
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ELDERLY.

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

1 SECTION 1. America's population is aging. This is true in
2 Hawaii as well, with projections estimating that, by 2030, the
3 elderly population will represent twenty per cent of the
4 populations for each county, as well as the state as a whole;
5 that is, one out of every five individuals will be aged sixty-
6 five or older.

7 Age is the single most important factor in understanding
8 health status and the need and demand for health care resources.
9 For the elderly, there is a clear relationship between age and
10 mortality, prevalence of chronic conditions, and level of
11 disability. Similarly, the elderly are the heaviest users of
12 health care resources.

13 In Hawaii, as well as many other states, grandparents often
14 care for their grandchildren. Frequently, grandparents take
15 their grandchildren to playgrounds for fun and to meet their
16 grandchildren's outdoor activity needs. The idea of
17 establishing senior playgrounds near children's playgrounds is a
18 concept that is being proposed to address the health status of



1 elderly individuals. Senior playgrounds are environments that
2 enable aging in place and are designed to keep seniors active
3 and reduce their propensity to fall by providing seniors with a
4 means to work on their balance and dexterity. These fitness
5 parks offer opportunities for seniors to stay healthy and active
6 and serve as a preventative measure to the propensity seniors
7 have to falling, which results in \$19,000,000,000 in annual
8 health care costs, a number expected to increase to
9 \$55,000,000,000 by 2020.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish a three-year senior
11 playground pilot program to address the health needs of a
12 growing elderly population.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The executive office on aging, in
14 consultation with the department of health, county departments
15 of parks and recreation or similar county agencies, elderly
16 service providers, and other appropriate entities, shall
17 establish a three-year senior playground pilot program.

18 (b) Taking into account proximity to existing playgrounds,
19 the senior playground pilot program shall work with county
20 departments of parks and recreation or similar county agencies,
21 as well as elderly service providers, to determine the best
22 possible locations and design for senior playgrounds.



1 (c) The executive office on aging may contract with
2 provider agencies to implement the senior playground pilot
3 program. The department of health and other state agencies
4 shall assist the executive office on aging and any provider
5 agencies contracted for the senior playground pilot program to
6 identify, contract, and convey land and improvements available
7 for use for the pilot program.

8 (d) The senior playground pilot program shall establish a
9 goal of having at least one senior playground per county;
10 provided that the number of senior playgrounds may be increased
11 as determined by the executive office on aging, in consultation
12 with the department of health, county departments of parks and
13 recreation or similar county agencies, and elderly service
14 providers.

15 (e) The counties shall make any amendments or exemptions
16 to their respective ordinances, rules, or plans relating to
17 planning, zoning, construction standards, development and
18 improvement of land, and building construction that are
19 necessary to implement the senior playground pilot program in a
20 safe, cost-effective manner.

21 SECTION 3. The executive office on aging, in consultation
22 with the department of health, shall submit a progress report of



1 the senior playground pilot program to the legislature no later
2 than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2015, 2016, and
3 2017 regular sessions. After the final year of the senior
4 playground pilot program, a final report shall be submitted to
5 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
6 of the regular session of 2018, to include:

- 7 (1) Total number of locations of the senior playground
8 pilot program;
- 9 (2) Initial costs of the program, including plan, design,
10 and construction costs;
- 11 (3) Annual costs of the program including information on
12 the durability of senior playground equipment and
13 repair and maintenance costs of the senior
14 playgrounds;
- 15 (4) Liability issues associated with the senior
16 playgrounds, if any;
- 17 (5) Recommendations regarding the continuation or
18 expansion of the senior playground pilot program
19 including estimated costs to plan, design, construct,
20 and maintain any additional playgrounds, as well as
21 the counties in which the additional playgrounds will
22 be established;



- 1 (6) Recommendations to incorporate the senior playground
- 2 pilot program in the Hawaii state plan on aging; and
- 3 (7) Recommendations regarding any necessary legislation
- 4 for the continuation or expansion of the senior
- 5 playground pilot program.

6 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
 9 senior playground pilot program.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive
 11 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014, and
 13 shall be repealed on June 30, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Ch. J. K. Cull
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JAN 23 2014



H.B. NO. 2541

Report Title:

Seniors; Executive Office on Aging; Playgrounds; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Executive Office on Aging to establish a three-year senior playground pilot program within the executive office on aging. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective July 1, 2014. Repealed June 30, 2018.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

