
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that currently 238,000
2 Hawaii residents, constituting 18.7 per cent of Hawaii's total
3 population, are aged sixty and older. By 2030, this age group
4 is projected to constitute more than one-fourth (27.4 per cent)
5 of the State's population. Hawaii's population is expected to
6 increase by twenty-one per cent between 2000 and 2030. However,
7 the number of people sixty years and older is expected to
8 increase by 93.8 per cent and the number of people eighty-five
9 years and older is expected to increase by 174.7 per cent during
10 the same period.

11 The legislature further finds that a "Silver Tsunami" is
12 anticipated in the State as the boomer generation enters its
13 senior years. The great recession of 2008 destroyed the
14 possibility of a comfortable retirement for many of the State's
15 seniors. Many seniors who can no longer work or are not
16 employable lack any kind of safety net to keep them from
17 homelessness. In the next ten years, the "Silver Tsunami" is



1 expected to substantially impact the entire State and the health
2 care system. Four areas of major interest and concern relating
3 to Hawaii's elderly are:

4 (1) Palliative care. Palliative care is essential to the
5 health care treatment of patients seeking to reduce
6 suffering caused by an illness or medical treatment,
7 including surgical procedures, chemotherapy, and
8 hormone treatment therapy;

9 (2) Hospice care. Hospice care is generally provided to
10 individuals who have a short-term life expectancy of
11 less than six months;

12 (3) Advance directives. Advance directives are legally
13 binding documents that detail a person's wishes and
14 desires pertaining to health care and medical
15 treatment, including instructions prohibiting certain
16 medical treatments from being administered to the
17 person; and

18 (4) End-of-life options.

19 The purpose of this Act is to establish an elderly working
20 group to develop and recommend a strategic plan to address these
21 four issues.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established an elderly working
2 group, to be placed within the department of health for
3 administrative purposes. The elderly working group shall:

4 (1) Review current palliative care techniques and "best
5 practices" from other states to ensure that Hawaii's
6 patients in hospice care, along with their families,
7 are afforded the best practices during the final phase
8 of each patient's life;

9 (2) Explore end-of-life options to be provided to patients
10 at the end stage of life; and

11 (3) Identify a strategic plan to better address adequate
12 palliative care, hospice care, advance directives, and
13 recommendations of end-of-life options for patients in
14 Hawaii.

15 (b) The elderly working group shall consist of the
16 following twelve members who shall serve until January 1, 2018:

17 (1) The director of health or the director's designee, who
18 shall serve as the chairperson for the elderly working
19 group;

20 (2) The director or the director's designee of the state
21 executive office on aging;



H.B. NO. 1811

- 1 (3) The director or the director's designee of the
2 Lanakila Meals on Wheels program;
- 3 (4) The president or the president's designee of AARP;
- 4 (5) One member with expertise in palliative care and
5 hospice care, to be appointed by the dean of the
6 University of Hawaii, John A. Burns school of
7 medicine, from its department of geriatric medicine;
- 8 (6) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine,
9 gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice
10 care, to be appointed by the governor;
- 11 (7) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine,
12 gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice
13 care, to be appointed by the president of the senate;
- 14 (8) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine,
15 gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice
16 care, to be appointed by the speaker of the house of
17 representatives;
- 18 (9) Two registered nurses who specialize in internal
19 medicine, gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or
20 hospice care to be appointed by the governor;



1 (10) A family member survivor of a patient who passed away
2 after going through palliative care and hospice care,
3 to be appointed by the president of the senate; and

4 (11) A family member survivor of a patient who passed away
5 after going through palliative care and hospice care,
6 to be appointed by the speaker of the house of
7 representatives.

8 All appointees shall have expertise in fields or
9 disciplines related to the elderly, health care, and education
10 or awareness of issues relating to the elderly.

11 Any vacancies in the elderly working group shall be filled
12 in the manner provided for the original appointments.

13 (c) Upon the initial meeting by the working group, to
14 occur no later than thirty days after the effective date of this
15 Act, its members may elect a vice chairperson and any other
16 necessary officers from among the appointed members. A majority
17 of the elderly working group shall constitute a quorum for its
18 necessary duties.

19 (d) The elderly working group shall meet no less than
20 quarterly. The elderly working group may also hold additional



1 public meetings as it deems necessary. The chairperson, at the
2 request of a majority of members, may request special meetings.

3 (e) Members of the elderly working group shall receive no
4 compensation for their services.

5 (f) The elderly working group shall submit an interim
6 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
7 proposed legislation, and a draft strategic plan to better
8 address health care for seniors in Hawaii to the legislature no
9 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
10 session of 2017. The elderly working group shall submit a final
11 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
12 proposed legislation, and a final strategic plan to better
13 address health care for seniors in Hawaii to the legislature, no
14 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
15 session of 2018.

16 (g) The elderly working group shall terminate on January
17 1, 2018.

18 SECTION 3. It is not the intent of the legislature for
19 this Act to jeopardize the receipt of any federal aid. If this
20 Act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that



1 are a prescribed condition for the allocation of federal funds
2 to the State, this Act shall be deemed void.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

John M. [Signature]
Brian K. [Signature]
Ridley
[Signature]
Mark J. Hahn

JAN 22 2016



H.B. NO. 1811

Report Title:

Health Care; Elderly Working Group

Description:

Establishes an Elderly Working Group to recommend a strategic plan to address health care concerns and needs for Hawaii's seniors.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

