

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**LATE**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR203/SR163**  
**REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY**  
**OF ESTABLISHING AN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER AND**  
**IDENTIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING FROM**  
**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**  
**RESEARCH**

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR  
SENATOR MICHELLE N. KIDANI, VICE CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Monday, March 24, 2025, 3:01 P.M Conference Room 229

**EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of SCR203/HR163.

**Purpose and Justification:** This resolution requests the University of Hawai'i to explore the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (research center) and to determine the federal funding requirements for Alzheimer's Disease research from the National Institute on Aging. According to Alzheimer's Association of Hawai'i an estimated 31,000 older

adults, age 65 years and older, are living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawai'i, and 60,000 caregivers are bearing the burden of caring for their loved one. National and global research forecasts that the number of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease, or some form of dementia will continue to rise dramatically.

Established in 1984, these Research Centers address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) by providing information, local resources, support, and opportunities to participate in research. They are dedicated to developing and testing new ways to detect, diagnose, treat, and prevent dementia and to improving care for people with these diseases and their families. Starting such a research center in Hawai'i will benefit all stakeholders by elevating efforts toward addressing ADRD and improving the lives of those with the disease and their families.

**Recommendation:** EOA supports this measure and defers to the University of Hawai'i on its viability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

#### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Monday, March 24, 2025 at 3:01 p.m.

By

T. Samuel Shomaker, MD, Dean,  
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,  
Kamal Masaki, MD, Chair, Department of Geriatric Medicine  
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 203/SR 163 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER AND IDENTIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH

Chairs Kim and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Kidani and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present COMMENTS today. The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) supports the intent of SCR 203/SR 163 which requests that the University of Hawai'i explore the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's Disease research center and to identify the requirement for receiving federal funding through the National Institute on Aging.

Hawai'i's aging population is increasing rapidly and approximately 31,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. JABSOM appreciates the significant impact Alzheimer's Disease has on our communities, families, healthcare providers, and the patients themselves. However, this may not be an appropriate time to conduct the kind of study envisioned in SCR 203/SR 163 considering the instability at the federal level and the uncertainty in funding streams for federal grants.

The award of a federal grant for a research center requires core faculty and programs to support robust administration, investigator development or research training, community engagement, research infrastructure, regulatory core, and several solid research projects that are multidisciplinary and include basic science, translational science, and clinical research (including clinical trials).

We are closely watching activities at the Federal level that will likely impact our research and education. We are concerned the University may not have sufficient personnel to plan an Alzheimer's Disease research center. Many of our research grants aim to better understand and reduce unequal disease burdens among some of Hawai'i's populations. The extent to which those will be affected by the federal policies and orders issued by the current administration is unknown at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
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**KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

**JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.**  
ADMINISTRATOR

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1177 Alakea St., #402, Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 [www.shpda.org](http://www.shpda.org)

March 21, 2025

To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair, and  
Honorable Members

From: John C (Jack) Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA; and  
Senior Advisor to Governor Green on Healthcare Innovation

Re: **SCR203 / SR163 – Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers; University  
of Hawai'i; National Institute on Aging; Feasibility Study**

Hearing: March 24, 2025 @ 3:01 pm; Conference Room 229

Position: SUPPORT, with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA supports the intent of this bill. Its feasibility, in light of the new administration in Washington, must be seen as uncertain. But given the growing prevalence and costs of the disease here, the rich diversity of our population, and the fact that Hawai'i has the greatest longevity of the states, we would be a promising and ideal choice for such a research center.

SHPDA believes we should support this excellent idea.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

## Testimony to the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Health & Human Services

Monday, March 24, 3:01 PM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229, and Videoconference

RE: SCR203 & SR163

2025 Hawaii  
Leadership Board

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Executive Director  
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Construction Trade Council

Gordon Takaki, *Past*  
President Hawaii Island  
Chamber of Commerce

Cary Tanaka,  
Past President  
Island Insurance  
Companies

Caroline Witherspoon,  
President Becker  
Communications

LJ R. Duenas,  
Executive Director  
Alzheimer's Association

Chair Kim, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution requesting the University assess the feasibility of establishing a federally funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) at the University of Hawaii. My name is Coby Chock, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. I write in strong support of SCR203 and SR163, which will initiate the process of developing this opportunity to establish localized dementia research in the State of Hawaii and access substantial federal funds to conduct this research.

The Alzheimer's Association Hawaii Chapter is dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Hawaii has one of the greatest ethnic diversities and the largest relative concentration of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders, and Asian Americans in the nation. With 31,200 people living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawaii, 60,000 caregivers providing \$1.9 billion in unpaid care, and a rapidly aging population, it is critical that we do more to be at the forefront of ending this disease. By joining 24 other states in establishing an organized research unit funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute on Aging (NIA), we can make significant strides.

The Alzheimer's Association is a nonpartisan organization that has mobilized advocates across the nation to secure increases in federal Alzheimer's research funding year after year. Since 2014, across many congresses and presidential administrations, annual research appropriations have increased from \$562 million in 2014 to \$3.8 billion in 2024. The University of Hawaii and research partners across the state currently contribute some scholarly research, but not nearly as much as we could if we organize a research unit to received ADRC specific federal funding to continue and expand these efforts.

It is crucial to include diverse populations in Alzheimer's research. Localized research will ensure new developments in the field address the specific needs of our diverse community, leading to more effective and inclusive diagnosis and treatments.

We urge you to support this resolution because research is what will end Alzheimer's disease, and localized research will ensure new developments in the field don't overlook our diverse population. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support! If you have questions, please contact me at 808-451-3410 or [ckchock@alz.org](mailto:ckchock@alz.org).

Coby Chock  
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy  
Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii



**Testimony to the Senate Joint Committee on Higher Education and  
Health and Human Services  
Monday, March 24, 2025; 3:01 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 203/SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 163,  
REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF  
ESTABLISHING AN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER AND IDENTIFY THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON  
AGING FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH.**

Chair Kim, Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 203 and Senate Resolution No. 163, REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER AND IDENTIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING FEDERAL FUNDING FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

These resolutions, as received by your Committee, would request the University of Hawaii to:

- (1) Explore the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and identify the requirements for receiving federal funding from the National Institute on Aging for Alzheimer's disease research;
- (2) Develop a phased plan, including initial feasibility assessments, infrastructure development, faculty recruitment, and community engagement;

**Testimony on Senate Bill No. 1252, House Draft 1**  
**Tuesday, February 18, 2025; 10:01 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

- (3) Develop an estimated timeline for each phase of the plan, beginning with the initial feasibility assessment and including potential grant applications and the establishment of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center; and
- (4) Submit a report on the feasibility assessment, funding requirements, and proposed timeline to the Legislature not later than December 31, 2025.

According to the Centers for Disease Control:

- Alzheimer's disease is one of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States;
- The 6<sup>th</sup> leading of death among US adults; and
- The 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among adults aged 65 years or older.

In 2023, an estimated 6.7 million Americans aged 65 year or older had Alzheimer's disease. **This number is projected to nearly triple to 14 million people by 2060.**

Further, death rates for Alzheimer's disease are increasing, unlike heart disease and cancer death rates that are on the decline. Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, has shown to be under-reported in death certificates and therefore the proportion of older people who die from Alzheimer's may be considerably higher.

In Hawaii, Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health crisis:

- 29,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in Hawaii;
- 6.7% of people aged 45 and older have subjective cognitive decline;
- 60,000 family caregivers bear the burden of the disease in Hawaii;
- 91 million hours of unpaid care are provided by Alzheimer's caregivers;
- \$1.9 billion is the value of the unpaid care; and
- \$240 million is the cost of Alzheimer's to the State Medicaid Program.

For these reasons, HPCA has worked closely with the Hawaii Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to improve the health, welfare, and safety of persons and families afflicted with this disease. Accordingly, we are honored to be a partner with the Alzheimer's Association and urge your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.

**SCR-203**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 1:55:03 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/24/2025 3:01:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**[COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION](#)**

Senator Donna Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Aloha mai kākou,

I write in support of SCR 203 and its companion bill, SR 163. Medical research is an appropriate line of investigation for subsequent state legislation, especially as it affects our aging population and chronic and progressive disease. The University of Hawai‘i can and should look at dynamic biomedical research that reflects the state's growing needs.

Mahalo for this timely and thoughtful resolution.

Best,

Dylan P. Armstrong



1001 Bishop Street #625 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
866-295-7282 | [aarp.org/hi](http://aarp.org/hi) | [hiaarp@aarp.org](mailto:hiaarp@aarp.org) |  
[Twitter.com/aarphawaii](https://twitter.com/aarphawaii) | [facebook.com/aarphawaii](https://facebook.com/aarphawaii)

**LATE**

**The State Legislature  
Senate Committees on Higher Education  
and Health and Human Services  
Monday, March 24, 2025  
Conference Room 229, 3:01 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim and the Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chairs  
FROM: Keali'i S. Lopez, State Director AARP Hawai'i  
Re: Support for S.C.R. 203/SR 163 – Alzheimer Disease Research Center

Aloha Chairs Mercado Kim and San Buenaventura and Members of the Committees,

I am Keali'i Lopez, State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, social impact organization dedicated to empowering people fifty and older to choose how they live as they age. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families. On behalf of our nearly 135,000 members statewide, thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony.

**AARP supports S.C.R. 203/SR 163 requesting the University of Hawaii to explore the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's Disease research center and identify the requirements for receiving federal funding from the National Institute on Aging for Alzheimer's disease research.**

The possible establishment of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in Hawaii would advance scientific research, improve diagnosis and treatment, and provide better care for those suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's disease is a significant public health issue affecting millions of Americans, including many residents of Hawaii. The State's diverse population, including the largest share of Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in the United States, presents a unique opportunity to conduct research on Alzheimer's disease that reflects genetic, cultural, and environmental factors distinct from those studied in mainland research centers.

AARP appreciates the opportunity to support SCR 203/SR 163 and the explorative efforts to establish an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the University of Hawaii. This initiative will not only enhance research capabilities but also improve the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's disease in our community. Thank you for your consideration.

