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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ACCESS TO MOVEMENT DISORDER CARE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that access to  
2 specialized care for individuals living with Parkinson's disease  
3 and related movement disorders is limited in Hawaii. The  
4 State's only designated movement disorder center is located on  
5 Oahu, requiring residents of neighbor islands to travel long  
6 distances at significant personal cost.

7 For many patients and caregivers, traveling to Oahu for  
8 consultations, evaluations, and treatment is financially  
9 prohibitive and logistically burdensome. As Parkinson's disease  
10 progresses, mobility challenges make air travel more difficult,  
11 increasing barriers to timely care. These inequities raise  
12 serious concerns about access, quality of care, and long-term  
13 health outcomes for residents living outside Oahu.

14 The legislature further finds that creating a dedicated  
15 state-administered fund, with the ability to leverage federal  
16 grants, philanthropic dollars, and private partnerships, may



1 help offset transportation costs and ensure equitable access to  
2 care for all Hawaii residents living with Parkinson's disease.

3       The purpose of this Act is to establish a temporary  
4 Parkinson's patient air transport feasibility committee to  
5 examine recommendations for improving access to movement  
6 disorder care for neighbor island residents, including the  
7 feasibility of a state-administered air transport assistance  
8 fund.

9       SECTION 2. (a) There shall be established, within the  
10 department of health for administrative purposes, the temporary  
11 Parkinson's patient air transport feasibility committee.

12       (b) The committee shall consist of the following members:

13       (1) The director of health, or the director's designee,  
14            who shall serve as chairperson;

15       (2) The director of transportation, or the director's  
16            designee;

17       (3) One representative of the Parkinson's community,  
18            appointed by the governor;

19       (4) One physician specializing in movement disorders,  
20            appointed by the dean of the university of Hawaii John  
21            A. Burns school of medicine;



1 (5) One representative from a patient advocacy  
2 organization, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
3 representatives; and  
4 (6) One representative from the airline industry,  
5 appointed by the president of the senate.  
6 (c) The committee shall examine:  
7 (1) The number of Parkinson's patients residing on each  
8 neighbor island and their estimated travel needs;  
9 (2) Current costs borne by patients and caregivers for  
10 interisland air travel and related lodging or  
11 transportation;  
12 (3) Potential funding models for a state-administered air  
13 transport assistance fund, including state  
14 appropriations, federal grants, private foundation  
15 grants, and public-private partnerships;  
16 (4) Administrative mechanisms to disburse assistance  
17 equitably and efficiently;  
18 (5) Opportunities for collaboration with airlines, health  
19 care providers, and nonprofits to reduce patient  
20 costs; and



1 (6) Any additional recommendations to improve access to  
2 movement disorder care for neighbor island residents.

3 (d) The committee shall be seated no later than September  
4 30, 2026, and shall meet at least once per month, either  
5 electronically or in person, in October, November, and December  
6 2026.

**10** (f) The committee shall cease to exist on June 30, 2027.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to carry  
14 out the purposes of this Act, including staffing, research,  
15 travel, and administrative support for the temporary Parkinson's  
16 patient air transport feasibility committee.

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

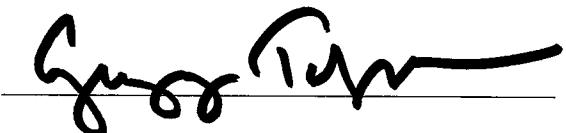
**19** SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



H.B. NO. 1575

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 16 2026



# H.B. NO. 1575

**Report Title:**

Movement Disorder Care; Parkinson's Patient Air Transport Feasibility Committee; Patient Access; Interisland Travel; Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a temporary Parkinson's Patient Air Transport Feasibility Committee to examine recommendations for improving access to movement disorder care for neighbor island residents, including the feasibility of a state-administered air transport assistance fund. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

