

JAN 20 2016

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR FALL PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every year in  
2 Hawaii, on average eighty-five seniors die, 1,960 are  
3 hospitalized, and 8,700 are treated in emergency departments as  
4 a result of falls. Falls among the elderly also result in  
5 almost \$1,200,000 in hospital and physician charges. In  
6 recognition of this critical public health issue, Act 153,  
7 Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, established a fall prevention and  
8 early detection services coordinator position within the  
9 department of health's emergency medical services and injury  
10 prevention system branch. This position enables the department  
11 of health to support a coordinated statewide approach to prevent  
12 and reduce the impact of falls among older adults. Act 153  
13 funded a new position for a fall prevention and early detection  
14 coordinator for fiscal year 2014 to 2015.

15           The legislature further finds that access to fall  
16 prevention services and programs would significantly reduce



1 costs associated with falls in the elderly by expediting  
2 treatment, minimizing serious long-term consequences, reducing  
3 the extent of the injury, and in some instances, avoiding death.

4 Falls among the elderly are a significant public health  
5 issue. Yet, currently, there are insufficient resources to  
6 develop a coordinated statewide approach to reduce and promptly  
7 detect falls among the elderly. The program serves as a focal  
8 point for statewide injury prevention and detection efforts to  
9 ensure multidisciplinary support, coordination of prevention and  
10 detection efforts, and continuity of implementation and  
11 accountability.

12 The purpose of this Act is to assure a continued focus on  
13 fall prevention in Hawaii, which will ultimately result in  
14 longer, healthier lives for the State's aging population.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$32,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for fall  
18 prevention and early detection services for the elderly.

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

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# S.B. NO. 2074

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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# S.B. NO. 2074

**Report Title:**

Kupuna Caucus; Fall Prevention and Early Detection;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for fall prevention and early detection services for the elderly.

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