
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION
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 often fatal 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, among older adults, falls in Hawaii are the
11 leading cause of fatal injuries (45 per cent), injury-related
12 hospitalizations (83 per cent), injury-related emergency
13 department visits (59 per cent), and injury-related emergency
14 medical service calls (81 per cent). Annually, among Hawaii
15 seniors, falls result in 78 deaths and nearly 1,800
16 hospitalizations; and

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18 WHEREAS, monetary cost notwithstanding, the physical and
19 emotional cost of senior falls to our families is incalculable;
20 and

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22 WHEREAS, such falls are preventable and are not inevitable
23 due to aging; and

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25 WHEREAS, balance screening, medication reviews, and vision
26 examinations are just some of the programs that can help
27 determine those seniors who are at risk of falling; and

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29 WHEREAS, a variety of evidence-based best practice programs
30 can prevent falls, especially when incorporated with tai chi or
31 other exercise programs; and
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H.C.R. NO. 23

1 WHEREAS, in addition to the prevention of falls, early
2 detection of fall occurrences is critical to expedite treatment,
3 minimize serious long-term consequences, mitigate suffering,
4 reduce the extent of the injury, and in some instances, avoid
5 death; now, therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii
10 Center on Aging is requested to convene a Hawaii State Fall
11 Prevention and Early Detection Task Force (Task Force) to
12 develop a statewide approach to reducing falls among older
13 adults by:

- 14
15 (1) Investigating and examining the immediate and long-
16 term dangers of fall injuries on our senior
17 population;
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19 (2) Examining the fiscal impact of senior falls on our
20 medical system and health care costs;
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22 (3) Recommending appropriate interventions and prevention
23 programs to reduce falls and health care costs
24 associated with falls;
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26 (4) Investigating the most effective means to enhance
27 public awareness that falls are preventable;
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29 (5) Reviewing the potential for increasing for the elderly
30 and their caregivers, on a statewide basis, the
31 availability and accessibility of fall prevention and
32 early detection services and programs that effectively
33 use community resources;
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35 (6) Recommending measures that will promote early
36 detection of falls, particularly for those who live
37 alone or in circumstances where the likelihood of not
38 being discovered soon after a fall is great; and
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40 (7) Investigating the best way to expand the role of
41 medical and health care professionals in screening,
42 educating, and referring elderly persons to fall
43 prevention and early detection services and programs;
44 and



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

- (1) The Medical Director or Corporate Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;
- (2) The Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns School of Medicine;
- (3) A representative of the Hawai'i Fall Prevention Consortium;
- (4) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
- (5) The Director of the Executive Office on Aging or the Director's designee; and
- (6) The County Executive of the Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu or the County Executive's designee; and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force be appointed as soon as practicable, but by no later than July 1, 2011; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

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- 3 (1) The Task Force is requested to convene before
4 August 15, 2011, whether or not all membership
5 appointments have been made at that time, at a place
6 chosen by the convener;
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- 8 (2) The Department of Health and Executive Office on Aging
9 is requested to provide administrative support to the
10 Task Force; and
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- 12 (3) The Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to draft
13 any legislation resulting from the Task Force; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Task Force has any
16 vacancies in its membership on or after August 15, 2011, the
17 Task Force may appoint persons to fill those vacancies; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
20 collaborate with interested stakeholders, including health care
21 facilities, community coalitions, government agencies, and
22 organizations concerned with protecting kupuna and preventing
23 and detecting falls; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit an
26 interim report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
27 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2012, describing
28 the progress made by the Task Force, including its review of
29 fall prevention data and the impact of senior falls on the
30 State's medical system and health care costs; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit a final
33 report, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature
34 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
35 Session of 2013; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
39 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
40 Representatives, the Medical Director of the Hawaii Health
41 Systems Corporation, the Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John
42 A. Burns School of Medicine, the Hawai'i Fall Prevention
43 Consortium, the Director of Health, the Director of the



H.C.R. NO. 23

1 Executive Office on Aging, the Director of the University of
 2 Hawaii Center on Aging, the County Executive of the Elderly
 3 Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu, and the
 4 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

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JAN 21 2011

