
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that falls and fall-
2 related injuries among the elderly impact individuals, families,
3 the community, and the State's health care system. Fall
4 prevention is a major concern for the safety and well-being of
5 the State's elderly residents, the fastest-growing segment of
6 Hawaii's population.

7 Among the elderly in Hawaii, falls are the leading cause of
8 fatal injuries (an average of forty-four per cent) and injury-
9 related hospitalizations (an average of eighty-three per cent).
10 On average, every five hours in Hawaii an elderly person is
11 injured so severely in a fall that hospitalization is necessary.
12 Falls among Hawaii's elderly also result in a yearly average of
13 eighty-two deaths and nearly one thousand eight hundred
14 hospitalizations.

15 The legislature further finds that hospital costs
16 associated with fall-related injuries average over \$65,000,000 a
17 year. This total does not include the additional significant
18 costs associated with skilled nursing care and rehabilitation.



1 Among Hawaii seniors hospitalized for a fall, forty-three per
2 cent are discharged to skilled nursing facilities for additional
3 care, and twelve per cent are moved to rehabilitation
4 facilities.

5 The legislature additionally finds that access to fall
6 prevention services and programs would significantly reduce
7 these costs. In addition, the early detection of fall
8 occurrences would reduce both costs and suffering by expediting
9 treatment, minimizing serious long-term consequences, reducing
10 the extent of the injury, and in some instances, avoiding death.

11 Falls among the elderly are a significant public health
12 issue. Yet, currently, there are insufficient resources to
13 develop a coordinated statewide approach to reduce and promptly
14 detect falls among the elderly. The legislature therefore finds
15 that the department of health's emergency medical services and
16 injury prevention system branch should be permitted to establish
17 and maintain a program dedicated to fall prevention and early
18 detection for the elderly. This program shall serve as a focal
19 point for statewide injury prevention and detection efforts to
20 ensure multidisciplinary support, coordination of prevention and
21 detection efforts, and continuity of implementation and
22 accountability.



1 The purpose of this Act is to establish a fall prevention
2 and early detection coordinator within the emergency medical
3 services and injury prevention system branch to coordinate the
4 provision of public and private fall prevention and early
5 detection services.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§321- Fall prevention and early detection coordinator.

10 There is established within the emergency medical services and
11 injury prevention system branch a fall prevention and early
12 detection coordinator to coordinate the provision of public and
13 private fall prevention and early detection services."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the trauma system
15 special fund the sum of \$78,555 or so much thereof as may be
16 necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to establish and fill one
17 full-time equivalent fall prevention and early detection
18 coordinator position.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 health for the purposes of this part.

21 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

2 Jakobus Orm INTRODUCED BY: Gregory Takayama

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H.B. NO. 2053

Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Fall Prevention and Early Detection Coordinator;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a fall prevention and early detection coordinator within the Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch. Appropriates \$78,555 for FY 2014-2015.

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