
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONVENING A WORKING GROUP ON THE ELDERLY.

1 WHEREAS, currently, 238,000 Hawaii residents, constituting
2 18.7 percent of Hawaii's total population, are aged 60 and
3 older, and by 2030, this age group is projected to constitute
4 more than one-fourth, or 27.4 percent, of the State's
5 population; and
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7 WHEREAS, while Hawaii's population is expected to increase
8 by 21 percent between 2000 and 2030, the number of people 60
9 years and older is expected to increase by 93.8 percent and the
10 number of people 85 years and older is expected to increase by
11 174.7 percent during the same period; and
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13 WHEREAS, the large aging population will have a major
14 impact on the organization and delivery of health care, with a
15 shift from acute to chronic illnesses, such as heart disease,
16 cancer, stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's
17 disease, and diabetes; and
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19 WHEREAS, according to the International Journal of
20 Epidemiology:
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- 22 (1) The style of medicine will need to change from one-
23 time interventions that correct a single problem to
24 the ongoing management of multiple diseases and
25 disabilities;
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- 27 (2) Doctors and patients will require an ongoing
28 relationship designed to help patients cope with
29 illnesses rather than curing them; and
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- 31 (3) Chronic illness means that long-term care services,
32 such as nursing homes, home health, personal care,
33 adult day care, and congregate housing will become
34 much more important sources of care; and



1 WHEREAS, *The State of Aging & Health in America 2013*,
2 supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
3 states that chronic diseases can affect a person's ability to
4 perform important and essential activities, both inside and
5 outside the home, in the following areas:

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- 7 (1) Persons may have trouble with instrumental activities
- 8 of daily living, such as managing money, shopping,
- 9 preparing meals, and taking medications as prescribed;
- 10 and
- 11
- 12 (2) Persons may also lose the ability to perform more
- 13 basic activities, or activities of daily living, such
- 14 as taking care of personal hygiene, feeding
- 15 themselves, getting dressed, and toileting; and
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17 WHEREAS, in the next ten years, the aging workforce in the
18 State is expected to substantially affect the entire State and
19 health care system, in particular, the following are four areas
20 of major interest and concern relating to Hawaii's elderly:
21 palliative care, hospice care, advance directives, and end-of-
22 life options; and

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24 WHEREAS, convening a working group on the elderly would
25 assist in addressing the health care needs of Hawaii's aging
26 population; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
30 Session of 2016, that the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
31 School of Medicine is requested to convene a Working Group on
32 the Elderly (Working Group) to develop and recommend a strategic
33 plan to address issues in the areas of palliative care, hospice
34 care, advance directives, and end-of-life options; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group:

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- 38 (1) Review current palliative care techniques and "best
- 39 practices" from other states to ensure that Hawaii's
- 40 patients in hospice care, along with their families,



1 are afforded the best practices during the final phase
2 of each patient's life;

3
4 (2) Explore end-of-life options to be provided to patients
5 at the end stage of life; and

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7 (3) Identify a strategic plan to better address adequate
8 palliative care, hospice care, advance directives, and
9 end-of-life options for patients in the State; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group comprise the
12 following members:

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14 (1) The Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns
15 School of Medicine, or the Dean's designee, who shall
16 serve as the Chair of the Working Group;

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18 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;

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20 (3) The Director of the Executive Office on Aging, or the
21 Director's designee;

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23 (4) The Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, or the Executive
24 Director's designee;

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26 (5) The State President of AARP Hawaii, or the State
27 President's designee;

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29 (6) A member with expertise in palliative care and hospice
30 care, to be appointed by the Dean of the University of
31 Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine from its
32 department of geriatric medicine;

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34 (7) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine,
35 gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice
36 care, to be appointed by the Governor;

37
38 (8) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine,
39 gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice
40 care, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;



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1 (9) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine,
2 gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice
3 care, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives;

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6 (10) Two registered nurses who specialize in internal
7 medicine, gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or
8 hospice care, to be appointed by the Governor;

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10 (11) A family member survivor of a patient who passed away
11 after going through palliative care and hospice care,
12 to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

13
14 (12) A family member survivor of a patient who passed away
15 after going through palliative care and hospice care,
16 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives;

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19 provided that all appointees are to have expertise in fields or
20 disciplines related to the elderly, health care, and education or
21 awareness of issues relating to the elderly; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all vacancies to the Working
24 Group shall be filled in the manner provided for in the original
25 appointments, and upon the initial meeting by the Working Group,
26 its members may elect a vice chairperson and any other necessary
27 officers from among the appointed members; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the Working Group
30 shall constitute a quorum for its necessary duties; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
33 to submit to the Legislature:

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35 (1) An interim report of its findings and recommendations,
36 including any proposed legislation and a draft
37 strategic plan to better address health care for
38 seniors in Hawaii, no later than 20 days prior to the
39 convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and
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1 (2) A final report of its findings and recommendations,
 2 including any proposed legislation and a final
 3 strategic plan to better address health care for
 4 seniors in Hawaii, no later than 20 days prior to the
 5 convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group shall
 8 terminate on January 1, 2018; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Dean of the
 12 University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, Director
 13 of Health, Director of the Executive Office on Aging, Executive
 14 Director of Kōkua Mau, and State President of AARP Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:

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