
SENATE 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 percent), injury-related
12 hospitalizations (83 percent), injury-related emergency
13 department visits (59 percent), and injury-related emergency
14 medical service calls (81 percent) and 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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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 injuries, and in some instances, avoid
5 death; now, therefore,

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

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

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- 9 (1) The Medical Director or Chief Executive Officer of the
10 Hawaii Health Systems Corporation;
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 - 12 (2) The Dean of Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns
13 School of Medicine;
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 - 15 (3) A representative of the Hawai'i Fall Prevention
16 Consortium;
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 - 18 (4) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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 - 20 (5) The Director of the Executive Office on Aging or the
21 Director's designee;
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 - 23 (6) The County Executive of the Elderly Affairs Division
24 of the Department of Community Services of the City
25 and County of Honolulu or the County Executive's
26 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; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the Executive
38 Office on Aging be designated as the Chair of the Task Force;
39 and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force have
42 a background in elderly services, geriatric medicine, geriatric
43 pharmacology, business, insurance, health care, long-term care,



1 hospital administration, risk management, or public policy
2 development, or be an advocate for or consumer of elderly care
3 services; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force be
6 appointed as soon as practicable, but no later than July 1,
7 2011; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:
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- 11 (1) The Task Force is requested to convene before
12 August 15, 2011, whether or not all membership
13 appointments have been made at that time, at a place
14 chosen by the convener;
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- 16 (2) The Department of Health and Executive Office on Aging
17 is requested to provide administrative support to the
18 Task Force; and
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- 20 (3) The Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to
21 assist the Task Force in drafting any proposed
22 legislation in the Task Force's final report; provided
23 that the Chairperson of the Task Force submits a draft
24 of the proposed legislation to the Legislative
25 Reference Bureau no later than November 1, 2012; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Task Force has any
28 vacancies in its membership on or after August 15, 2011, the
29 Task Force may appoint persons to fill those vacancies; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
32 collaborate with interested stakeholders, including health care
33 facilities, community coalitions, government agencies, and
34 organizations concerned with protecting kupuna and preventing
35 and detecting falls; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit an
38 interim report to the Legislature no later than twenty days
39 before the convening of the Regular Session of 2012, describing
40 the progress made by the Task Force, including its review of
41 fall prevention data and the impact of senior falls on the
42 State's medical system and health care costs; and
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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 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
4 Session of 2013; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President
8 of the Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Medical
9 Director of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation; Dean of
10 Geriatric Medicine of the John A. Burns School of Medicine;
11 Hawai'i Fall Prevention Consortium; Director of Health; Director
12 of the Executive Office on Aging; University of Hawai'i Center on
13 Aging; County Executive of the Elderly Affairs Division of the
14 Department of Community Services of the City and County of
15 Honolulu; County Executive of the Maui County Office on Aging;
16 County Executive of the Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs; County
17 Executive of the Hawaii County Office of Aging; and Director of
18 the Legislative Reference Bureau.

