
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 unintentional falls
2 among seniors age sixty-five years and older in Hawaii are the
3 leading cause of fatal injuries (an average of forty-nine per
4 cent) and injury-related emergency room visits (an average of
5 sixty-one per cent). On average one-hundred and fourteen
6 seniors die, 10,000 are treated in hospitals, and 6,100 are
7 treated in emergency departments as a result of falls.

8 The legislature further finds that falls among the elderly
9 also result in over \$100,000,000 in combined hospital charges
10 each year. In recognition of this critical public health issue,
11 Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014 (Act 153), established a
12 fall prevention and early detection coordinator position within
13 the department of health's emergency medical services and injury
14 prevention system branch. This position enables the department
15 of health to support a coordinated statewide approach to prevent
16 and reduce the impact of falls among older adults. Act 153



1 funded a new position for a fall prevention and early detection
2 coordinator for fiscal year 2014-2015.

3 The legislature further finds that access to fall
4 prevention services and programs would significantly reduce
5 costs associated with falls among older adults by expediting
6 treatment, minimize serious long-term consequences, reduce the
7 extent of the injury, and, in some instances, avoid death.

8 Falls among older adults are a significant public health
9 issue. Yet, there are insufficient resources to develop a
10 coordinated statewide approach to reduce and promptly detect
11 falls among seniors. A dedicated fall prevention program can
12 serve as a focal point for statewide injury prevention and
13 detection efforts to ensure multidisciplinary support,
14 coordination of prevention and detection efforts, and continuity
15 of implementation and accountability.

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

19 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
20 department of health for the full-time equivalent fall



1 prevention and early detection coordinator position established
2 by Act 153.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2026-2027 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) fall
8 prevention and early detection coordinator position established
9 by Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014.

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

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

13

INTRODUCED BY:  _____

JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 474

Report Title:

Fall Prevention; Older Adults; DOH; Position; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to fund one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) fall prevention and early detection coordinator position.

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