

JAN 18 2019

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# 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 early screening for  
2 dementia provides many advantages, including the potential for  
3 reversing or treating certain types of dementia as well as  
4 providing adequate care for the patient.

5           The legislature further finds that Alzheimer's disease  
6 accounts for sixty to eighty per cent of all instances of  
7 dementia. As of 2018, there were approximately twenty-eight  
8 thousand people living with Alzheimer's disease in Hawaii. The  
9 estimated cost to Medicare for emergency department visits and  
10 hospital stays for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias is  
11 \$17,617.

12           The legislature also finds that native Hawaiians experience  
13 significant health care disparities resulting in a significantly  
14 shorter life expectancy than the general national population.

15           The purpose of this Act is to launch a dementia screening  
16 and awareness pilot program to promote and encourage screenings  
17 through a public awareness campaign to help increase screening



1 rates statewide. The pilot program will prioritize the  
2 screening of residents with native Hawaiian ancestry and other  
3 demographic groups that experience health care disparities,  
4 particularly the medically uninsured.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the dementia  
6 screening and awareness pilot program, to be administered by the  
7 department of health. The pilot program shall:

8 (1) Provide public education to:

9 (A) Promote dementia screening; and

10 (B) Provide specific education to people of native  
11 Hawaiian ancestry and other demographic groups  
12 that experience disparities in access to health  
13 care;

14 (2) Collaborate with health care providers to integrate  
15 dementia screening into their standard practice; and

16 (3) Partner with health care providers to screen eligible  
17 participants, as described in subsection (b).

18 (b) To be an eligible participant to receive screening  
19 pursuant to subsection (a) (3), a person shall:

20 (1) Be at least fifty years of age, or have a high risk  
21 for dementia if under the age of fifty;



1 (2) Be uninsured, or if insured have coverage that does  
2 not cover the full cost of dementia screenings;

3 (3) Not be eligible for medical assistance; and

4 (4) Have a gross family income at or below two hundred  
5 fifty per cent of the federal poverty level.

6 (c) For purposes of this section, an eligible participant  
7 is considered "high risk for dementia" if the person has:

8 (1) A family history of dementia;

9 (2) Ever received a significant head injury;

10 (3) Been diagnosed with heart disease, diabetes, stroke,  
11 high blood pressure, and high cholesterol; or

12 (4) Other predisposing factors, as determined by the  
13 department of health.

14 (d) The department of health shall submit to the  
15 legislature:

16 (1) A preliminary report no later than twenty days prior  
17 to the convening of the regular session of 2020 on the  
18 expenditure of funds for the dementia screening and  
19 awareness pilot program as of the date of the report;  
20 and



1           (2) A final report no later than twenty days prior to the  
 2           convening of the regular session of 2021 on the  
 3           expenditure of all funds for the dementia screening  
 4           and awareness pilot program as of the date of the  
 5           final report.

6           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 7           revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much  
 8           thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
 9           same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
 10          2020-2021 for the dementia screening and awareness pilot program  
 11          established pursuant to this Act.

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

14          SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019, and  
 15          shall be repealed on June 30, 2021.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 1032

**Report Title:**

Dementia Screening; Mental Health Care; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to establish a pilot program for dementia screening and outreach with an emphasis on the Native Hawaiian and uninsured populations.

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