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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AN INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR THE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING UNTIL A PERMANENT DIRECTOR IS  
APPOINTED.

1 WHEREAS, the federal Older Americans Act:

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- 3 (1) Declares that it is the duty of governments in the  
4 United States to assist older adults in securing their  
5 physical and mental well-being;  
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- 7 (2) Establishes the Administration on Aging to support the  
8 nation's elderly; and  
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- 10 (3) Provides resources for local programs to effectuate  
11 this purpose; and  
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13 WHEREAS, each state is required to designate a lead agency  
14 to fulfill the mandates of the Older Americans Act, and in  
15 Hawaii, it is the Executive Office on Aging that provides that  
16 leadership on behalf of 224,000 Hawaii residents age sixty years  
17 and older; and  
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19 WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Aging managed  
20 \$13.5 million in federal and state funds to serve elderly  
21 clients statewide through its various programs and allocations  
22 to the county offices on aging, which in turn, plan, coordinate,  
23 and provide direct services to older adults in the local  
24 communities; and  
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26 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 349-2, Hawaii Revised  
27 Statutes, the Governor is responsible for nominating and  
28 appointing a Director of the Executive Office on Aging to, among  
29 other things, advise the Governor on new legislation, programs,  
30 and policy initiatives, and conduct the liaisons necessary to  
31 implement them; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the Director of the Executive Office on Aging  
2 also:

- 3  
4 (1) Serves as the principal official in state government  
5 solely responsible for the performance, development,  
6 and control of programs, policies, and activities on  
7 behalf of elders;  
8  
9 (2) Conducts advocacy efforts for elders; and  
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11 (3) Submits the State Plan on Aging to the United States  
12 Assistant Secretary for Aging that must be submitted  
13 by July 2007, for the State to be eligible for federal  
14 funds; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in spite of a reported offer from the former  
17 director to serve in the interim until a permanent director is  
18 selected, the position of Director of the Executive Office on  
19 Aging has been vacant since December 5, 2006; and  
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21 WHEREAS, this vacancy has left the Executive Office on  
22 Aging without a leader for state policies on aging, coordination  
23 of staff functions in the office, and management of the office's  
24 legally-mandated state and federal responsibilities; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the four-month absence of the Director of the  
27 Executive Office on Aging has been conspicuous at the  
28 Legislature where dozens of measures were and are being  
29 discussed without significant policy advice from the Director of  
30 the Executive Office on Aging, and without the Director's  
31 partnership with the Legislature's Kupuna Caucus and the Joint  
32 Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving; now, therefore,  
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the  
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is urged  
37 to immediately appoint an interim director for the Executive  
38 Office on Aging until a permanent director is appointed; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to  
41 facilitate the timely appointment of a qualified permanent  
42 director for the Executive Office on Aging; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
3 Administrative Director of the State, Director of Health, Chair  
4 of the Policy Advisory Board on Elderly Affairs, and the United  
5 States Assistant Secretary for Aging.

