

MAR 14 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT 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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WHEREAS, here in Hawaii, adult protective services provides crisis intervention, investigation, and emergency services to dependent adults who are reported to be abused, neglected, or financially exploited by others or seriously endangered due to self-neglect; and

WHEREAS, there are just over eighty-four thousand elders that are seventy-five years or older in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, national estimates of the frequency of abuse towards this population range from five to ten per cent, which suggests that there may be four thousand or more cases of abuse in Hawaii each year; and

WHEREAS, however, the Department of Human Services indicates that in 2006, it investigated five hundred fourteen cases, which suggests a large gap between those receiving services and those possibly experiencing abuse; and

WHEREAS, there has been a great deal of discussion regarding whether the Department of Human Services is serving those who are most in need of adult protective services; and

WHEREAS, there has also been concern regarding whether any changes to the current Adult Protective Services Law would result in an increased case load and consequential strain on case workers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to study other states' adult protective services and compare them to Hawaii's adult protective services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in completing the study, the Legislative Reference Bureau should:

- (1) Examine the other states' adult protective services laws and their implementation in the respective states;

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- (2) Obtain information regarding the total number of cases reported to the adult protective services of each state and the ratio of cases per capita for each state;
- (3) Discuss the typical case load for case workers in each state; and
- (4) Discuss the consequences of any expansion of services or changes to adult protective services laws in the various states, including whether the total number of cases increased or decreased and the resulting case load for case workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008 Regular Session; and

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

OFFERED BY:

[Signature]
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