A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that falls and fall related injuries among the elderly impact individuals, families,
the community, and the State's health care system. Fall
prevention is a major concern for the safety and well-being of
the State's elderly residents, the fastest-growing segment of
Hawaii's population.

7 Among the elderly in Hawaii, falls are the leading cause of 8 fatal injuries (an average of forty-four per cent) and injury-9 related hospitalizations (an average of eighty-three per cent). 10 On average, every five hours in Hawaii an elderly person is 11 injured so severely in a fall that hospitalization is necessary. 12 Falls among Hawaii's elderly also result in a yearly average of 13 eighty-two deaths and nearly 1,800 hospitalizations.

14 The legislature further finds that hospital costs 15 associated with fall-related injuries average over \$65,000,000 a 16 year. This total does not include the additional significant 17 costs associated with skilled nursing care and rehabilitation. 18 Among Hawaii seniors hospitalized for a fall, forty-three per 2013-0196 HB SMA-2.doc

cent are discharged to skilled nursing facilities for additional
care, and twelve per cent are moved to rehabilitation
facilities.

4 The legislature additionally finds that access to fall 5 prevention services and programs would significantly reduce 6 these costs. In addition, the early detection of fall 7 occurrences would reduce both costs and suffering by expediting 8 treatment, minimizing serious long-term consequences, reducing 9 the extent of the injury, and in some instances, avoiding death. 10 Falls among the elderly are a significant public health issue. Yet, currently, there are insufficient resources to 11 12 develop a coordinated statewide approach to reduce and promptly 13 detect falls among the elderly. The legislature therefore finds 14 that the department of health's emergency medical services and 15 injury prevention system branch should be permitted to establish 16 and maintain a program dedicated to fall prevention and early 17 detection for the elderly. This program shall serve as a focal 18 point for statewide injury prevention and detection efforts to ensure multidisciplinary support, coordination of prevention and 19 20 detection efforts, and continuity of implementation and 21 accountability.

2013-0196 HB SMA-2.doc

1 The purpose of this Act is to permit the department of health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system 2 3 branch to establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and 4 early detection program and to make an appropriation for this 5 program. 6 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 7 amended by adding a new section to part XVIII to be 8 appropriately designated and to read as follows: 9 "§321- Statewide fall prevention and early detection program. (a) The department of health may establish and 10 maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection program 11 to serve as a focal point for statewide injury prevention and 12 detection efforts. The department may have a position dedicated 13 14 to fall prevention and early detection in support of this 15 program. The statewide fall prevention and early detection 16 (b) program shall develop a statewide approach to falls among the 17 18 elderly by: 19 Investigating and examining the immediate and long-(1) 20 term dangers of fall injuries on the elderly; Examining the fiscal impact of falls by the elderly on 21 (2) 22 the State's medical system and health care costs;



(3)	Recommending appropriate interventions and prevention
	programs to reduce falls by the elderly and health
	care costs associated with these falls;
(4)	Investigating and implementing the most effective
	means to enhance public awareness that falls are
	preventable;
(5)	Reviewing and developing the potential for increasing
	for the elderly and their caregivers, on a statewide
	basis, the availability and accessibility of fall
	prevention programs that effectively use community
	resources;
(6)	Recommending measures that will promote early
	detection of falls, particularly for those who live
	alone or in circumstances where the likelihood of not
	being discovered soon after a fall is great; and
(7)	Investigating and recommending the best way to expand
	the role of medical and health care professionals in
	screening, educating, and referring the elderly to
	fall prevention and early detection services and
	programs.
For p	purposes of this subsection, the statewide fall
	(4) (5) (6) (7)

22 prevention and early detection program shall collaborate with



1	interested stakeholders, including health care facilities,
2	community coalitions, government agencies, and organizations
3	concerned with protecting the elderly and preventing and
4	detecting elderly falls.
5	(c) The statewide fall prevention and early detection
6	program shall report to the legislature no later than twenty
7	days prior to the convening of each regular session, beginning
8	with the regular session of 2015, describing the progress made
9	in implementing subsection (b), including the review of fall
10	prevention data and the impact of falls by the elderly on the
11	State's medical system and health care costs.
12	(d) For the purposes of this section, "the elderly" means
13	persons who are at least sixty-five years of age."
14	SECTION 3. Section 321-224, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15	amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:
16	"(a) In addition to other functions and duties assigned
17	under this part, the department shall:
18	(1) Regulate ambulances and ambulance services;
19	(2) Establish emergency medical services throughout the
20	State, including emergency aeromedical services, which
21	shall meet the requirements of this part, subject to
22	section 321-228;
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1 (3) Review and approve the curricula and syllabi of 2 training courses offered to emergency medical services 3 personnel who provide basic, intermediate, and 4 advanced life support, consult and coordinate with the University of Hawaii, or any other accredited 5 6 community college, college, or university, or any 7 professional organization that provides emergency 8 medical services training, regarding the training for 9 basic, intermediate, and advanced life support personnel, as provided in section 321-229; 10 Collect and evaluate data for the continued evaluation 11 (4) 12 of the state system, subject to section 321-230; Coordinate emergency medical resources and the 13 (5) 14 allocation of the state system's services and 15 facilities in the event of mass casualties, natural 16 disasters, national emergencies, and other 17 emergencies, ensuring linkage to local, state, and 18 national disaster plans, and participation in 19 exercises to test these plans; 20 (6) Establish, administer, and maintain a communication 21 system for the state system;



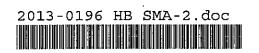
1	(7)	Assist each county in the development of a "911"
2		emergency telephone system;
3	(8)	Secure technical assistance and other assistance and
4		consultation necessary for the implementation of this
5		part, subject to section 321-230;
6	(9)	Implement public information and education programs to
7		inform the public of the state system and its use, and
8		disseminate other emergency medical information,
9		including appropriate methods of medical self-help and
10		first-aid, and the availability of first-aid training
11		programs in the State;
12	(10)	Establish standards and provide training for
13		dispatchers in the state system, and maintain a
14		program of quality assurance for dispatch equipment
15		and operations;
16	(11)	Establish a program that will enable emergency service
17		personnel to provide early defibrillation;
18	(12)	Establish within the department the emergency medical
19		service system for children;
20	(13)	Consult with the advisory committee on matters
21		relating to the implementation of this part; [and]

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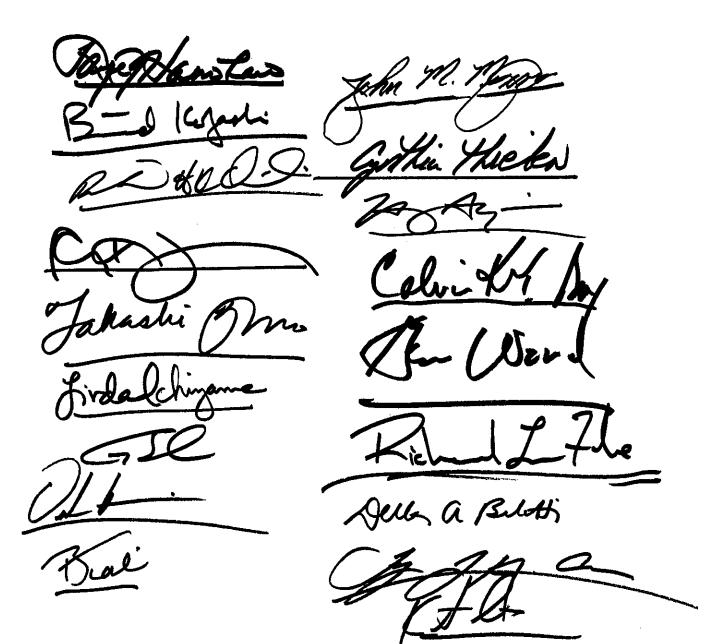


1	(14)	Establish and maintain standards for emergency medical
2		services course instructor qualifications and
3		requirements for emergency medical services training
4		facilities[-]; and
5	(15)	Establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and
6		early detection program, as provided in section 321-
7		"
8	SECT	ION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9	revenues	of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10	much ther	eof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
11	the same	sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12	year 2014	-2015 for the department of health's emergency medical
13	services	and injury prevention system branch to establish and
14	maintain	a statewide fall prevention and early detection
15	program.	
16	The	sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17	of health	for the purposes of this Act.
18	SECT	ION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19	and stric	ken. New statutory material is underscored.
20	SECT	ION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.
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INTRODUCED BY: 1 * m



H.B. NO. 5



JAN 1 6 2013



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Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Department of Health; Statewide Fall Prevention and Early Detection Program; Appropriation

Description:

Permits the department of health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system branch to establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection program and appropriates funds for the program.

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