

Report to the Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State of Hawaii  
2009

PURSUANT TO ACT 213, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2007 (H.B. 500, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,  
C.D. 1), PART 3, SECTION 64, REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING TO  
COORDINATE FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES

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## **Introduction**

Act 213 (2007), Part 3, Section 64 appropriates \$80,000 for each year of the fiscal biennium 2007-2009 to the Department of Health, Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to coordinate family caregiver support services. This Act also specifies that the family caregiver support services program shall develop strategies to assist these individuals with the available support services, provided that the strategies include, but not be limited to, (1) assessing and identifying caregiver services needed by these individuals referred to the program, (2) referring these individuals to resources at the appropriate level of care needed, and (3) creating public awareness by building community networks and providing information to individuals requiring services. Act 213 also requires EOA to prepare a detailed report to account for all of its activities, including outcome measures, and to submit this report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2009 Regular Sessions.

Using \$80,000 appropriated from FY 2007-2008, EOA executed a one-year contract with the University of Hawaii Center on Aging Research and Education (CARE) on February 1, 2008 to be the statewide coordinator of the Caregiver's Resource Initiative (CRI) Project. The goal of the CRI Project is to build a comprehensive support system for family caregivers. This report will summarize the progress of the CRI Project from its contract execution to date.

## **Overall Strategy**

The overarching strategy of the CRI project is to develop a support system for family caregivers by partnering and collaborating with various stakeholders in the community to develop family caregiver resources and policies statewide. Therefore, the CRI Project does not provide direct services to families. Family caregivers are defined as anyone who is providing assistance to a person 60 years old or older without monetary compensation; this could include spouses, adult children, families of choice, friends, neighbors, and others. Family caregivers are also defined as anyone 55 years old or older who are raising children under 18 years old; this group is also referred to as grandparents raising grandchildren.

## **Assessing and Identifying Caregiver Services**

Act 213 requires that the family caregiver program assess and identify caregiver services. To achieve this objective, the CRI Project worked closely with EOA, the Joint

Legislative Committee on Aging in Place, and the University of Hawaii to conduct research on the various components of supporting Hawaii's family caregivers. EOA and the CRI Project reported the results of 5 studies commissioned in 2007:

- *Eldercare Policies in the Workplace: Results of a Survey Conducted in 2007.*
- *Needs Assessment of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in the State of Hawaii.*
- *Tax Incentives for Family Caregivers: A Cost-Benefit Analysis.*
- *Researching the Cash and Counseling Program and its Implementation in Other States.*
- *An Inventory of Respite Care Services in Hawaii.*

The CRI Project was also instrumental with designing and executing two research studies for the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging in Place (*State of Hawaii: Family Caregiver Needs Assessment* and *State of Hawaii Older Adults Needs Assessment*) and advocating for two reports that were conducted by the Legislative Reference Bureau pursuant to HCR 187 (2007) and HCR 188 (2007) (*Gimme a Break: Respite Care Services in Other States* and *A Survey of Adult Protective Services and Elder Abuse in Hawaii and Nationwide*).

EOA and the CRI Project continues to use the expertise of the University of Hawaii to incorporate research with policy development and practice by commissioning an additional four studies to be conducted in 2008 in which the results will be released in early 2009:

- *Respite Care in the State of Hawaii.*
- *Report on the Feasibility of Providing Consumer Directed Services for Non-Medicaid Eligible Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities in the State of Hawaii.*
- *Report on Respite Services for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Hawaii.*
- *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Needs Assessment in Hawaii's Public Schools.*

#### Referring Caregivers to Appropriate Resources

The CRI Project does not provide direct services to families, but refer inquiries to the appropriate Area Agency on Aging for information and assistance. The CRI Project primarily focuses on the integration of family caregiver support with the Aging and

Disability Resource Center (ADRC) demonstration project by providing policy guidance and participation in the development and implementation of the ADRC services, particularly those directed to family caregivers. The ADRC is part of a national effort to establish single entry points to long-term care resources, inclusive of the Medicaid program. ADRCs are locally based with the area agencies at the helm.

Regarding grandparents raising grandchildren, through funding by the Brookdale Foundation's Relative as Parents Program, the CRI Project worked with the Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center and Child and Family Services on Kauai to expand their Tutu Support Groups for grandparents raising grandchildren to East and West Kauai. Furthermore, working with Hi'i Na Kupuna, Maui County's kincare caregiver coalition, they were able to extend the life of their kincare caregiver support group for another year.

### Creating Public Awareness

To create public awareness by building community networks and providing information to individuals requiring services, the CRI Project accomplished the following:

- Co-sponsored, in partnership with the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Holo Imua Kakou (Moving Forward Together) Legislative Reception and Ice Cream Social in January 2008. The focus was on raising awareness of caregiver issues to Legislators and showcasing personal caregiving stories.
- Conducted, in partnership with the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, Family Caregiver's Day at the Capitol in March 2008. Family Caregiver Day consisted of over 40 exhibit tables, a legislative luncheon, scheduled meetings with legislators, and the publication of the 2008 Aging Issues Booklet.
- Participated on the advisory committees for KHON's Elderhood Project and for KGMB's Genius of Aging Campaign.
- Coordinated, in partnership with the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition and KHON2's Elderhood Project, the 2008 Family Caregiver Awards Program and 2008 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Awards Program.
- Participated on the Legislature's Family Leave Working Group and the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Task Force.
- Co-sponsored and coordinated statewide educational workshops for grandparents raising grandchildren.

**Conclusion**

EOA and the CRI Project continue to work on behalf of Hawaii's 190,000 family caregivers in areas of education and training, coordination of caregiver policies and services, balancing work and eldercare, respite services, and financial assistance. A new contract will be executed with UH CARE beginning February 1, 2009 using \$80,000 appropriated from FY 2008-2009 to achieve the goals set forth in Act 213.