
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO STUDY RESPITE CARE AND REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE AN INVENTORY OF THE RESPITE SERVICES PROVIDED IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, family caregiver is the term used to refer to an
2 unpaid individual, including a family member, friend, or
3 neighbor, who provides full- or part-time care to another
4 individual in need and either lives separately from or with the
5 care recipient; and

6
7 WHEREAS, individuals who need the assistance of family
8 caregivers typically have complex, chronic medical conditions
9 and functional limitations; and

10
11 WHEREAS, it is estimated that fourteen to twenty-one per
12 cent of adults, or 126,598 to 192,390 individuals, in the State
13 provide regular care or assistance to another individual aged
14 sixty years or older; and

15
16 WHEREAS, family caregivers provide an invaluable service
17 and economic benefit to care recipients and State taxpayers by
18 way of deferred paid caregiving and institutionalization; and

19
20 WHEREAS, nationally, if the work of family caregivers had
21 to be replaced by paid home care staff, the estimated cost would
22 be forty-five to ninety-four billion dollars per year; and

23
24 WHEREAS, sustainable family caregiving depends on meeting a
25 family caregiver's own needs for support and respite care; and

26
27 WHEREAS, although there are different approaches to respite
28 care, the basic objective is to provide a family caregiver with
29 temporary relief from the responsibilities of caring for a care
30 recipient so that the family caregiver can attend to other
31 personal and professional obligations; and

32
33 WHEREAS, respite care can include a range of services such
34 as medical or social adult day care or a short-term stay in a



1 nursing home or assisted living facility for the care recipient,
2 a home health aide or home health companion, or a private duty
3 nurse or adult foster care; and
4

5 WHEREAS, a study of respite care and the provision of
6 respite care in other states would be helpful to establishing
7 respite care programs for family caregivers in this State; now,
8 therefore,
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
12 that:
13

- 14 (1) The Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to study
15 respite care; and
16
17 (2) The Department of Human Services is requested to
18 provide an inventory of the respite services provided
19 in Hawaii; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
22 Bureau's study should:
23

- 24 (1) Focus on the provision of respite care to family
25 caregivers who provide care for:
26
27 (A) Their children with special health care needs;
28
29 (B) Adult family members, or other individuals, aged
30 sixty years or older with a disability; or
31
32 (C) Chronically ill adults; and
33
34 (2) Include:
35
36 (A) A compilation of the various definitions used to
37 describe the term "respite care";
38
39 (B) A description of the respite care policies and
40 programs that other states have adopted or
41 considered; and
42



1 (C) A description of how other states assess the
2 quality of respite care provided in those states;
3 and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
6 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings to the
7 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
8 the 2008 Regular Session; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
11 Services is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no
12 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008
13 Regular Session; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
16 Services' report is requested to include an inventory of the
17 respite services provided in Hawaii that are supported by
18 federal, state, and county funds, including a description of
19 each program, eligibility criteria, quality and safety
20 monitoring procedures, evaluation and quality improvement
21 processes, and the amount and source of funding; and
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services and
25 the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

