
SENATE 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,
33 that the University of Hawaii Center on Aging is requested to
34 convene a Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force (Task Force)
35 to develop a statewide approach to reducing falls among older



1 adults by investigating and examining the immediate and long-
 2 term dangers of fall injuries on our senior population,
 3 examining the fiscal impact of senior falls on our medical
 4 system and health care costs, and recommending appropriate
 5 interventions and prevention programs to reduce falls and health
 6 care costs associated with falls; and

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

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- 18 (1) The Medical Director or Corporate Executive Officer of
- 19 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;
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- 21 (2) The Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns
- 22 School of Medicine;
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- 24 (3) A representative of the Fall Prevention Consortium;
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- 26 (4) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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- 28 (5) The Director of the Executive Office on Aging or the
- 29 Director's designee; and
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- 31 (6) The Director of the Elderly Affairs Division of the
- 32 City and County of Honolulu or the Director's
- 33 designee; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Executive
 36 Office on Aging is designated as the chair of the Hawaii State
 37 Fall Prevention Task Force; and

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



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force be appointed as soon as practicable, but by no later than July 1, 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force is requested to convene before August 15, 2010, whether or not all membership appointments have been made at that time; the Hawaii State Fall Prevention Task Force shall be convened at a place chosen by the convener; the Department of Health and Executive Office on Aging is requested to provide administrative support; and the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to draft any legislation resulting from the task force; and

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

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

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

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



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

