

ACT 198

An Act Relating to a State Commission and County Committees on Aging.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Commission; appointment; tenure. There is hereby created a state commission on aging which shall consist of not less than twenty-one nor more than twenty-seven members. The membership shall include, ex officio, the director of health, the director of social services, the superintendent of public instruction, the president of the university of Hawaii, the director of labor and industrial relations, the secretary of the state employee's retirement system, or their permanently appointed designees, and by invitation, the Hawaii representative of the United States department of health, education and welfare. The remaining members shall be appointed by the governor in accordance with article IV, section 6, of the State Constitution. One-third of such members shall be appointed for the term of four years, one-third for the term of three years and one-third for the term of two years, and thereafter the terms of office of each member shall be four years. Of the appointed members there shall be one member from the county of Hawaii, one member from the county of Maui, and one member from the county of Kauai and at least one-third of the age of sixty years or older. The members shall serve without compensation but shall be paid their necessary expenses in attending meetings of the commission. The members shall be selected on the basis of their interests and knowledge in and their ability to make contributions to the solution of problems relating to aging. The governor shall appoint the chairman of the commission. There shall be no less than four meetings of the commission each year, all meetings to be held in the city and county of Honolulu.

SECTION 2. Duties of commission; reports. The commission shall

(a) Provide a mechanism by which governmental and nongovernmental agencies can coordinate their plans, policies and activities with regard to aging.

(b) Create public awareness and understanding of the needs and potentials of older persons.

(c) Encourage state departments, universities and other appropriate agencies to conduct needed research in the field of aging. When such research cannot be done within such established agencies, it shall be carried out by this commission.

(d) Recommend legislative and administrative action on behalf of the aging; review legislation pertaining to older persons and appropriations made for services in their behalf in such fields as health, social welfare, education, employment and recreation; consider and present revisions and additions needed and report to the governor and to the legislature regarding such legislation.

(e) Appraise the availability, adequacy and accessibility of all services and facilities for older persons within the State.

(f) Study the operations and the operating policies affecting older persons of all state and county departments and agencies responsible for providing services for older persons, including without limitation

to the generality of the foregoing, the agencies with primary responsibility for public health, social welfare, education, housing, employment, recreation and retirement, and report to the governor and to the legislature. The executive heads of all such departments and agencies shall cooperate with the commission in providing information as the commission deems necessary for the effective discharge of its duties under this Act; provided, that no provisions of law with respect to confidentiality of information shall be violated herewith.

(g) Stimulate, guide and provide technical assistance in the organization of local or regional committees on aging, and in the planning and conduct of services, activities and projects.

(h) Stimulate training for workers in services to the aging.

(i) Promote the development of services to assist middle-aged and older persons to develop skills, attitudes and interests to prepare themselves for their later years.

(j) Maintain contacts with local, state and federal officials and agencies concerned with planning for middle-aged and older persons.

(k) Cooperate with national groups on aging and arrange for participation by representatives of the State in White House conferences and other national conferences from time to time.

(l) Administer funds allocated for its work; be authorized to accept, disburse, and allocate funds which may become available from other governmental and private sources, provided, however, that all such funds shall be disbursed or allocated in compliance with any specific designation stated by the donor and in the absence of such specific designation, such funds shall be disbursed or allocated on projects directly benefiting the elderly in accordance with the purposes of this Act.

(m) Submit an annual report with recommendations to the governor and the legislature.

SECTION 3. County committees; appointment. The mayor of the city and county of Honolulu and the chairman of the board of supervisors of each of the other counties shall each appoint within their respective counties a committee of not less than fifteen persons charged with the duty and responsibility of developing such information as the state commission requires or as such committee deems advisable concerning the problems of aging within the respective counties. Such committees shall submit to the state commission plans and proposals for meeting these problems in the several counties. Each county committee shall endeavor to secure the widest possible citizen participation in its efforts and, for this purpose, may utilize or continue the existence of study panels or groups. The membership of each county committee shall include, ex officio, the chief administrative officer at the county level (or his permanently appointed designee) of the state department of health, of the state department of social services, of the employment service office of the state department of labor and industrial relations, and of the state department of education, the administrative head of any county recreation agencies, and the county representative of the state commission. The other members shall be selected upon the basis of their interest in the problems of aging, their effectiveness in promoting the welfare of the middle-aged and older persons within the

county, and their knowledge of local conditions. The chairman shall be elected annually from the nongovernmental members of the committee. One-third of the nongovernmental members of the county committees shall be appointed for four years, one-third for three years and one-third for two years, and thereafter their successors shall be appointed for terms of four years. Each county committee shall meet at least three times a year. The members of the county committee shall receive no compensation for their services. The respective boards of supervisors or council are hereby authorized to make appropriations to meet the necessary expenses of such committees.

SECTION 4. Director; qualification; duties; assistants. The state commission on aging shall select and employ a director who shall be exempt from the provisions of chapters 3 and 4, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, as amended. The director shall have professional training and recent experience in the field of social work, education, public health or other related field, or the equivalent in work experience on one of these fields, and recent experience in a supervisory, consultative or administrative position.

The director shall serve as consultant to the governor on problems of aging; shall assist in coordinating the programs of all agencies concerned with problems of aging; shall help plan, organize and coordinate the activities of the county committees; shall arrange for statewide studies of the needs and existing facilities for older persons and develop recommendations and plans for action consistent with the purposes of this Act; shall secure statistical data from the county committees and from state and local agencies; shall arrange for the exchange of information, plans and programs between public and private groups interested in the problems of aging; shall prepare articles, reports and bulletins for the use of the state commission and the county committees and agencies and for general publication; shall keep and maintain records and reports and conduct correspondence relative to the work of the commission. The director shall be paid and reimbursed for reasonable and necessary traveling expenses in carrying on this work. The commission may employ such additional staff for the director as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the commission, subject to chapters 3 and 4, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, and provide suitable quarters.

SECTION 5. The state commission on aging is hereby placed within the department of budget and review for administrative purposes and shall sit in an advisory capacity to the director of the budget on matters set forth herein.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 5, 1963.) **S.B. 384.**