

JAN 20 2017

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FALL PREVENTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that every year in  
2 Hawaii, on average eighty-five seniors die, 1,960 are  
3 hospitalized, and 8,700 are treated in emergency departments as  
4 a result of falls. Falls among the elderly also result in  
5 almost \$1,200,000 in hospital and physician charges. In  
6 recognition of this critical public health issue, Act 153,  
7 Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, established a fall prevention and  
8 early detection coordinator position within the department of  
9 health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system  
10 branch. This position enables the department of health to  
11 support a coordinated statewide approach to prevent and reduce  
12 the impact of falls among older adults. Act 153 funded a new  
13 position for a fall prevention and early detection coordinator  
14 for fiscal year 2014 to 2015.

15           The legislature further finds that access to fall  
16 prevention services and programs would significantly reduce  
17 costs associated with falls in the elderly by expediting



1 treatment, minimizing serious long-term consequences, reducing  
2 the extent of the injury, and in some instances, avoiding death.

3 Falls among the elderly are a significant public health  
4 issue. Yet, currently, there are insufficient resources to  
5 develop a coordinated statewide approach to reduce and promptly  
6 detect falls among the elderly. The program serves as a focal  
7 point for statewide injury prevention and detection efforts to  
8 ensure multidisciplinary support, coordination of prevention and  
9 detection efforts, and continuity of implementation and  
10 accountability.

11 The legislature further finds that continued support of  
12 fall prevention programs and services ultimately results in  
13 longer, healthier lives for the State's aging population.

14 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to the  
15 department of health for the full-time equivalent fall  
16 prevention and early detection coordinator position established  
17 by Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$95,000 or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2018-2019 for the full-time equivalent fall prevention and early  
2 detection coordinator position established by Act 153, Session  
3 Laws of Hawaii 2014.

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

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 534

**Report Title:**

Kupuna Caucus; Fall Prevention; DOH; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to the department of health for the full-time equivalent fall prevention and early detection coordinator position established by Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014.

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

