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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS RESEARCH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that establishing an  
2 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research unit at the  
3 University of Hawaii is essential to advance scientific  
4 research, improve diagnosis and treatment, and provide better  
5 care for individuals affected by these conditions. A National  
6 Institute on Aging-designated Alzheimer's disease research  
7 center (ADRC) would significantly enhance the University of  
8 Hawaii's research capabilities and attract major federal  
9 funding; however, achieving ADRC designation requires resources,  
10 coordination, and a dedicated team of expert researchers and  
11 staff. This goal is attainable through a strategically phased  
12 approach that begins with capacity-building efforts and  
13 strategic partnerships and includes incremental steps to  
14 strengthen research infrastructure, including the creation of  
15 key faculty and staff positions over time.

16 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's unique  
17 demographic composition, including a significant Asian American



1 and Pacific Islander population, presents an unparalleled  
2 opportunity to conduct dementia research that reflects genetic,  
3 cultural, and environmental factors distinct from those studied  
4 at research centers throughout the continental United States.  
5 This focus would fill critical gaps in scientific knowledge and  
6 inform culturally tailored interventions, benefiting state and  
7 national research agendas.

8 The legislature also finds that establishing an Alzheimer's  
9 disease and related dementias research center will leverage  
10 existing resources and collaborations among the University of  
11 Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine, University of Hawaii  
12 center on aging, University of Hawaii cancer center, and  
13 community partners. Additionally, it will create efficiencies  
14 by utilizing existing infrastructure and shared services;  
15 strengthen interdisciplinary research across medicine, public  
16 health, and social sciences; expand access to clinical trials;  
17 and improve patient care -- particularly for rural and neighbor  
18 island communities. Strategic partnerships with Kuakini Health  
19 System, Hawaii Pacific Health, and The Queen's Health Systems  
20 will further enhance clinical research capacity and integration  
21 with statewide health care delivery. This initiative will also



1 support workforce development, complement upcoming neurology  
2 training programs, and generate economic benefits through job  
3 creation and increased federal research funding.

4 The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate  
5 funds for an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
6 center at the University of Hawaii as the first phase of a  
7 strategic plan to build capacity and position Hawaii for future  
8 ADRC designation by the National Institute on Aging.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by adding a new subpart to part IV to be appropriately  
11 designated and to read as follows:

12 " . **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS RESEARCH CENTER**

13 **§304A- Alzheimer's disease and related dementias**  
14 **research center of Hawaii.** (a) There is established an  
15 organized research unit, to be known as the Alzheimer's disease  
16 and related dementias research center of Hawaii, to conduct  
17 research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The  
18 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research center of  
19 Hawaii shall be administered by a director, to be appointed in  
20 accordance with the board of regents' policy.



13 (c) Programs of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns  
14 school of medicine, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias  
15 research center of Hawaii, University of Hawaii center on aging,  
16 and University of Hawaii at Manoa shall identify opportunities  
17 to:

18 (1) Capitalize on collaboration between the programs; and

19 (2) Maximize operational efficiencies between the

20 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine,

21 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research



center of Hawaii, and University of Hawaii center on aging, including but not limited to shared services and personnel, whenever feasible, and utilization of centralized services available through the University of Hawaii at Manoa, whenever appropriate.

6 (d) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
7 center of Hawaii's research agenda shall focus on research,  
8 education, patient care, and community outreach and reflect an  
9 understanding of the ethnic, cultural, and environmental  
10 characteristics of the State and the Pacific region.

11 (e) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
12 center of Hawaii may be staffed by, but not be limited to, the  
13 following positions:

14 (1) One full-time equivalent senior clinician scientist  
15 (tenure track);  
16 (2) One full-time equivalent staff position to serve as  
17 coordinator of the designated research unit;  
18 (3) One additional full-time equivalent staff position;  
19 (4) One full-time equivalent clinical research nurse; and  
20 (5) Two full-time equivalent faculty positions, to be  
21 allocated among junior investigators as part-time



4 (f) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
5 center of Hawaii may:

6 (1) Engage in international research collaborations;

7 (2) Undertake research studies and clinical trials; and

8 (3) Participate in projects and programs of the National

9 Institutes of Health and National Institute on Aging,

10 including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease

11 research centers.

12 (g) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
13 center of Hawaii shall submit an annual report to the  
14 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
15 each regular session. The report shall include:

16 (1) A summary of research activities, collaborations, and  
17 clinical trials conducted;

18 (2) Progress toward securing federal funding and  
19 designation by the National Institute on Aging as an  
20 Alzheimer's disease research center;

21 (3) Financial expenditures and funding sources;



1 (4) Community outreach and education efforts; and

2 (5) Recommendations for future legislative or budgetary

3 support."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$375,000 or so much  
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
7 establish the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
8 center of Hawaii pursuant to this Act, including establishing  
9 the following positions in the University of Hawaii John A.  
10 Burns school of medicine:

11 (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) faculty senior  
12 clinician scientist position; and  
13 (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) administrative lead  
14 staff position.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Uggy

JAN 16 2026



# H.B. NO. 1597

**Report Title:**

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center;  
University of Hawaii; JABSOM; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center at the University of Hawaii, including the establishment of two full-time positions.

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

