
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the outbreak of
2 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which is caused by a novel
3 coronavirus, was first detected in China; has rapidly expanded;
4 and has now been detected in over seventy locations, including
5 in the United States. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2",
6 and the disease it causes has been named COVID-19, which and has
7 been declared by the World Health Organization to be a global
8 pandemic. The legislature further finds that the novelty of
9 COVID-19 is a historic public health challenge and a reason the
10 United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
11 other entities are unprepared for the outbreak of this
12 aggressive disease.

13 The legislature also finds that while persons of all ages
14 can become infected by COVID-19, elderly individuals and
15 individuals with underlying health conditions are at greatest
16 risk of dying from the disease. The first death in the United
17 States from COVID-19 occurred in the state of Washington. The



1 individual who died from the respiratory infection caused by the
2 virus was traced to a long-term care facility in Seattle,
3 Washington.

4 The legislature further finds that the outbreak of COVID-19
5 in the nursing home in Washington state sheds light on the
6 vulnerability of residents in nursing facilities, assisted
7 living facilities, and other long-term care facilities and the
8 necessity of preparing for this rapidly-evolving disease. In
9 particular, establishing protocols and strategies for long-term
10 care facilities and caregivers who serve the elderly is
11 essential because of the heightened risks of serious
12 complications from the virus due to the advanced age and
13 underlying health conditions of elderly patients and residents,
14 as well as the close living conditions of individuals in these
15 facilities.

16 The purpose of this Act is to take steps to protect
17 Hawaii's elderly from the risks of COVID-19 by requiring the
18 executive office on aging and all agencies and nonprofit
19 organizations that receive funding through the executive office
20 on aging to:



1 (1) Establish infection control protocols for caregivers
2 to follow:

3 (A) Prior to and upon entering a long-term care
4 facility; and

5 (B) Prior to and upon contact with patients in these
6 facilities;

7 (2) Establish emergency preparedness and response
8 protocols, including but not limited to visitation
9 policies for long-term care facilities; and

10 (3) Implement COVID-19 testing of residents of long-term
11 care facilities,

12 to prevent the possible spread of and containment of, if
13 necessary, COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in the State.

14 SECTION 2. The executive office on aging and all agencies
15 and nonprofit organizations, including the kupuna care program
16 and kupuna caregivers program, that receive funding through the
17 executive office on aging shall:

18 (1) Establish infection control protocols for caregivers
19 to follow:

20 (A) Prior to and upon entering a long-term care
21 facility; and



1 (B) Prior to and upon contact with patients in these
2 facilities;

3 (2) Establish emergency preparedness and response
4 protocols, including but not limited to visitation
5 policies for long-term care facilities; and

6 (3) Implement COVID-19 testing of residents of long-term
7 care facilities,

8 to prevent the possible spread of and containment of, if
9 necessary, COVID-19 in long-term care facilities in the State.

10 SECTION 3. The executive director of the executive office
11 on aging shall make a request to the governor no later than
12 April 29, 2020, to allocate moneys from any of the funds
13 specified under the proclamation issued by the governor on
14 March 4, 2020, to fund the requirements of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

EOA; COVID-19; Long-Term Care Facilities; Kupuna Care Program; Kupuna Caregivers Program; Infection Control Protocols; Emergency Preparedness and Response Protocols; COVID-19 Testing

Description:

Requires EOA and all agencies and non-profits that receive funding through EOA, including the kupuna care program and kupuna caregivers program, to establish infection control protocols, establish emergency preparedness and response protocols, and implement COVID-19 testing at long-term care facilities. Requires the EOA executive director to request an allocation of funds from the governor's emergency proclamation. (HD1)

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