
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

CONVENING A WORKING GROUP ON THE ELDERLY.

1 WHEREAS, currently, 238,000 Hawaii residents, constituting
2 18.7 percent of Hawaii's total population, are aged 60 and
3 older, and by 2030, this age group is projected to constitute
4 more than one-fourth, or 27.4 percent, of the State's
5 population; and

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7 WHEREAS, while Hawaii's population is expected to increase
8 by 21 percent between 2000 and 2030, the number of people 60
9 years and older is expected to increase by 93.8 percent and the
10 number of people 85 years and older is expected to increase by
11 174.7 percent during the same period; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the large aging population will have a major
14 impact on the organization and delivery of health care, with a
15 shift from acute to chronic illnesses, such as heart disease,
16 cancer, stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's
17 disease, and diabetes; and

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19 WHEREAS, according to the International Journal of
20 Epidemiology:

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22 (1) The style of medicine will need to change from one-
23 time interventions that correct a single problem to
24 the ongoing management of multiple diseases and
25 disabilities;
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27 (2) Doctors and patients will require an ongoing
28 relationship designed to help patients cope with
29 illnesses rather than curing them; and
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31 (3) Chronic illness means that long-term care services,
32 such as nursing homes, home health, personal care,



1 adult day care, and congregate housing will become
2 much more important sources of care; and
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4 WHEREAS, *The State of Aging & Health in America 2013*,
5 supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
6 states that chronic diseases can affect a person's ability to
7 perform important and essential activities, both inside and
8 outside the home, in the following areas:
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10 (1) Persons may have trouble with instrumental activities
11 of daily living, such as managing money, shopping,
12 preparing meals, and taking medications as prescribed;
13 and
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15 (2) Persons may also lose the ability to perform more
16 basic activities, or activities of daily living, such
17 as taking care of personal hygiene, feeding
18 themselves, getting dressed, and toileting; and
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20 WHEREAS, in the next ten years, the aging workforce in the
21 State is expected to substantially affect the entire State and
22 health care system, in particular, the following are four areas
23 of major interest and concern relating to Hawaii's elderly:
24 palliative care, hospice care, advance directives, and end-of-
25 life options; and
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27 WHEREAS, convening a working group on the elderly would
28 assist in addressing the health care needs of Hawaii's aging
29 population; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
33 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the University of
34 Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine is requested to convene
35 a Working Group on the Elderly (Working Group) to develop and
36 recommend a strategic plan to address issues in the areas of
37 palliative care, hospice care, advance directives, and end-of-
38 life options; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group:

- (1) Review current palliative care techniques and "best practices" from other states to ensure that Hawaii's patients in hospice care, along with their families, are afforded the best practices during the final phase of each patient's life;
- (2) Explore end-of-life options to be provided to patients at the end stage of life; and
- (3) Identify a strategic plan to better address adequate palliative care, hospice care, advance directives, and end-of-life options for patients in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group comprise the following members:

- (1) The Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, or the Dean's designee, who shall serve as the Chair of the Working Group;
- (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
- (3) The Director of the Executive Office on Aging, or the Director's designee;
- (4) The Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, or the Executive Director's designee;
- (5) The State President of AARP Hawaii, or the State President's designee;
- (6) A member with expertise in palliative care and hospice care, to be appointed by the Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine from its department of geriatric medicine;
- (7) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine, gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice care, to be appointed by the Governor;



1 (8) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine,
2 gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice
3 care, to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
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5 (9) A physician who has expertise in internal medicine,
6 gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or hospice
7 care, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives;
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10 (10) Two registered nurses who specialize in internal
11 medicine, gerontology, oncology, palliative care, or
12 hospice care, to be appointed by the Governor;
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14 (11) A family member survivor of a patient who passed away
15 after going through palliative care and hospice care,
16 to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and
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18 (12) A family member survivor of a patient who passed away
19 after going through palliative care and hospice care,
20 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives;
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23 provided that all appointees are to have expertise in fields or
24 disciplines related to the elderly, health care, and education or
25 awareness of issues relating to the elderly; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all vacancies to the Working
28 Group shall be filled in the manner provided for in the original
29 appointments, and upon the initial meeting by the Working Group,
30 its members may elect a vice chairperson and any other necessary
31 officers from among the appointed members; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the Working Group
34 shall constitute a quorum for its necessary duties; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
37 to submit to the Legislature:
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39 (1) An interim report of its findings and recommendations,
40 including any proposed legislation and a draft
41 strategic plan to better address health care for



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seniors in Hawaii, no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

- (2) A final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation and a final strategic plan to better address health care for seniors in Hawaii, no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group shall terminate on January 1, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, Director of Health, Director of the Executive Office on Aging, Executive Director of Kōkua Mau, and State President of AARP Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

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