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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO AGING IN PLACE AND TO FACILITATE MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING.

1           WHEREAS, by the year 2010, the population of older adults,  
2 defined as individuals sixty years of age and older, will  
3 increase by twenty per cent, and according to the Executive  
4 Office on Aging's *Hawaii State Plan on Aging, 2008-2011*, by the  
5 year 2030 more than one in four individuals is expected to be an  
6 older adult; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, the growing proportion of older adults will pose  
9 significant challenges to the State's economic, physical, and  
10 social infrastructure; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Aging expects a  
13 significant increase in demand for services and housing for  
14 older adults, and has identified the need to establish more  
15 housing options and formulate flexible and creative service  
16 models to accommodate older adults and individuals with  
17 disabilities and their wide range of needs; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, the United States Administration on Aging's  
20 blueprint for long-term care systems, *Choices for Independence*,  
21 promotes the goal of enabling older adults to remain in their  
22 own homes with a high quality of life for as long as possible;  
23 and  
24

25           WHEREAS, according to United States Census Bureau, Census  
26 2000 data, over seventy-four per cent of older adults in Hawaii  
27 own their own homes; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, multigenerational housing serves the dual purpose  
30 of facilitating the provision of support services to older  
31 adults and persons with disabilities by family caregivers while  
32 additionally providing shelter for families struggling with the  
33 scarcity of affordable housing; and  
34



1 WHEREAS, various building code provisions prevent families  
2 from converting existing homes into multigenerational homes; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, given the high percentage of older adults who own  
5 their own homes and the expected surge of demand for housing for  
6 older adults as that population grows, it is important to  
7 identify structural modifications that will accommodate the  
8 physical limitations and needs of older adults and persons with  
9 disabilities; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, modifications to preexisting structures will  
12 require individualized assessments by architectural, medical,  
13 and construction professionals properly trained to identify  
14 limitations and medical conditions of older adults and persons  
15 with disabilities and suggest viable modifications to  
16 accommodate these limitations and medical conditions; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, if new construction projects and renovations to  
19 preexisting structures incorporate principles of universal  
20 design, which foster environments that are usable by all people  
21 without the need for adaptation or specialized design, the  
22 projects and renovations will facilitate future  
23 multigenerational living and improve the likelihood that older  
24 adults and persons with disabilities can "age in place" or  
25 remain in their own homes with a high quality of life; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, the public should be educated about the benefits  
28 of universal design and the use of universal design principles  
29 to facilitate multigenerational living and allow older adults  
30 and persons with disabilities to age in place or remain in their  
31 own homes; now, therefore,  
32

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
35 that the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place requests  
36 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
37 Representatives, and the Governor to form the Home for Life Task  
38 Force to coordinate research and action to reduce barriers to  
39 aging in place and to facilitate multigenerational living; and  
40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate,  
42 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor  
43 shall each appoint six individuals from the following categories  
44 to serve on the task force: master-planned community developers;



1 architects or planners who have a background in universal design  
2 or are designated as certified aging-in-place specialists;  
3 contractors with experience developing multigenerational homes;  
4 contractors with experience renovating existing homes to  
5 facilitate aging in place; trade or professional organizations  
6 involved in developing housing; the Hawaii chapters of the  
7 American Institute of Architects, American Society of Interior  
8 Design, and American Physical Therapy Association; the Building  
9 Industry Association; AARP Hawaii; the state Disability and  
10 Communications Access Board; county building officials; the  
11 state Building Code Council, created by Act 82, Session Laws of  
12 Hawaii 2007; educational institution administrators; the Hawaii  
13 Association of Realtors; the Healthcare Association of Hawaii;  
14 private agencies that assist older adults and individuals with  
15 disabilities with housing issues; and members of the community  
16 who have first-hand experience with aging in place and  
17 multigenerational living; and  
18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Legislative Committee  
20 on Aging in Place may assist the President of the Senate, the  
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor, in  
22 coordinating appointments to the task force; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may add  
25 additional members which the task force believes may contribute  
26 to the work of the task force, and shall at its first meeting  
27 select a Home for Life Task Force chairperson who shall be  
28 responsible for convening future meetings; and  
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is directed to  
31 examine the following issues:  
32

- 33 (1) Building and zoning codes that present barriers to  
34 converting an existing single-family dwelling into a  
35 multigenerational home, and to:  
36
- 37 (A) Identify any previous legislative attempts to  
38 facilitate the creation of multigenerational  
39 homes;
  - 40 (B) Recommend legislation for reasonable and  
41 appropriate changes to building and zoning codes  
42 that will facilitate the creation of or  
43 conversion to multigenerational homes;  
44



- 1
- 2 (C) Draft recommendations to submit to the state
- 3 Building Code Council that will facilitate the
- 4 creation of multigenerational housing; and
- 5
- 6 (D) Identify public and private entities that resist
- 7 changes to the building and zoning codes that
- 8 would allow multigenerational housing, and the
- 9 reasons behind the resistance; and
- 10
- 11 (2) Modifications that can be made to existing homes that
- 12 would allow older adults and persons with disabilities
- 13 to age in place or remain in their own homes for a
- 14 longer period of time, and to further identify:
- 15
- 16 (A) The most common impairments faced by older adults
- 17 and persons with disabilities that limit their
- 18 ability to remain at home;
- 19
- 20 (B) Structural modifications that can be made to
- 21 dwelling structures to accommodate the most
- 22 common impairments;
- 23
- 24 (C) The costs associated with the foregoing
- 25 structural modifications; and
- 26
- 27 (D) Sources of funding, supplies, and voluntary labor
- 28 to complete the structural modifications,
- 29 including: suppliers willing to donate or provide
- 30 at a reduced cost tools, equipment, and supplies;
- 31 available public or private loan or grant
- 32 programs that would finance the modifications;
- 33 and the potential use of building industry
- 34 apprentices or volunteers to provide labor for
- 35 the modifications (and to further identify
- 36 amendments to licensing requirements under title
- 37 25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that may be
- 38 necessitated by the use of apprentices or
- 39 volunteers); and
- 40
- 41 (3) Mechanisms by which personnel may be trained to
- 42 analyze and make recommendations for structural
- 43 modifications to existing structures, and, in
- 44 particular, to pinpoint:



- 1
- 2 (A) Agencies or individuals who currently engage in
- 3 assessing homes for structural modification, and
- 4 evaluating practices for assessments currently in
- 5 place;
- 6
- 7 (B) Skills necessary to conduct structural
- 8 modification assessments and the feasibility of
- 9 introducing training programs relating to these
- 10 skills in local educational institutions; and
- 11
- 12 (C) The viability of including in the training and
- 13 assessment process an evaluation team comprising
- 14 medical, architectural, and construction
- 15 professionals; and
- 16
- 17 (4) The use of universal design principles in new
- 18 construction projects and renovations of existing
- 19 structures, prioritizing the investigation of:
- 20
- 21 (A) Incentives that would motivate builders and
- 22 developers to incorporate universal design
- 23 principles;
- 24
- 25 (B) Programs used in other states to support
- 26 universal designs;
- 27
- 28 (C) The existence of industry support for creating a
- 29 certification program for universal design
- 30 structures, and the subsequent creation of a
- 31 symbol signifying universal design certification
- 32 to be used by real estate professionals and
- 33 development marketers in their advertising
- 34 campaigns; and
- 35
- 36 (D) Proposed amendments to existing building and
- 37 zoning codes to facilitate the incorporation of
- 38 universal design principles; and
- 39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Home for Life Task Force is  
41 directed to:

- 42
- 43 (1) Create a comprehensive guide for older adults and
- 44 persons with disabilities that lists resources



1 available for structural modification of their homes,  
2 including sources of low-cost or free supplies,  
3 voluntary labor, and available grants or loan  
4 programs;

5  
6 (2) Prepare a guide to incorporating universal design  
7 principles into construction design and renovation, to  
8 be made available to architectural and building  
9 professionals and the public;

10  
11 (3) Collect examples of best practices in retrofitting  
12 existing homes, designing and building  
13 multigenerational housing, and using universal design  
14 principles in both retrofitted and new construction,  
15 and solicit ideas and suggestions from professionals  
16 and students of architecture, interior design,  
17 gerontology, and construction;

18  
19 (4) Encourage the Building Industry Association of Hawaii  
20 to include in its annual "Parade of Homes" one new  
21 universal design home, one home that was renovated  
22 using universal design principles, and one home  
23 adapted for multigenerational living;

24  
25 (5) Organize an exhibit of best practices to be made  
26 available for viewing across the State;

27  
28 (6) Solicit ideas from older adults and persons with  
29 disabilities relating to the designs they believe  
30 would facilitate comfortable continued living in their  
31 own homes; and

32  
33 (7) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations to  
34 the Legislature and to the Joint Legislative Committee  
35 on Aging in Place no later than twenty days prior to  
36 the convening of the 2010 Regular Session; and

37  
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state and county building and  
39 zoning councils, including the State Building Code Council,  
40 select representatives from their respective departments to  
41 assist the Home for Life Task Force in its work; and  
42



# S.R. NO. 10

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Co-Chairs of the Joint  
 2 Legislative Committee on Aging in Place may provide  
 3 administrative assistance to the task force; and  
 4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Center  
 6 on Aging shall convene the first meeting of the Home for Life  
 7 Task Force and may provide any possible assistance to the work  
 8 of the Home for Life Task Force; and  
 9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the  
 12 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
 13 Director of the Executive Office on Aging, the Executive  
 14 Director of the Building Code Council, the Comptroller, the  
 15 Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, the  
 16 Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development  
 17 Corporation, the Licensing Administrator for the Department of  
 18 Commerce and Consumer Affairs Professional Licensing Division,  
 19 the President of the University of Hawaii System, the Executive  
 20 Director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and the President  
 21 of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii.  
 22  
 23  
 24

OFFERED BY: *John Allan Jr*

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