
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAREGIVING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that families, rather
2 than institutions, are the primary providers of long-term care
3 for older adults in the State. According to the executive
4 office on aging, in 2003, approximately twenty-one per cent of
5 Hawaii's adult population provided care or assistance to a
6 person age sixty or older. Caregivers are motivated to provide
7 care to family members because of their family-oriented values,
8 the preference of the elderly to remain at home with their
9 families, and the high cost of institutional long-term care.

10 In Hawaii, the likelihood of becoming a caregiver is
11 similar across different demographic groups and among persons
12 with varied socioeconomic characteristics. Adults of any
13 household income have a similar likelihood of providing care to
14 an elderly person. Married persons in Hawaii are just as likely
15 to provide care to an older adult as their unmarried
16 counterparts.



1 Among the different ethnic groups in Hawaii, native
2 Hawaiians are most likely to provide regular care to an older
3 adult, followed by Filipinos, Japanese, and Caucasians.
4 According to the executive office on aging, twelve per cent of
5 men and sixteen per cent of women provide care or assistance to
6 someone age sixty or older. In national studies, women are more
7 likely than men to be primary caregivers, providing higher
8 intensity and frequency of care.

9 According to the executive office on aging, sixty-five per
10 cent of Hawaii's caregivers are employed. To balance their
11 employment and elder care roles, working caregivers take leaves
12 of absence, report to work late or leave early, change from
13 full-time to part-time employment status, change to less
14 demanding jobs, retire early, or give up work completely. As a
15 consequence, caregiving may reduce a caregiver's retirement
16 income because reduced hours on the job or fewer years in the
17 workforce may mean fewer contributions to pensions, social
18 security, and other retirement savings.

19 By 2020, more than one in four individuals will be sixty
20 years old or older. The need for personal care increases with
21 age due to physical, sensory, cognitive, and self-care
22 disabilities. As Hawaii's population ages, many more families



1 will be providing higher levels of long-term care to frail and
2 disabled older adults at home.

3 Under Act 262, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, the executive
4 office on aging is required to coordinate a statewide system of
5 caregiver support services by, among other things:

- 6 (1) Integrating family caregiver support with the aging
7 and disability resource center demonstration project;
- 8 (2) Analyzing the long-term care needs of older adults and
9 the capacity of family and informal caregivers to help
10 them remain safely at home;
- 11 (3) Advocating, mobilizing, and coordinating employer and
12 community resources to enable and augment family
13 caregiver support;
- 14 (4) Establishing and maintaining protocols and standards
15 for federal and state caregiver services administered
16 by state, county, or other local agencies on aging;
- 17 (5) Establishing and supervising the alignment of
18 long-term care advocacy assistance staff caregiver
19 support objectives with the planning, resource
20 development, grants management, data management, and
21 evaluation functions of the executive office on aging;
22 and



1 (6) Coordinating statewide support for grandparents and
 2 other aging relative caregivers of children eighteen
 3 and under.

4 The purpose of this Act is to continue to provide for the
 5 coordination and development of family caregiver support
 6 services in Hawaii.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$80,000, or so much
 9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
 10 same sum or so much thereof as my be necessary for fiscal year
 11 2008-2009, for the executive office on aging to continue to
 12 coordinate a statewide system of family caregiver support
 13 services.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 15 of health for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.
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Report Title:

Family Caregiver Support Services; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to continue the coordination and development of family caregiver support services.

