
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Alzheimer's is the
2 most expensive disease in America, costing more than cancer and
3 heart disease. According to the Alzheimer's Association, the
4 direct costs to American society of caring for those with
5 Alzheimer's and other dementias totaled an estimated
6 \$290,000,000,000 in 2019. The average costs of caring for a
7 person with dementia are \$287,000 during the last five years of
8 life. This compares with \$175,000 for a person with heart
9 disease and \$173,000 for someone with cancer.

10 The legislature also finds that, according to the 2019
11 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report published by the
12 Alzheimer's Association, in Hawaii, the medicaid costs of caring
13 for people with Alzheimer's disease totaled \$232,000,000 in
14 2019, with \$17,965 in per capita medicare spending, and unpaid
15 caregiver time valued at \$941,000,000.

16 Less than one per cent of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's
17 disease receive comprehensive care planning services, despite



1 those services being eligible under medicaid and medicare.
2 Persons diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
3 who engage in comprehensive care planning can reduce their
4 financial burden and significantly improve their overall quality
5 of life.

6 The legislature further finds that consultation with
7 medical professionals will enable more people to adequately plan
8 for comprehensive care after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's
9 disease and related dementias.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish an outreach program
11 in the department of health to inform medical professionals
12 participating in medicare that comprehensive care planning
13 services for those with Alzheimer's disease and related
14 dementias is a covered benefit under the medicare program.

15 SECTION 2. The department of health shall establish an
16 outreach program to conduct a comprehensive, one-time education
17 initiative informing physicians and appropriate non-physician
18 practitioners participating in the medicare program that
19 comprehensive care planning services for those with Alzheimer's
20 disease and related dementias is a covered benefit under the
21 medicare program. The outreach program shall include:



- 1 (1) Materials on appropriate diagnostic evaluations;
- 2 (2) Explanations of the requirements for eligibility for
- 3 such services; and
- 4 (3) A report to the legislature of the outreach program's
- 5 findings and recommendations, including a review of
- 6 the barriers to individuals receiving care planning
- 7 services, how the rate of usage can be increased, and
- 8 any proposed legislation, that shall be submitted no
- 9 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
- 10 regular session of 2021.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
 14 the outreach program established pursuant to this Act.

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

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Department of Health; Alzheimer's Disease; Comprehensive Care Planning; Kupuna Caucus; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes an outreach program in the department of health to inform physicians and appropriate non-physician practitioners participating in medicare that comprehensive care planning services for those with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias is a covered benefit under medicare. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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