HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, IN COLLABORATION WITH
PAPA OLA LOKAHI AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF
NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH, TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO ADDRESS
THE LONG TERM HEALTHCARE NEEDS OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN
POPULATION.

WHEREAS, over the next 20 years, the number of Hawaii
residents age 65 and older will nearly double from 184,000 to
about 327,000 people - from about 14 percent today to more than
22 percent of the state's total population in 2030; and

WHEREAS, the aging of Hawaii's population is especially
sobering given the corresponding ten percent decline in the
number of residents age 50 to 64, the age group from which the
largest number of family caregivers is currently derived; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers provide the bulk of long-term
care services in Hawaii, including critical support services
such as bathing and meal preparation in the home, and they delay
or prevent the need for prohibitively expensive nursing home
care; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's family caregivers provide unpaid care
conservatively estimated at $1.45 billion per year - but their
ability to continue providing this level of care in the years
ahead is unsustainable in the absence of long-term care reform; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Act 224 in 2008 established a Long
Term Care Commission to research the resources necessary to meet
Hawaii's long-term care public policy goals and to recommend
options for system reform; and

WHEREAS, widespread confusion about the cost of care and
available service options make long-term care reform vital to
the future of Hawaii because many people mistakenly think the
government, through Medicare, pays more than it does, and
because relatively few people have private insurance that covers
the cost of care; and

WHEREAS, the Long Term Care Commission is expected to
present recommended reforms to the state legislature in 2012 in
the areas of support service infrastructure, administration,
workforce development, and financing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
of 2010, that this body urges the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, in
collaboration with Papa Ola Lokahi and the University of Hawaii
Department of Native Hawaiian Health, to develop a strategy to
address the long term healthcare needs of the Native Hawaiian
population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
resolution be sent to the Governor, Director of Health, Director
of Human Services; Chairperson and members of the Board of
Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson of the
Long-Term Care Commission, Executive Director of Papa Ola
Lokahi, Executive Director of Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Executive
Director of ‘Ahahui O Na Kauka, Dean of the University of Hawaii
John A. Burns School of Medicine, and Dean of the University of
Hawaii Department of Native Hawaiian Health.

OFFERED BY:  

[Signatures]

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