
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO AGING IN PLACE AND TO FACILITATE MULTIGENERATIONAL LIVING.

1 WHEREAS, by the year 2010, the population of older adults,
2 defined as individuals sixty years of age and older, will
3 increase to twenty per cent of Hawaii's population, and
4 according to the Executive Office on Aging's *Hawaii State Plan*
5 *on Aging, 2008-2011*, by the year 2030 more than one in four
6 individuals is expected to be an older adult; and
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8 WHEREAS, the growing proportion of older adults will pose
9 significant challenges to the State's economic, physical, and
10 social infrastructure; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Aging expects a
13 significant increase in demand for services and housing for
14 older adults, and has identified the need to establish more
15 housing options and formulate flexible and creative service
16 models to accommodate older adults and individuals with
17 disabilities and their wide range of needs; and
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19 WHEREAS, the United States Administration on Aging's
20 blueprint for long-term care systems, *Choices for Independence*,
21 promotes the goal of enabling older adults to remain in their
22 own homes with a high quality of life for as long as possible;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, according to United States Census Bureau, Census
26 2000 data, over seventy-four per cent of older adults in Hawaii
27 own their own homes; and
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29 WHEREAS, multigenerational housing serves the dual purpose
30 of facilitating the provision of support services to older
31 adults and persons with disabilities by family caregivers while
32 additionally providing shelter for families struggling with the
33 scarcity of affordable housing; and
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1 WHEREAS, various building and zoning codes prevent families
2 from converting existing homes into multigenerational or
3 accessible homes; and
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5 WHEREAS, given the high percentage of older adults who own
6 their own homes and the expected surge of demand for housing for
7 older adults as that population grows, it is important to
8 identify structural modifications that will accommodate the
9 physical limitations and needs of older adults and persons with
10 disabilities; and
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12 WHEREAS, modifications to preexisting structures will
13 require individualized assessments by architectural, medical,
14 and construction professionals properly trained to identify
15 limitations and medical conditions of older adults and persons
16 with disabilities and suggest viable modifications to
17 accommodate these limitations and medical conditions; and
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19 WHEREAS, if new construction projects and renovations to
20 preexisting structures incorporate principles of universal
21 design, which foster environments that are usable by all people
22 without the need for adaptation or specialized design, the
23 projects and renovations will facilitate future
24 multigenerational or accessible living and improve the
25 likelihood that older adults and persons with disabilities can
26 "age in place" or remain in their own homes with a high quality
27 of life; and
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29 WHEREAS, the public should be educated about the benefits
30 of universal design and the use of universal design principles
31 to facilitate multigenerational or accessible living and allow
32 older adults and persons with disabilities to age in place or
33 remain in their own homes; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
37 that pursuant to the recommendation of the Joint Legislative
38 Committee on Aging in Place, the President of the Senate, the
39 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor are
40 requested to form the Home for Life Task Force to coordinate
41 research and action to reduce barriers to aging in place and to
42 facilitate multigenerational or accessible living; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate,
2 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor
3 are requested to each appoint six individuals from the following
4 categories to serve on the task force: master-planned community
5 developers; architects or planners who have a background in
6 universal design or are designated as certified aging in place
7 specialists; contractors with experience developing
8 multigenerational or accessible homes; contractors with
9 experience renovating existing homes to facilitate aging in
10 place; trade or professional organizations involved in
11 developing housing; the Hawaii chapters of the American
12 Institute of Architects, American Society of Interior Design,
13 and American Physical Therapy Association; the Building Industry
14 Association; AARP Hawaii; the State Disability and
15 Communications Access Board; county building officials; the
16 State Building Code Council, created by Act 82, Session Laws of
17 Hawaii 2007; educational institution administrators; the Hawaii
18 Association of Realtors; the Healthcare Association of Hawaii;
19 private agencies that assist older adults and individuals with
20 disabilities with housing issues; and members of the community
21 who have first-hand experience with aging in place and
22 multigenerational or accessible living; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Legislative Committee
25 on Aging in Place may assist the President of the Senate, the
26 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor, in
27 coordinating appointments to the task force; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may add
30 additional members which the task force believes may contribute
31 to the work of the task force, and shall at its first meeting
32 select a Home for Life Task Force chairperson who shall be
33 responsible for convening future meetings; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is directed to
36 examine the following issues:
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38 (1) Building and zoning codes that present barriers to
39 converting an existing single-family dwelling into a
40 multigenerational or accessible home, and to:
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42 (A) Identify any previous legislative attempts to
43 facilitate the creation of multigenerational or
44 accessible homes;

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2 (B) Recommend legislation for reasonable and
3 appropriate changes to building and zoning codes
4 that will facilitate the creation of or
5 conversion to multigenerational or accessible
6 homes;
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8 (C) Draft recommendations to submit to the State
9 Building Code Council that will facilitate the
10 creation of multigenerational or accessible
11 housing; and
12
13 (D) Identify public and private entities that resist
14 changes to the building and zoning codes which
15 would allow multigenerational or accessible
16 housing, and the reasons behind the resistance;
17 and
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19 (2) Modifications that can be made to existing homes that
20 would allow older adults and persons with disabilities
21 to age in place or remain in their own homes for a
22 longer period of time, and to further identify:
23
24 (A) The most common impairments faced by older adults
25 and persons with disabilities that limit their
26 ability to remain at home;
27
28 (B) Structural modifications that can be made to
29 dwelling structures to accommodate the most
30 common impairments;
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32 (C) The costs associated with the foregoing
33 structural modifications; and
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35 (D) Sources of funding, supplies, and voluntary labor
36 to complete the structural modifications,
37 including: suppliers willing to donate or
38 provide at a reduced cost tools, equipment, and
39 supplies; available public or private loan or
40 grant programs that would finance the
41 modifications; and the potential use of building
42 industry apprentices or volunteers to provide
43 labor for the modifications (and to further
44 identify amendments to licensing requirements

1 under title 25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that may
2 be necessitated by the use of apprentices or
3 volunteers); and
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- 5 (3) Mechanisms by which personnel may be trained to
6 analyze and make recommendations for structural
7 modifications to existing structures, and, in
8 particular, to pinpoint:
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10 (A) Agencies or individuals who currently engage in
11 assessing homes for structural modification, and
12 evaluating practices for assessments currently in
13 place;
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15 (B) Skills necessary to conduct structural
16 modification assessments and the feasibility of
17 introducing training programs relating to these
18 skills in local educational institutions; and
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20 (C) The viability of including in the training and
21 assessment process an evaluation team comprising
22 medical, architectural, and construction
23 professionals; and
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- 25 (4) The use of universal design principles in new
26 construction projects and renovations of existing
27 structures, prioritizing the investigation of:
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29 (A) Incentives that would motivate builders and
30 developers to incorporate universal design
31 principles;
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33 (B) Programs used in other states to support
34 universal designs;
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36 (C) The existence of industry support for creating a
37 certification program for universal design
38 structures, and the subsequent creation of a
39 symbol signifying universal design certification
40 to be used by real estate professionals and
41 development marketers in their advertising
42 campaigns; and
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(D) Proposed amendments to existing building and zoning codes to facilitate the incorporation of universal design principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Home for Life Task Force is directed to:

- (1) Create a comprehensive guide for older adults and persons with disabilities that lists resources available for structural modification of their homes, including sources of low-cost or free supplies, voluntary labor, and available grants or loan programs;
- (2) Prepare a guide to incorporating universal design principles into construction design and renovation, to be made available to architectural and building professionals and the public;
- (3) Collect examples of best practices in retrofitting existing homes, designing and building multigenerational or accessible housing, using universal design principles in both retrofitted and new construction, and soliciting ideas and suggestions from professionals and students of architecture, interior design, gerontology, and construction;
- (4) Encourage the Building Industry Association of Hawaii to include in its annual "Parade of Homes" one new universal design home, one home that was renovated using universal design principles, and one home adapted for multigenerational or accessible living;
- (5) Organize an exhibit of best practices to be made available for viewing across the State;
- (6) Solicit ideas from older adults and persons with disabilities relating to the designs they believe would facilitate comfortable continued living in their own homes; and
- (7) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and to the Joint Legislative Committee

1 on Aging in Place no later than twenty days prior to
2 the convening of the 2010 Regular Session; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that State and county building and
5 zoning councils, departments, and offices, including the State
6 Building Code Council, select representatives from their
7 respective councils, departments, and offices to assist the Home
8 for Life Task Force in its work; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Co-Chairs of the Joint
11 Legislative Committee on Aging in Place may provide
12 administrative assistance to the task force; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii Center
15 on Aging shall convene the first meeting of the Home for Life
16 Task Force and may provide any possible assistance to the work
17 of the Home for Life Task Force; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the President of the
21 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
22 Director of the Executive Office on Aging, the Executive
23 Director of the Building Code Council, the Comptroller, the
24 Director of Health, the Director of Human Services, the
25 Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development
26 Corporation, the Licensing Administrator for the Department of
27 Commerce and Consumer Affairs Professional Licensing Division,
28 the Executive Director of the Disability and Communication
29 Access Board, the President of the University of Hawaii System,
30 the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, the
31 President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and
32 the Mayor of each county.