
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is
2 fortunate to have the highest life expectancy in the United
3 States with a record of 80.7 years. The number of kupuna living
4 to be over eighty, ninety, and even one hundred continues to
5 grow. As people age, they are more likely to experience
6 differing abilities, with 27.8 per cent of older adults living
7 with a disability. This likelihood of living with a disability
8 increases to 39.5 per cent for the middle-old (ages seventy-five
9 through eighty-four) and 70.9 per cent for the oldest-old (aged
10 eighty-five years or older). According to the Centers for
11 Disease Control and Prevention, the ten leading causes of death
12 in the State are heart disease, cancer, stroke, accidents,
13 Alzheimer's disease, chronic lower respiratory disease,
14 coronavirus disease 2019, diabetes, influenza or pneumonia, and
15 kidney disease. Moreover, three out of ten deaths in the State
16 are due to cardiovascular disease, which is largely preventable.
17 In addition, there are approximately twenty-nine thousand



1 persons aged sixty-five and older living with Alzheimer's
2 disease in the State who are cared for by fifty-one thousand
3 family caregivers. According to the Centers for Disease Control
4 and Prevention, one in nine adults forty-five years or older in
5 the State report experiencing subjective cognitive decline, as
6 they notice memory problems that have been getting worse, and
7 within this group, seventy-four per cent have at least one
8 chronic condition. By 2025, the number of people living with
9 Alzheimer's disease in the State is expected to increase to
10 thirty-five thousand, a more than twenty per cent increase from
11 2020.

12 The legislature further finds that virtually all of the
13 State's seniors prefer to age in place at home, with the option
14 of receiving community-based services, rather than in a care
15 home or institution, and that many seniors will require more
16 intensive services and caregiving at the end of their lives.
17 Therefore, long-term care of the State's aging population is a
18 matter of statewide concern.

19 The legislature also finds that the costs of institutional
20 care have escalated beyond the financial means of most seniors.
21 The State's portion of medicaid expenditures has increased



1 steadily over the years and is projected to increase
2 significantly as baby boomers enter retirement. As the State's
3 population ages, the number of frail and disabled individuals
4 has increased, placing a precipitous demand on the need for
5 long-term care services, as well as significant cost pressures
6 on the state budget. The legislature therefore finds that there
7 is an urgent need to make quality long-term care services as
8 accessible, efficient, and effective as possible.

9 The legislature additionally finds that it is necessary to
10 explore public and private sector approaches to support payment
11 for long-term care services, which can assist seniors age in
12 place and prevent the State from becoming fiscally liable for
13 unsustainable costs under medicaid.

14 Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, established a
15 long-term care commission within the public policy center of the
16 university of Hawaii college of social sciences to identify
17 needed reforms of the long-term care system. The commission
18 produced a report entitled "Long-Term Care Reform in Hawaii:
19 Report of the Hawaii Long-Term Care Commission, Final Report",
20 dated January 18, 2012. Several bills were introduced during
21 the regular session of 2012 to adopt the commission's



1 recommendations. However, only one bill was adopted, the kupuna
2 care program, which had been a demonstration project since July
3 1999, and was codified in statute within the executive office on
4 aging pursuant to Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012.

5 The purpose of this Act is to establish:

6 (1) A comprehensive long-term care plan that incorporates
7 certain essential components of long-term care
8 services; and

9 (2) One long-term care planner position within the
10 executive office on aging to oversee the development
11 and implementation of the long-term care plan.

12 SECTION 2. (a) The executive office on aging shall
13 coordinate with the state health planning and development agency
14 in the development of a long-term care plan as part of an
15 overall health care system plan.

16 (b) The executive office on aging, in coordination with
17 the state health planning and development agency, shall
18 establish a comprehensive long-term care plan to:

19 (1) Identify essential components to ensure the
20 availability of a full continuum of long-term care
21 services, including homes, skilled nursing



- 1 institutions, and other institutional and
2 community-based services;
- 3 (2) Identify needed reforms to establish a sustainable
4 long-term care system;
- 5 (3) Research programmatic changes and resources necessary
6 to meet the State's long-term care public policy
7 goals; and
- 8 (4) Explore funding options to support the provision of
9 long-term care services, including the recruitment,
10 training, and retention of a skilled workforce.
- 11 (c) The executive office on aging shall submit a report of
12 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
13 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
14 to the convening of the regular session of 2025.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$79,872 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
18 establish and fund one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) long-term
19 care planner position within the executive office on aging to
20 oversee the development and implementation of the comprehensive
21 long-term care plan identified in section 2 of this Act.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive
2 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.



Report Title:

EOA; SHPDA; Long-Term Care Plan; Report; Position; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Executive Office on Aging, in coordination with the State Health Planning and Development Agency, to create a comprehensive long-term care plan to accomplish certain long-term care policy goals that ensure the availability of a full continuum of institutional and community-based services. Establishes and appropriates funds for one long-term care planner position within the Executive Office on Aging to oversee the development and implementation of the long-term care plan. Requires the Executive Office on Aging to submit a report to the Legislature. (CD1)

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