

PROPOSED

THE SENATE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007
STATE OF HAWAII

S.C.R. NO. 136
S.D. 1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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:

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- 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;
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- 9 (2) Conducts advocacy efforts for elders; and
- 10
- 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.

