

MAR 08 2024

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE CONVENED TO DEVELOP A NORWEGIAN-  
BASED PUBLIC FACILITY MODEL DESIGNATED TO ENSURE THE WELL-  
BEING AND SAFETY OF DEMENTIA PATIENTS.

1           WHEREAS, dementia is a general term for loss of memory,  
2 language, problem-solving, and other cognitive abilities caused  
3 by abnormal changes in the brain, brain cell damage, other brain  
4 diseases, or a combination of factors, and are severe enough to  
5 interfere with everyday life; and

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7           WHEREAS, approximately twenty nine thousand patients in the  
8 State are currently diagnosed with dementia, and the number of  
9 patients is expected to rise to thirty five thousand by 2025;  
10 and

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12           WHEREAS, six in ten dementia sufferers will wander off at  
13 least once, which poses dangerous and potentially life-  
14 threatening risks to the patient, especially if they become lost  
15 and have difficulty finding their way home; and

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17           WHEREAS, countries such as the Netherlands, India, and  
18 Norway have implemented "dementia villages" to provide a safe  
19 living and communal space for dementia patients to facilitate a  
20 sense of freedom for patients; and

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22           WHEREAS, the facility's model provides housing and services  
23 within a closed space to prevent dementia sufferers from  
24 wandering off, and all areas have clearly identifiable spaces,  
25 markers, or other elements to ease wayfinding; and

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27           WHEREAS, Norway has developed a pilot project called "Carpe  
28 Diem Dementia Village" to address the impending strain on  
29 dementia care and establish a fundamental basis for future  
30 dementia care in Norway; and

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1 WHEREAS, unlike many other models that isolate the dementia  
2 village, the Norwegian model is an open-village and invites the  
3 local community to engage with patients and recreate the  
4 familiar feeling of "home"; and

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6 WHEREAS, by living a more meaningful life, residents  
7 experience more positive psychological benefits, consume fewer  
8 medications, improve their eating habits, and live longer; and

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10 WHEREAS, the State has the responsibility to ensure that  
11 the health and safety of its kupuna and aging residents are met;  
12 now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the  
16 House of Representatives concurring, that this body is requested  
17 to convene a task force to develop a Norwegian-based public  
18 facility model designated to ensure the well-being and safety of  
19 dementia patients; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
22 consist of the following members:

- 23  
24 (1) The Director of the Office of Wellness and Resilience;  
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26 (2) The Director of Health; and  
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28 (3) A representative from AARP Hawaii; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
31 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
32 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
34 2025; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the



1 Office of Wellness and Resilience, Director of Health, and State  
2 Director of AARP Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: 

