associated with  
8 falls; and  
9

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

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for administrative purposes,  
31 the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau is directed to  
32 designate a convener from among the membership of the Hawaii  
33 State Fall Prevention Task Force; the Hawaii State Fall  
34 Prevention Task Force shall be convened before August 15, 2010,  
35 whether or not all membership appointments have been made at  
36 that time; the Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force shall be  
37 convened at a place chosen by the designated convener; and the



1 Legislative Reference Bureau shall provide administrative  
2 support; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Hawaii State Fall  
5 Prevention Task Force may fill any vacancies that may exist as  
6 of August 15, 2010; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of its review, the  
9 Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force is requested to:

- 10  
11 (1) Investigate the most effective means to enhance public  
12 awareness that falls are preventable;  
13  
14 (2) Review the potential for increasing the availability  
15 and accessibility of fall prevention programs  
16 statewide for caregivers and the elderly on how to  
17 prevent falls and effectively use community resources;  
18 and  
19  
20 (3) Investigate the best way to expand the role of medical  
21 and health care professionals in screening, educating,  
22 and referring elderly to fall prevention programs; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall  
25 Prevention Task Force is requested to collaborate with  
26 interested stakeholders, including health care facilities,  
27 community coalitions, government agencies, and organizations  
28 concerned with protecting our kupuna and preventing falls; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii State  
31 Fall Prevention Task Force have a background in elderly  
32 services, geriatric medicine, geriatric pharmacology, business,  
33 insurance, health care, long-term care, hospital administration,  
34 risk management, or public policy development, or be an advocate  
35 for or consumer of elderly care services; and  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii State  
38 Fall Prevention Task Force be appointed as soon as practicable,  
39 but by no later than July 1, 2010; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall  
42 Prevention Task Force submit an interim report to the  
43 Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of  
44 the Regular Session of 2011, describing the progress made in the



1 review of fall prevention data and impact of senior falls on the  
2 State's medical system and health care costs; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall  
5 Prevention Task Force submit a final report, including any  
6 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
7 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
11 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
12 Representatives, the Medical Director of the Hawaii Health  
13 Systems Corporation, the Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John  
14 A. Burns School of Medicine, the Fall Prevention Consortium, the  
15 Director of Health, the Director of the Executive Office on  
16 Aging, and the Director of the Elderly Affairs Division of the  
17 City and County of Honolulu.  
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OFFERED BY:

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