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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY OTHER STATES' ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND COMPARE THEM TO HAWAII'S ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES.

1           WHEREAS, the United States Senate Special Committee on  
2 Aging has estimated that up to five million adults each year are  
3 victims of neglect, exploitation, or other abuse; and  
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5           WHEREAS, other studies indicate that up to six per cent of  
6 the national population of older adults has experienced some  
7 type of abuse, neglect, or exploitation; and  
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9           WHEREAS, there is no national, uniform reporting system to  
10 document the numbers of older Americans who experience abuse, so  
11 the number of these individuals can only be estimated; and  
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13           WHEREAS, adult protective services are mandated for adult  
14 victims of abuse in each of the fifty states and the District of  
15 Columbia; and  
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17           WHEREAS, the eligible recipients of these services vary by  
18 jurisdiction; and  
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20           WHEREAS, in most states, services are provided to any  
21 vulnerable adult, while in other states the services are  
22 provided only to individuals age sixty years and older or to  
23 younger individuals with disabilities; and  
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25           WHEREAS, results of a recent Elder Abuse Incidence Study  
26 shed light on a significant problem of elder abuse and neglect  
27 among elders living in their own homes and who have gone largely  
28 unidentified and unnoticed; and  
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30           WHEREAS, the study noted that only one in five new  
31 incidents of abuse, neglect, or self-neglect are reported to  
32 adult protective services agencies; and  
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34           WHEREAS, here in Hawaii, adult protective services provides  
35 crisis intervention, investigation, and emergency services to



1 dependent adults who are reported to be abused, neglected, or  
2 financially exploited by others or seriously endangered due to  
3 self-neglect; and  
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5 WHEREAS, there are just over eighty-four thousand elders  
6 that are seventy-five years or older in Hawaii; and  
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8 WHEREAS, national estimates of the frequency of abuse  
9 towards this population range from five to ten per cent, which  
10 suggests that there may be four thousand or more cases of abuse  
11 in Hawaii each year; and  
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13 WHEREAS, however, the Department of Human Services  
14 indicates that in 2006, it investigated five hundred fourteen  
15 cases, which suggests a large gap between those receiving  
16 services and those possibly experiencing abuse; and  
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18 WHEREAS, Hawaii's adult protective services law has been  
19 described in newspaper articles in recent years as one of the  
20 most restrictive in the nation; and  
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22 WHEREAS, there has also been concern regarding whether any  
23 changes to the current Adult Protective Services Law would  
24 result in an increased case load and consequential strain on  
25 case workers; now, therefore,  
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
29 Session of 2007, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is  
30 requested to study other states' adult protective services and  
31 compare them to Hawaii's adult protective services; and  
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the study, the  
34 Legislative Reference Bureau should:  
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- 36 (1) Examine the other states' adult protective services  
37 laws and their implementation in the respective  
38 states; and  
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- 1 (2) Obtain information regarding:
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- 3 (A) The total number of cases reported to the adult
- 4 protective services of each state and the ratio
- 5 of cases per capita for each state;
- 6
- 7 (B) What changes to Hawaii's adult protective
- 8 services law would need to be made to make the
- 9 applicability of Hawaii's law more comparable to
- 10 those in other states; and
- 11
- 12 (C) The estimated increase or decrease in the number
- 13 of cases that would be reported in Hawaii as a
- 14 result of the change those changes; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
17 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the  
18 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
19 the 2008 Regular Session; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative  
23 Reference Bureau.

