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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that falls and fall-  
2 related injuries among the elderly impact individuals, families,  
3 the community, and the State's health care system. Fall  
4 prevention is a major concern for the safety and well-being of  
5 the State's elderly residents, the fastest-growing segment of  
6 Hawaii's population.

7           Among the elderly in Hawaii, falls are the leading cause of  
8 fatal injuries (an average of forty-four per cent) and injury-  
9 related hospitalizations (an average of eighty-three per cent).  
10 On average, every five hours in Hawaii an elderly person is  
11 injured so severely in a fall that hospitalization is necessary.  
12 Falls among Hawaii's elderly also result in a yearly average of  
13 eighty-two deaths and nearly 1,800 hospitalizations.

14           The legislature further finds that hospital costs  
15 associated with fall-related injuries average over \$65,000,000 a  
16 year. This total does not include the additional significant  
17 costs associated with skilled nursing care and rehabilitation.  
18 Among Hawaii seniors hospitalized for a fall, forty-three per



1 cent are discharged to skilled nursing facilities for additional  
2 care, and twelve per cent are moved to rehabilitation  
3 facilities.

4 The legislature additionally finds that access to fall  
5 prevention services and programs would significantly reduce  
6 these costs. In addition, the early detection of fall  
7 occurrences would reduce both costs and suffering by expediting  
8 treatment, minimizing serious long-term consequences, reducing  
9 the extent of the injury, and in some instances, avoiding death.

10 Falls among the elderly are a significant public health  
11 issue. Yet, currently, there are insufficient resources to  
12 develop a coordinated statewide approach to reduce and promptly  
13 detect falls among the elderly. The legislature therefore finds  
14 that the department of health's emergency medical services and  
15 injury prevention system branch should be permitted to establish  
16 and maintain a program dedicated to fall prevention and early  
17 detection for the elderly. This program shall serve as a focal  
18 point for statewide injury prevention and detection efforts to  
19 ensure multidisciplinary support, coordination of prevention and  
20 detection efforts, and continuity of implementation and  
21 accountability.



1           The purpose of this Act is to permit the department of  
2 health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system  
3 branch to establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and  
4 early detection program and to make an appropriation for this  
5 program.

6           SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by adding a new section to part XVIII to be  
8 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

9           "§321-       Statewide fall prevention and early detection  
10 program. (a) The department of health may establish and  
11 maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection program  
12 to serve as a focal point for statewide injury prevention and  
13 detection efforts. The department may have a position dedicated  
14 to fall prevention and early detection in support of this  
15 program.

16           (b) The statewide fall prevention and early detection  
17 program shall develop a statewide approach to falls among the  
18 elderly by:

19           (1) Investigating and examining the immediate and long-  
20 term dangers of fall injuries on the elderly;

21           (2) Examining the fiscal impact of falls by the elderly on  
22 the State's medical system and health care costs;



- 1       (3) Recommending appropriate interventions and prevention  
2       programs to reduce falls by the elderly and health  
3       care costs associated with these falls;
- 4       (4) Investigating and implementing the most effective  
5       means to enhance public awareness that falls are  
6       preventable;
- 7       (5) Reviewing and developing the potential for increasing  
8       for the elderly and their caregivers, on a statewide  
9       basis, the availability and accessibility of fall  
10       prevention programs that effectively use community  
11       resources;
- 12       (6) Recommending measures that will promote early  
13       detection of falls, particularly for those who live  
14       alone or in circumstances where the likelihood of not  
15       being discovered soon after a fall is great; and
- 16       (7) Investigating and recommending the best way to expand  
17       the role of medical and health care professionals in  
18       screening, educating, and referring the elderly to  
19       fall prevention and early detection services and  
20       programs.

21       For purposes of this subsection, the statewide fall  
22       prevention and early detection program shall collaborate with



1 interested stakeholders, including health care facilities,  
2 community coalitions, government agencies, and organizations  
3 concerned with protecting the elderly and preventing and  
4 detecting elderly falls.

5 (c) The statewide fall prevention and early detection  
6 program shall report to the legislature no later than twenty  
7 days prior to the convening of each regular session, beginning  
8 with the regular session of 2015, describing the progress made  
9 in implementing subsection (b), including the review of fall  
10 prevention data and the impact of falls by the elderly on the  
11 State's medical system and health care costs.

12 (d) For the purposes of this section, "the elderly" means  
13 persons who are at least sixty-five years of age."

14 SECTION 3. Section 321-224, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

16 "(a) In addition to other functions and duties assigned  
17 under this part, the department shall:

- 18 (1) Regulate ambulances and ambulance services;  
19 (2) Establish emergency medical services throughout the  
20 State, including emergency aeromedical services, which  
21 shall meet the requirements of this part, subject to  
22 section 321-228;



- 1           (3) Review and approve the curricula and syllabi of  
2           training courses offered to emergency medical services  
3           personnel who provide basic, intermediate, and  
4           advanced life support, consult and coordinate with the  
5           University of Hawaii, or any other accredited  
6           community college, college, or university, or any  
7           professional organization that provides emergency  
8           medical services training, regarding the training for  
9           basic, intermediate, and advanced life support  
10          personnel, as provided in section 321-229;
- 11          (4) Collect and evaluate data for the continued evaluation  
12          of the state system, subject to section 321-230;
- 13          (5) Coordinate emergency medical resources and the  
14          allocation of the state system's services and  
15          facilities in the event of mass casualties, natural  
16          disasters, national emergencies, and other  
17          emergencies, ensuring linkage to local, state, and  
18          national disaster plans, and participation in  
19          exercises to test these plans;
- 20          (6) Establish, administer, and maintain a communication  
21          system for the state system;



- 1           (7) Assist each county in the development of a "911"  
2           emergency telephone system;
- 3           (8) Secure technical assistance and other assistance and  
4           consultation necessary for the implementation of this  
5           part, subject to section 321-230;
- 6           (9) Implement public information and education programs to  
7           inform the public of the state system and its use, and  
8           disseminate other emergency medical information,  
9           including appropriate methods of medical self-help and  
10          first-aid, and the availability of first-aid training  
11          programs in the State;
- 12          (10) Establish standards and provide training for  
13          dispatchers in the state system, and maintain a  
14          program of quality assurance for dispatch equipment  
15          and operations;
- 16          (11) Establish a program that will enable emergency service  
17          personnel to provide early defibrillation;
- 18          (12) Establish within the department the emergency medical  
19          service system for children;
- 20          (13) Consult with the advisory committee on matters  
21          relating to the implementation of this part; [and]



1 (14) Establish and maintain standards for emergency medical  
 2 services course instructor qualifications and  
 3 requirements for emergency medical services training  
 4 facilities[-]; and

5 (15) Establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and  
 6 early detection program, as provided in section 321-  
 7 \_\_\_\_\_."

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so  
 10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
 11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
 12 year 2014-2015 for the department of health's emergency medical  
 13 services and injury prevention system branch to establish and  
 14 maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection  
 15 program.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
 17 of health for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

21



INTRODUCED BY: 





S.B. NO. 105

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# S.B. NO. 105

**Report Title:**

Kupuna Caucus; Department of Health; Statewide Fall Prevention and Early Detection Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Permits the department of health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system branch to establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection program and appropriates funds for the program.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

