
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that falls and fall-
2 related injuries among the elderly impact individuals, families,
3 the community, and the State's health care system. Fall
4 prevention is a major concern for the safety and well-being of
5 the State's elderly residents, the fastest-growing segment of
6 Hawaii's population.

7 Among the elderly in Hawaii, falls are the leading cause of
8 fatal injuries (an average of forty-four per cent) and injury-
9 related hospitalizations (an average of eighty-three per cent).
10 On average, every five hours in Hawaii an elderly person is
11 injured so severely in a fall that hospitalization is necessary.
12 Falls among Hawaii's elderly also result in a yearly average of
13 eighty-two deaths and nearly 1,800 hospitalizations.

14 The legislature further finds that hospital costs
15 associated with fall-related injuries average over \$65,000,000 a
16 year. This total does not include the additional significant
17 costs associated with skilled nursing care and rehabilitation.
18 Among Hawaii seniors hospitalized for a fall, forty-three per



1 cent are discharged to skilled nursing facilities for additional
2 care, and twelve per cent are moved to rehabilitation
3 facilities.

4 The legislature additionally finds that access to fall
5 prevention services and programs would significantly reduce
6 these costs. In addition, the early detection of fall
7 occurrences would reduce both costs and suffering by expediting
8 treatment, minimizing serious long-term consequences, reducing
9 the extent of the injury, and in some instances, avoiding death.

10 Falls among the elderly are a significant public health
11 issue. Yet, currently, there are insufficient resources to
12 develop a coordinated statewide approach to reduce and promptly
13 detect falls among the elderly. The legislature therefore finds
14 that the department of health's emergency medical services and
15 injury prevention system branch should be permitted to establish
16 and maintain a program dedicated to fall prevention and early
17 detection for the elderly. This program shall serve as a focal
18 point for statewide injury prevention and detection efforts to
19 ensure multidisciplinary support, coordination of prevention and
20 detection efforts, and continuity of implementation and
21 accountability.



1 The purpose of this Act is to permit the department of
2 health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system
3 branch to establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and
4 early detection program and to make an appropriation for this
5 program.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to part XVIII to be
8 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

9 "§321- Statewide fall prevention and early detection
10 program. (a) The department of health may establish and
11 maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection program
12 to serve as a focal point for statewide injury prevention and
13 detection efforts. The department may have a position dedicated
14 to fall prevention and early detection in support of this
15 program.

16 (b) The statewide fall prevention and early detection
17 program shall develop a statewide approach to falls among the
18 elderly by:

19 (1) Investigating and examining the immediate and long-
20 term dangers of fall injuries on the elderly;

21 (2) Examining the fiscal impact of falls by the elderly on
22 the State's medical system and health care costs;



- 1 (3) Recommending appropriate interventions and prevention
2 programs to reduce falls by the elderly and health
3 care costs associated with these falls;
- 4 (4) Investigating and implementing the most effective
5 means to enhance public awareness that falls are
6 preventable;
- 7 (5) Reviewing and developing the potential for increasing
8 for the elderly and their caregivers, on a statewide
9 basis, the availability and accessibility of fall
10 prevention programs that effectively use community
11 resources;
- 12 (6) Recommending measures that will promote early
13 detection of falls, particularly for those who live
14 alone or in circumstances where the likelihood of not
15 being discovered soon after a fall is great; and
- 16 (7) Investigating and recommending the best way to expand
17 the role of medical and health care professionals in
18 screening, educating, and referring the elderly to
19 fall prevention and early detection services and
20 programs.

21 For purposes of this subsection, the statewide fall
22 prevention and early detection program shall collaborate with



1 interested stakeholders, including health care facilities,
2 community coalitions, government agencies, and organizations
3 concerned with protecting the elderly and preventing and
4 detecting elderly falls.

5 (c) The statewide fall prevention and early detection
6 program shall report to the legislature no later than twenty
7 days prior to the convening of each regular session, beginning
8 with the regular session of 2015, describing the progress made
9 in implementing subsection (b), including the review of fall
10 prevention data and the impact of falls by the elderly on the
11 State's medical system and health care costs.

12 (d) For the purposes of this section, "the elderly" means
13 persons who are at least sixty-five years of age."

14 SECTION 3. Section 321-224, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

16 "(a) In addition to other functions and duties assigned
17 under this part, the department shall:

- 18 (1) Regulate ambulances and ambulance services;
19 (2) Establish emergency medical services throughout the
20 State, including emergency aeromedical services, which
21 shall meet the requirements of this part, subject to
22 section 321-228;



- 1 (3) Review and approve the curricula and syllabi of
2 training courses offered to emergency medical services
3 personnel who provide basic, intermediate, and
4 advanced life support, consult and coordinate with the
5 University of Hawaii, or any other accredited
6 community college, college, or university, or any
7 professional organization that provides emergency
8 medical services training, regarding the training for
9 basic, intermediate, and advanced life support
10 personnel, as provided in section 321-229;
- 11 (4) Collect and evaluate data for the continued evaluation
12 of the state system, subject to section 321-230;
- 13 (5) Coordinate emergency medical resources and the
14 allocation of the state system's services and
15 facilities in the event of mass casualties, natural
16 disasters, national emergencies, and other
17 emergencies, ensuring linkage to local, state, and
18 national disaster plans, and participation in
19 exercises to test these plans;
- 20 (6) Establish, administer, and maintain a communication
21 system for the state system;



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- 1 (7) Assist each county in the development of a "911"
2 emergency telephone system;
- 3 (8) Secure technical assistance and other assistance and
4 consultation necessary for the implementation of this
5 part, subject to section 321-230;
- 6 (9) Implement public information and education programs to
7 inform the public of the state system and its use, and
8 disseminate other emergency medical information,
9 including appropriate methods of medical self-help and
10 first-aid, and the availability of first-aid training
11 programs in the State;
- 12 (10) Establish standards and provide training for
13 dispatchers in the state system, and maintain a
14 program of quality assurance for dispatch equipment
15 and operations;
- 16 (11) Establish a program that will enable emergency service
17 personnel to provide early defibrillation;
- 18 (12) Establish within the department the emergency medical
19 service system for children;
- 20 (13) Consult with the advisory committee on matters
21 relating to the implementation of this part; [~~and~~]



1 (14) Establish and maintain standards for emergency medical
 2 services course instructor qualifications and
 3 requirements for emergency medical services training
 4 facilities[-]; and

5 (15) Establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and
 6 early detection program, as provided in section 321-
 7 _____."

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so
 10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and
 11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 12 year 2014-2015 for the department of health's emergency medical
 13 services and injury prevention system branch to establish and
 14 maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection
 15 program.

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

18 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

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Report Title:

Kupuna Caucus; Department of Health; Statewide Fall Prevention and Early Detection Program; Appropriation

Description:

Permits the department of health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system branch to establish and maintain a statewide fall prevention and early detection program and appropriates funds for the program.

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