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# 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  
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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 \$92,000,000 per year,  
14 which equals \$252,000 per day; and  
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16           WHEREAS, monetary cost notwithstanding, the physical and  
17 emotional cost of senior falls to our families is incalculable;  
18 and  
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20           WHEREAS, such falls are preventable and are not inevitable  
21 due to aging; and  
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23           WHEREAS, balance screening, medication reviews, and vision  
24 examinations are just some of the programs that can help  
25 determine those seniors who are at risk of falling; and  
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27           WHEREAS, a variety of evidence-based best practice programs  
28 can prevent falls, especially when incorporated with tai chi or  
29 other exercise programs; now, therefore,  
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31           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the University of  
2 Hawaii Center on Aging is requested to convene a Hawaii State  
3 Fall Prevention Task Force (Task Force) to develop a statewide  
4 approach to reducing falls among older adults by investigating  
5 and examining the immediate and long-term dangers of fall  
6 injuries on our senior population, examining the fiscal impact  
7 of senior falls on our medical system and health care costs, and  
8 recommending appropriate interventions and prevention programs  
9 to reduce falls and health care costs associated with falls; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall  
12 Prevention Task Force consist of five members appointed by the  
13 Governor, five members appointed by the President of the Senate,  
14 five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
15 Representatives, and six additional members, who are leaders in  
16 their industry or directors of their departments, or their  
17 designees, and who shall collaborate with and support the work  
18 of the Task Force as requested. These additional six members  
19 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; and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Executive  
39 Office on Aging is designated as the chair of the Hawaii State  
40 Fall Prevention Task Force; and  
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii State  
43 Fall Prevention Task Force have a background in elderly  
44 services, geriatric medicine, geriatric pharmacology, business,



1 insurance, health care, long-term care, hospital administration,  
2 risk management, or public policy development, or be an advocate  
3 for or consumer of elderly care services; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii State  
6 Fall Prevention Task Force be appointed as soon as practicable,  
7 but by no later than July 1, 2010; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall  
10 Prevention Task Force is requested to convene before August 15,  
11 2010, whether or not all membership appointments have been made  
12 at that time; the Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force shall  
13 be convened at a place chosen by the convener; the Department of  
14 Health and Executive Office on Aging is requested to provide  
15 administrative support; and the Legislative Reference Bureau is  
16 requested to draft any legislation resulting from the task  
17 force; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the Hawaii State Fall  
20 Prevention Task Force is unable to fill any vacancies to which  
21 it is entitled, the Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force may  
22 fill any vacancies that may exist as of August 15, 2010; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as part of its review, the  
25 Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force is requested to:  
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- 27 (1) Investigate the most effective means to enhance public  
28 awareness that falls are preventable;  
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- 30 (2) Review the potential for increasing the availability  
31 and accessibility of fall prevention programs  
32 statewide for caregivers and the elderly on how to  
33 prevent falls and effectively use community resources;  
34 and  
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- 36 (3) Investigate the best way to expand the role of medical  
37 and health care professionals in screening, educating,  
38 and referring elderly persons to fall prevention  
39 programs; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall  
42 Prevention Task Force is requested to collaborate with  
43 interested stakeholders, including health care facilities,



1 community coalitions, government agencies, and organizations  
2 concerned with protecting kupuna and preventing falls; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall  
5 Prevention Task Force submit an interim report to the  
6 Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of  
7 the Regular Session of 2011, describing the progress made in the  
8 review of fall prevention data and impact of senior falls on the  
9 State's medical system and health care costs; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall  
12 Prevention Task Force submit a final report, including any  
13 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
14 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
18 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
19 Representatives, the Medical Director of the Hawaii Health  
20 Systems Corporation, the Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John  
21 A. Burns School of Medicine, the Fall Prevention Consortium, the  
22 Director of Health, the Director of the Executive Office on  
23 Aging, the Director of the University of Hawaii Center on Aging,  
24 and the Director of the Elderly Affairs Division of the City and  
25 County of Honolulu.

