
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 in Hawaii, falls are the
11 leading cause of fatal injuries, injury-related
12 hospitalizations, injury-related emergency department visits,
13 and injury-related emergency medical service calls; and

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15 WHEREAS, annually, among Hawaii seniors, falls result in 78
16 deaths and nearly 1,800 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



1 WHEREAS, in addition to the prevention of falls, early
2 detection of fall occurrences is critical to expediting
3 treatment, minimizing serious long-term consequences, mitigating
4 suffering, reducing the extent of the injury, and in some
5 instances, avoiding 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 Executive Office on
10 Aging is requested to convene a Hawaii State Fall Prevention and
11 Early Detection Task Force (Task Force) to develop a statewide
12 approach to reducing falls among older adults by:
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- 14 (1) Investigating and examining the immediate and long-
15 term dangers of fall injuries on our senior
16 population;
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18 (2) Examining the fiscal impact of senior falls on our
19 medical system and health care costs;
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- 21 (3) Recommending appropriate interventions and prevention
22 programs to reduce falls and health care costs
23 associated with falls;
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25 (4) Investigating the most effective means to enhance
26 public awareness that falls are preventable;
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- 28 (5) Reviewing the potential for increasing for the elderly
29 and their caregivers, on a statewide basis, the
30 availability and accessibility of fall prevention and
31 early detection services and programs that effectively
32 use community resources;
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34 (6) Recommending measures that will promote early
35 detection of falls, particularly for those who live
36 alone or in circumstances where the likelihood of not
37 being discovered soon after a fall is great; and
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- 39 (7) Investigating the best way to expand the role of
40 medical and health care professionals in screening,
41 educating, and referring elderly persons to fall
42 prevention and early detection services and programs;

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44 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force consist of four
2 members appointed by the Governor, four members appointed by the
3 President of the Senate, four members appointed by the Speaker
4 of the House of Representatives, and nine additional members who
5 are leaders in their industry or directors of their departments,
6 or their designees, and who shall collaborate with and support
7 the work of the Task Force as requested. These additional nine
8 members are to include:

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- 10 (1) The Medical Director or Corporate Executive Officer of
11 the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;
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 - 13 (2) The Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns
14 School of Medicine;
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 - 16 (3) A representative of the Hawai'i Fall Prevention
17 Consortium;
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 - 19 (4) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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 - 21 (5) The Director of the Executive Office on Aging or the
22 Director's designee;
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 - 24 (6) The County Executive on Aging and Chief of the Elderly
25 Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu or
26 the County Executive's designee;
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 - 28 (7) The County Executive of the Maui County Office on
29 Aging, or the County Executive's designee;
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 - 31 (8) The County Executive of the Kauai Agency on Elderly
32 Affairs, or the County Executive's designee; and
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 - 34 (9) The County Executive of the Hawaii County Office of
35 Aging, or the County Executive's designee;

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37 and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Executive
40 Office on Aging is designated as the Chair of the Task Force;
41 and



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

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force be
9 appointed as soon as practicable, but by no later than July 1,
10 2011; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

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14 (1) The Task Force is requested to convene before
15 August 15, 2011, whether or not all membership
16 appointments have been made at that time, at a place
17 chosen by the convener;
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19 (2) The Department of Health and Executive Office on Aging
20 are requested to provide administrative support to the
21 Task Force; and
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23 (3) The Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to draft
24 any legislation proposed by the Task Force;

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26 and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Task Force has any
29 vacancies in its membership on or after August 15, 2011, the
30 Task Force may appoint persons to fill those vacancies; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
33 collaborate with interested stakeholders, including health care
34 facilities, community coalitions, government agencies, and
35 organizations concerned with protecting kupuna and preventing
36 and detecting falls; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit an
39 interim report to the Legislature no later than 20 days before
40 the convening of the Regular Session of 2012, describing the
41 progress made by the Task Force, including its review of fall
42 prevention data and the impact of senior falls on the State's
43 medical system and health care costs; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit a final
2 report, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature
3 no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular
4 Session of 2013; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit proposed
7 draft legislation to the Legislative Reference Bureau no later
8 than November 1, 2011 and 2012, respectively; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Medical
12 Director of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Dean of
13 Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the
14 Hawai'i Fall Prevention Consortium, Director of Health, Director
15 of the Executive Office on Aging, Director of the University of
16 Hawaii Center on Aging, County Executive on Aging and Chief of
17 the Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu,
18 County Executive of the Maui County Office on Aging, County
19 Executive of the Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs, County
20 Executive of the Hawaii County Office of Aging, and Acting
21 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

