

MAR 0 8 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP A NORWEGIAN-BASED PUBLIC FACILITY MODEL DESIGNATED TO ENSURE THE WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF DEMENTIA PATIENTS.

1 WHEREAS, dementia is a general term for loss of memory,
2 language, problem-solving, and other cognitive abilities caused
3 by abnormal changes in the brain, brain cell damage, other brain
4 diseases, or a combination of factors, and are severe enough to
5 interfere with everyday life; and

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7 WHEREAS, approximately twenty nine thousand patients in the
8 State are currently diagnosed with dementia, and the number of
9 patients is expected to rise to thirty five thousand by 2025;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, six in ten dementia sufferers will wander off at
13 least once, which poses dangerous and potentially life-
14 threatening risks to the patient, especially if they become lost
15 and have difficulty finding their way home; and

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17 WHEREAS, countries such as the Netherlands, India, and
18 Norway have implemented "dementia villages" to provide a safe
19 living and communal space for dementia patients to facilitate a
20 sense of freedom for patients; and

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22 WHEREAS, the facility's model provides housing and services
23 within a closed space to prevent dementia sufferers from
24 wandering off, and all areas have clearly identifiable spaces,
25 markers, or other elements to ease wayfinding; and

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27 WHEREAS, Norway has developed a pilot project called "Carpe
28 Diem Dementia Village" to address the impending strain on
29 dementia care and establish a fundamental basis for future
30 dementia care in Norway; and

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32 WHEREAS, unlike many other models that isolate the dementia
33 village, the Norwegian model is an open-village and invites the
34 local community to engage with patients and recreate the
35 familiar feeling of "home"; and



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 2 WHEREAS, by living a more meaningful life, residents
 3 experience more positive psychological benefits, consume fewer
 4 medications, improve their eating habits, and live longer; and
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6 WHEREAS, the State has the responsibility to ensure that
 7 the health and safety of its kupuna and aging residents are met;
 8 now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
 11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
 12 that this body is requested to convene a task force to develop a
 13 Norwegian-based public facility model designated to ensure the
 14 well-being and safety of dementia patients; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 17 consist of the following members:
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- 19 (1) The Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience;
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- 21 (2) The Director of Health; and
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- 23 (3) A representative from AARP Hawaii; and
- 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 26 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 27 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
 28 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 29 2025; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of
 33 Wellness and Resilience, Director of Health, and State Director
 34 of AARP Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: 

