
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE FINANCING.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established the joint house of
2 representatives and senate long-term care financing advisory
3 commission to examine the feasibility of different public and
4 private financing options to pay for long-term care services and
5 supports and determine which long-term care financing mechanisms
6 have objective, evidence-based merit.

7 (b) The commission shall be an independent body and the
8 commission's actions, deliberations, inquiries, investigations,
9 findings, conclusions, and recommendations shall not be subject
10 to any direction, oversight, veto, interference, limitation, or
11 restriction by any other state branch, department, or agency,
12 except as provided by chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or
13 any other applicable federal or state law. Any expenditure of
14 funds by the commission, including but not limited to any
15 personnel matters or contracting for professional services,
16 shall be subject to the requirements of chapters 37 and 103D,
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes.



- 1 (c) The commission shall consist of the following
2 mandatory voting members:
- 3 (1) One member of the house of representatives, to be
4 appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives;
- 6 (2) One member of the senate, to be appointed by the
7 senate president;
- 8 (3) The following ex officio members, or their designees:
- 9 (A) The director of health;
- 10 (B) The director of the executive office on aging;
- 11 (C) The director of human services;
- 12 (D) The administrator of the med-QUEST division of
13 the department of human services;
- 14 (E) The director of taxation;
- 15 (F) The insurance commissioner;
- 16 (G) The chief state economist;
- 17 (H) The executive director of the university of
18 Hawaii economic research organization; and
- 19 (I) The director of the university of Hawaii at Manoa
20 center on aging; and



1 (4) The following members, to be jointly appointed by the
2 speaker of the house of representatives and the senate
3 president:

4 (A) Two members of the public with demonstrated
5 knowledge and experience with long-term care
6 services and supports delivery or health care
7 economics;

8 (B) One long-term care consumer advocate with
9 demonstrated experience representing the
10 interests of individuals receiving or needing
11 long-term care services and supports; and

12 (C) One direct care worker with demonstrated
13 experience representing the interests of the
14 direct care workforce.

15 (d) The commission shall invite the following individuals
16 to be voting members:

17 (1) The state director of AARP Hawaii;

18 (2) The president and chief executive officer of the
19 Healthcare Association of Hawaii;

20 (3) One representative of a med-QUEST managed care
21 organization; and



- 1 (4) One representative from a long-term care provider.
- 2 (e) Members of the commission subject to subsection (c)
3 shall be designated and appointed no later than thirty days
4 after the effective date of this Act.
- 5 (f) The commission shall hold its first meeting no later
6 than sixty days after the finalization of its membership. The
7 members of the commission shall elect from amongst themselves a
8 chairperson and vice-chairperson by a simple majority.
- 9 (g) Members of the commission shall serve without
10 compensation; provided that members who are appointed pursuant
11 to subsection (c)(4) and (d) may request reasonable
12 reimbursement for necessary expenses, including travel expenses,
13 subject to reasonable justification and documentation of the
14 expense and availability of funds.
- 15 (h) Within thirty calendar days of the finalization of its
16 membership, the commission shall enter into a contract for the
17 services of a part-time project director to provide support for
18 the commission, including but not limited to the solicitation
19 and execution of consulting and other professional service
20 contracts; overseeing and assuring the progress of contracted
21 consultants; regularly advising the commission of consulting



1 work progress; scheduling of briefings, meetings, and public
2 hearings; responding to questions from commission members;
3 initiating inquiries; coordinating and performing legislative
4 and policy drafting; and preparing and drafting consulting
5 service requests for proposals and consulting engagement
6 contracts. The project director shall:

7 (1) Serve at the pleasure of the commission;

8 (2) Have actual demonstrated working knowledge and
9 experience with public health insurance program

10 financing and policy development and analysis; and

11 (3) Work no more than twenty hours per calendar week.

12 (i) The commission shall procure consulting services for
13 actuarial assessment, policy analysis and development, and
14 public education and stakeholder engagement. The consultants
15 contracted pursuant to this subsection shall conduct objective,
16 evidence-based assessments and studies of the feasibility,
17 costs, reliability, long-range solvency, benefits and impacts,
18 and population served and affected by:

19 (1) Alternative public and private long-term care services
20 and supports financing mechanisms for services
21 provided to persons with functional limitations and



1 chronic illnesses needing assistance to perform
2 routine activities of daily living and instrumental
3 activities of daily living;
4 (2) Efforts to mitigate the risk and severity of needing
5 long-term care services and supports and controlling
6 the cost of these services; and
7 (3) Implementing home- and community-based reform measures
8 for health care and other supportive services provided
9 to eligible persons in their home or other community
10 settings, rather than in an institutional setting.
11 (j) In determining the required terms, conditions, and
12 deliverables of the actuarial assessment, policy analysis and
13 development, and public education and stakeholder engagement
14 contracts, the commission shall consider any applicable reports,
15 studies, and draft legislation, including but not limited to:
16 (1) S.B. No. 1088, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, C.D. 1 (Regular Session
17 of 2003);
18 (2) "Financing Long Term Care: A Report to the Hawaii
19 State Legislature", executive office on aging, office
20 of the governor (July 1991);



- 1 (3) "Feasibility of a Long-Term Services and Supports
2 Insurance Program for Hawaii", executive office on
3 aging, department of health (December 15, 2014);
- 4 (4) "Long-Term Services and Supports Feasibility Study
5 Commissioned by the Massachusetts Executive Office of
6 Health and Human Services", Milliman Report (April 8,
7 2025); and
- 8 (5) "Final Report of Findings", long-term care financing
9 permitted interaction group, kupuna advisory council,
10 state health planning and development agency
11 (September 2025).
- 12 (k) The actuarial assessment consultant contracted by the
13 commission pursuant to subsection (i) shall coordinate with the
14 policy analysis and development and public education and
15 stakeholder engagement consultants to, at a minimum, objectively
16 assess and study:
- 17 (1) The sufficiency of projected assets and income of
18 alternative long-term care services and supports
19 financing mechanisms to cover projected liabilities
20 and expenses over a seventy-five-year period based on
21 defined economic and demographic assumptions;



- 1 (2) Different alternative forms of beneficiary
2 participation, such as mandatory, voluntary, or
3 optional participation;
- 4 (3) Comprehensive lifetime benefits or otherwise limited
5 benefits;
- 6 (4) Alternative revenue bases for deriving funding, such
7 as payroll, or income, or some other base, and the
8 effect on long-range financial solvency;
- 9 (5) The financial equity and other effects of different
10 caps on the revenue base;
- 11 (6) The near-term and long-range financial and solvency
12 implications of implementing a pay-as-you-go, fully
13 funded, or any other funding mechanism;
- 14 (7) The financial equity and other effects of fixed, flat,
15 progressively graduated, or some other type of
16 beneficiary payment rate or contribution funding
17 mechanism;
- 18 (8) Alternative vesting requirements that would apply for
19 paid benefit eligibility;
- 20 (9) Alternative claim benefit eligibility requirements and
21 criteria;



- 1 (10) The financial feasibility, cost, and effects of
2 providing any form of spousal or dependent benefit
3 coverage;
- 4 (11) The feasibility, cost, and effects of providing
5 supplemental or additional coverage options;
- 6 (12) The cost, feasibility, financial equity, and other
7 effects of different alternative transportable or
8 portable benefit entitlements for either or both
9 claimants already receiving covered care and vested
10 non-claimants who relocate to locations outside the
11 State;
- 12 (13) The actuarial cost and long-range solvency impact,
13 financial and intergenerational equity, and other
14 effects of any provision for the return in some form
15 of beneficiary payments made in support of the
16 financing mechanism in the event that a beneficiary
17 dies without having made any claim of benefit or
18 claimed benefits are less than payments made;
- 19 (14) The projected number of beneficiaries who are expected
20 to pay into the financing mechanism and the projected
21 number of beneficiaries who will claim benefits and



- 1 the cost of those benefits, claim frequency,
2 continuance curves, utilization, and claim costs
3 year-by-year for a seventy-five-year period;
- 4 (15) Income and intergenerational cross-funding;
- 5 (16) Specified year-by-year assumptions of the number of
6 beneficiaries paying and paid in amounts, investment
7 income, administrative and operating expenses, cash
8 flow, annual fund balances, and claim benefit costs
9 for a seventy-five-year period;
- 10 (17) Specified year-by-year assumptions for the
11 distribution of attained population age, age and
12 gender, domestic and international migration, births,
13 active life mortality, disabled life mortality, and
14 age and gender related morbidity and mortality for a
15 seventy-five-year period, and other essential
16 assumptions;
- 17 (18) Specified year-by-year inflation adjusted assumptions
18 about labor force total lives and wage by age and
19 gender trends, and state-adjusted taxable and earned
20 income for a seventy-five-year period;



- 1 (19) Specified year-by-year assumptions for cost inflation
2 rates and the projected inflated costs of all covered
3 long-term care services and supports benefits;
- 4 (20) The trended magnitude of any related cost savings for
5 other long-term care services and supports payers and
6 programs, such as individual private payers, medicaid,
7 medicare, and others;
- 8 (21) The financial and actuarial effects for various robust
9 cost containment and cost-sharing alternatives, such
10 as copayments, deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums,
11 capitation, global budgets, single-payer service price
12 negotiations, and other cost containment and
13 cost-sharing mechanisms; and
- 14 (22) Results of sensitivity testing different combinations
15 of critical assumptions.
- 16 (1) The policy analysis and development consultant
17 contracted by the commission pursuant to subsection (i) shall
18 coordinate with the actuarial assessment and public education
19 and stakeholder engagement consultants to examine the role,
20 function, and economic impact of home- and community-based
21 support systems and formulate proposed policies to more



1 effectively support long-term care in community settings in a
2 manner that is equitable, resilient, sufficiently resourced, not
3 fundamentally reliant on unpaid caregiving, and strategically
4 targeted for clinically appropriate beneficial application. The
5 study shall, at a minimum, examine:

6 (1) The essential role, function, and need for expanded
7 home- and community-based support resources related to
8 wellness, prevention, and continuity of care
9 coordination;

10 (2) The direct and indirect cost of different home- and
11 community-based support services and delivery
12 mechanisms, including but not limited to the value of
13 any associated unpaid caregiving by family, relatives,
14 or others;

15 (3) A cost-benefit analysis and return on investment
16 examination of the extent to which the current
17 home- and community-based support system in the State
18 functionally and objectively meets the need for
19 home- and community-based support services;

20 (4) The clinical appropriateness of the current level of
21 care need measures and placement determinations for



- 1 different levels and forms of home- and
2 community-based support services and how current level
3 of care policies, standards, and practices contribute
4 to clinically inappropriate placement of patients in
5 home- and community-based support care;
- 6 (5) The transfer of care burden and expense to unpaid
7 caregivers and the full measure of direct and indirect
8 costs borne by unpaid caregivers and the effect of
9 unpaid caregiving on poor quality of care due to lack
10 of training, oversight, and inadequate care resources;
- 11 (6) Alternative mechanisms to fairly, adequately, and
12 directly compensate persons who render unpaid
13 caregiving;
- 14 (7) The cost and scarce resource utilization, economies of
15 scale inefficiencies, low productivity, high unit
16 costs, and high marginal operating expenses of
17 decentralized home- and community-based support
18 service delivery models;
- 19 (8) Current care and service resource shortages and the
20 effects on cost, access, quality, accountability,
21 denials, inappropriate placements, unnecessary



- 1 hospitalizations, institutional placements, emergency
2 room visits, and other factors;
- 3 (9) Fragmentation, siloing, discontinuity of care,
4 uncoordinated care planning and placement, and the
5 critical need for substantially improved home- and
6 community-based support system navigation and
7 coordinated care planning;
- 8 (10) Access inequities and unmet needs, including but not
9 limited to waitlisting and service caps and shortages;
10 geographic disparities; and socioeconomic barriers;
- 11 (11) Effects of federal medicaid funding rules and
12 restrictions that contribute to service instability
13 and limitations, including but not limited to the cost
14 neutrality formulas for waivers;
- 15 (12) Quality, oversight, and outcome deficiencies,
16 including but not limited to the lack of consistent,
17 standardized, and robust quality and patient outcome
18 focused measures and metrics; the complex web of
19 multiple and often conflicting compliance standards
20 and mandates; inadequate enforcement and regulation;
21 non-existent transparent public accountability



1 reporting; and the need for more effective and
2 stronger surveillance, oversight, and affirmative
3 enforcement of requirements to protect against abuse,
4 neglect, and injury in private home- and
5 community-based settings;

6 (13) The woodwork effect on costs resulting from the
7 expansion of home- and community-based support
8 benefits or relaxing of qualifications for receiving
9 home- and community-based support benefits;

10 (14) Significant effective reforms to address the critical
11 direct care workforce shortage, including but not
12 limited to measures that directly address low wages
13 and benefits, lack of training and career advancement
14 pathways, poor job quality, and equity disparities for
15 the predominantly female, people of color, and
16 immigrant workforce;

17 (15) The potential to restore the original intent and
18 fiscal autonomy of the kupuna caregivers program (Act
19 102, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017); and



1 (16) Vulnerabilities associated with significant federal
2 funding of the State's home- and community-based
3 support system.

4 (m) The public education and stakeholder engagement
5 consultant contracted by the commission pursuant to
6 subsection (i) shall coordinate with the actuarial assessment
7 and policy analysis and development consultants to, at a
8 minimum:

- 9 (1) Develop stakeholder and policy landscape position
10 mappings and analysis;
- 11 (2) Develop comprehensive public education and
12 communication tools;
- 13 (3) Develop accurate, objective, responsive, and
14 non-partisan community and influencer briefing
15 materials;
- 16 (4) Develop and implement a robust and active community
17 engagement and stakeholder outreach strategy plan
18 involving multiple statewide neutral town hall
19 information meetings and listening sessions to gather
20 broad public input as part of the objective assessment
21 and study process; and



1 (5) Develop and implement timely, responsive, and
2 objective information dissemination and inquiry
3 response protocols for media and public inquiries.

4 (n) The commission shall seek funding for its work from
5 public and private sources, such as the federal Centers for
6 Medicare and Medicaid Services or the Center for Medicare and
7 Medicaid Innovation; Office of the Assistant Secretary for
8 Planning and Evaluation, United States Department of Health and
9 Human Services; The Commonwealth Fund; KFF, formerly known as
10 The Kaiser Family Foundation; Milken Institute, Center for the
11 Future of Aging; Urban Institute; Brookings Institution; and
12 others.

13 (o) The commission shall submit the following reports to
14 the legislature:

15 (1) A preliminary report no later than December 31, 2026;

16 (2) An interim report of any substantial progress no later
17 than December 31, 2027; and

18 (3) A final report of its findings and recommendations,
19 including any proposed legislation, no later than
20 December 31, 2028.



1 (p) The commission shall cease to exist on June 30, 2029,
2 unless extended by the legislature.

3 (q) For the purposes of this Act, "commission" means the
4 joint house of representatives and senate long-term care
5 financing advisory commission.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
9 the establishment and operation of the joint senate and house of
10 representatives long-term care financing advisory commission,
11 including to contract for staffing and other administrative
12 costs to carry out the purposes of this Act, to be allocated as
13 follows:

- 14 (1) \$ for one part-time project director; and
15 (2) \$ for the staffing and administrative costs
16 associated with drafting proposals for an actuarial
17 assessment consultant contract, policy analysis and
18 development consultant contract, and public education
19 and stakeholder engagement consultant contract.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOH; Long-Term Care Financing Advisory Commission; Joint
Legislative Committee; Long-Term Care Services and Supports;
Home- and Community-Based Care; Consultants; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a joint legislative Long-Term Care Financing
Advisory Commission to examine the feasibility of different
financing options for long-term care services and supports.
Permits the Commission to contract for services of a part-time
project director and prepare proposals for contracts for
consultants to support the work of the Commission. Requires the
Commission to submit reports to the Legislature. Appropriates
funds. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

