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# SENATE CONCURRENT 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 to twenty per cent of Hawaii's population, and  
4 according to the Executive Office on Aging's *Hawaii State Plan*  
5 *on Aging, 2008-2011*, by the year 2030 more than one in four  
6 individuals is expected to be an 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

1 additionally providing shelter for families struggling with the  
2 scarcity of affordable housing; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, various building and zoning codes prevent families  
5 from converting existing homes into multigenerational or  
6 accessible homes; and

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

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

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

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

37  
38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
40 House of Representatives concurring, that pursuant to the  
41 recommendation of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in  
42 Place, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
43 Representatives, and the Governor are requested to form the Home  
44 for Life Task Force to coordinate research and action to reduce

1 barriers to aging in place and to facilitate multigenerational  
2 or accessible living; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate,  
5 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor  
6 are requested to each appoint six individuals from the following  
7 categories to serve on the task force: master-planned community  
8 developers; architects or planners who have a background in  
9 universal design or are designated as certified aging in place  
10 specialists; contractors with experience developing  
11 multigenerational or accessible homes; contractors with  
12 experience renovating existing homes to facilitate aging in  
13 place; trade or professional organizations involved in  
14 developing housing; the Hawaii chapters of the American  
15 Institute of Architects, American Society of Interior Design,  
16 and American Physical Therapy Association; the Building Industry  
17 Association; AARP Hawaii; the State Disability and  
18 Communications Access Board; county building officials; the  
19 State Building Code Council, created by Act 82, Session Laws of  
20 Hawaii 2007; educational institution administrators; the Hawaii  
21 Association of Realtors; the Healthcare Association of Hawaii;  
22 private agencies that assist older adults and individuals with  
23 disabilities with housing issues; and members of the community  
24 who have first-hand experience with aging in place and  
25 multigenerational or accessible living; and  
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Legislative Committee  
28 on Aging in Place may assist the President of the Senate, the  
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor, in  
30 coordinating appointments to the task force; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may add  
33 additional members which the task force believes may contribute  
34 to the work of the task force, and shall at its first meeting  
35 select a Home for Life Task Force chairperson who shall be  
36 responsible for convening future meetings; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is directed to  
39 examine the following issues:  
40

41 (1) Building and zoning codes that present barriers to  
42 converting an existing single-family dwelling into a  
43 multigenerational or accessible home, and to:  
44

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

1 industry apprentices or volunteers to provide  
2 labor for the modifications (and to further  
3 identify amendments to licensing requirements  
4 under title 25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that may  
5 be necessitated by the use of apprentices or  
6 volunteers); and  
7

8 (3) Mechanisms by which personnel may be trained to  
9 analyze and make recommendations for structural  
10 modifications to existing structures, and, in  
11 particular, to pinpoint:  
12

13 (A) Agencies or individuals who currently engage in  
14 assessing homes for structural modification, and  
15 evaluating practices for assessments currently in  
16 place;  
17

18 (B) Skills necessary to conduct structural  
19 modification assessments and the feasibility of  
20 introducing training programs relating to these  
21 skills in local educational institutions; and  
22

23 (C) The viability of including in the training and  
24 assessment process an evaluation team comprising  
25 medical, architectural, and construction  
26 professionals; and  
27

28 (4) The use of universal design principles in new  
29 construction projects and renovations of existing  
30 structures, prioritizing the investigation of:  
31

32 (A) Incentives that would motivate builders and  
33 developers to incorporate universal design  
34 principles;  
35

36 (B) Programs used in other states to support  
37 universal designs;  
38

39 (C) The existence of industry support for creating a  
40 certification program for universal design  
41 structures, and the subsequent creation of a  
42 symbol signifying universal design certification  
43 to be used by real estate professionals and

1 development marketers in their advertising  
2 campaigns; and

3  
4 (D) Proposed amendments to existing building and  
5 zoning codes to facilitate the incorporation of  
6 universal design principles; and  
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Home for Life Task Force is  
9 directed to:

- 10  
11 (1) Create a comprehensive guide for older adults and  
12 persons with disabilities that lists resources  
13 available for structural modification of their homes,  
14 including sources of low-cost or free supplies,  
15 voluntary labor, and available grants or loan  
16 programs;  
17  
18 (2) Prepare a guide to incorporating universal design  
19 principles into construction design and renovation, to  
20 be made available to architectural and building  
21 professionals and the public;  
22  
23 (3) Collect examples of best practices in retrofitting  
24 existing homes, designing and building  
25 multigenerational or accessible housing, using  
26 universal design principles in both retrofitted and  
27 new construction, and soliciting ideas and suggestions  
28 from professionals and students of architecture,  
29 interior design, gerontology, and construction;  
30  
31 (4) Encourage the Building Industry Association of Hawaii  
32 to include in its annual "Parade of Homes" one new  
33 universal design home, one home that was renovated  
34 using universal design principles, and one home  
35 adapted for multigenerational or accessible living;  
36  
37 (5) Organize an exhibit of best practices to be made  
38 available for viewing across the State;  
39  
40 (6) Solicit ideas from older adults and persons with  
41 disabilities relating to the designs they believe  
42 would facilitate comfortable continued living in their  
43 own homes; and  
44

1           (7) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations to  
2           the Legislature and to the Joint Legislative Committee  
3           on Aging in Place no later than twenty days prior to  
4           the convening of the 2010 Regular Session; and  
5

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and county building and  
7           zoning councils, departments, and offices, including the State  
8           Building Code Council, select representatives from their  
9           respective councils, departments, and offices to assist the Home  
10          for Life Task Force in its work; and  
11

12          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Co-Chairs of the Joint  
13          Legislative Committee on Aging in Place may provide  
14          administrative assistance to the task force; and  
15

16          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Center  
17          on Aging shall convene the first meeting of the Home for Life  
18          Task Force and may provide any possible assistance to the work  
19          of the Home for Life Task Force; and  
20

21          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22          Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the  
23          President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
24          Representatives, the Director of the Executive Office on Aging,  
25          the Executive Director of the Building Code Council, the  
26          Comptroller, the Director of Health, the Director of Human  
27          Services, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance  
28          and Development Corporation, the Licensing Administrator for the  
29          Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Professional  
30          Licensing Division, the Executive Director of the Disability and  
31          Communication Access Board, the President of the University of  
32          Hawaii System, the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society  
33          of Hawaii, the President of the Building Industry Association of  
34          Hawaii, and the Mayor of each county.