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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DEMENTIA.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that dementia and  
2 cognitive impairment are growing public health concerns in  
3 Hawaii, particularly among the State's aging population. The  
4 impacts of dementia extend beyond individuals to families,  
5 caregivers, and communities, placing emotional and financial  
6 strain on households and the health care system.

7           The legislature further finds that access to early  
8 diagnosis, care planning, and long-term support for individuals  
9 with dementia and cognitive impairment is limited, especially in  
10 rural areas and on neighbor islands. Many residents face  
11 barriers to receiving timely and coordinated care due to  
12 geographic isolation, workforce shortages, and fragmented  
13 service delivery.

14           The need for systemic reform for dementia and cognitive  
15 impairment treatment cannot be overstated. Alzheimer's disease  
16 is estimated to affect one in nine Hawaii residents over age  
17 sixty-five. With the older adult population in the State



1 expected to double in the next twenty-five years, the number of  
2 individuals living with Alzheimer's disease will exceed  
3 sixty-two thousand by 2050. This surge will have devastating  
4 financial consequences. Medicaid spending for Alzheimer's care  
5 in Hawaii rose from \$240,000,000 in 2020 to \$309,000,000 in  
6 2025. Without intervention, those costs are projected to  
7 approach \$1,000,000,000 annually by 2050, placing an  
8 unsustainable strain on the state budget.

9       The legislature further recognizes that Hawaii's long-term  
10 care infrastructure is already at or above capacity, with memory  
11 care beds in short supply. Families face crushing financial  
12 burdens, paying more than \$15,000 per month, or \$180,000 per  
13 year, for memory care in long-term care facilities. Neighbor  
14 islands and rural communities experience even greater  
15 challenges, with limited access to diagnosis and treatment  
16 leading to delayed care and higher costs. Caregivers lack  
17 guidance and support, compounding emotional and financial  
18 stress.

19       The legislature notes that the Alzheimer's Association is  
20 launching the Hanai Memory Network to address these challenges  
21 head-on by ensuring earlier diagnosis, equitable access to care



1 across all counties, and coordination that reduces emergency  
2 room visits and hospitalizations. By shifting from  
3 crisis-driven care to proactive planning, Hawaii can improve  
4 outcomes for kupuna and caregivers while reducing medicaid costs  
5 and alleviating pressure on the State's long-term care system.

6 The legislature additionally finds that a coordinated  
7 statewide approach is necessary to ensure equitable access to  
8 dementia care services.

9 The purpose of this Act is to establish a Hanai memory  
10 network program to integrate community-based specialists,  
11 clinical partnerships, and public education to improve early  
12 detection, care coordination, and long-term support for  
13 individuals with dementia and their caregivers.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 349, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
16 to read as follows:

17 **"PART . HANAI MEMORY NETWORK PROGRAM**

18 **§349- Definitions.** As used in this part:

19 "Dementia care specialist" means a trained social worker,  
20 nurse, or allied health professional who provides community-



1 based dementia screening, care planning, and coordination  
2 services.

3 "Memory clinic" means a clinical partnership between the  
4 State and a health care provider or health system that provides  
5 diagnostic and treatment services for individuals with cognitive  
6 impairment.

7 **§349- Hanai memory network program; established.** (a)

8 There is established within the executive office on aging the  
9 Hanai memory network program.

10 (b) The Hanai memory network program may:

- 11 (1) Establish dementia care specialists;
- 12 (2) Establish one or more memory clinics;
- 13 (3) Ensure coordination between dementia care specialists,  
14 memory clinics, and programmatic services;
- 15 (4) Develop and maintain a statewide referral network and  
16 care options directory for dementia care;
- 17 (5) Provide training and technical assistance to  
18 participating providers in the program;
- 19 (6) Operate a public-facing website to serve as a central  
20 hub for education, referrals, and provider listings  
21 for dementia care; and



1 (7) Collect and securely maintain data relevant to the  
2 program.

3 (c) The executive office on aging may enter into contracts  
4 or memoranda of agreement with health care providers, health  
5 systems, and community-based organizations for the purpose of  
6 implementing the Hanai memory network program.

7 (d) The executive office on aging shall:

8 (1) Administer and oversee the Hanai memory network  
9 program;

10 (2) Collaborate with area agencies on aging, health care  
11 providers, and community health centers; and

12 (3) Submit an annual report to the legislature no later  
13 than twenty days prior to the convening of each  
14 regular session, which shall include:

15 (A) The number of individuals screened and diagnosed;

16 (B) The number of care plans created;

17 (C) Provider and caregiver satisfaction data; and

18 (D) Any proposed legislation."

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
2 establish and implement the Hanai memory network program.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
4 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

Executive Office on Aging; Hanai Memory Network Program;  
Dementia Care; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Hanai Memory Network Program within the Executive Office on Aging to create a network of dementia care specialists and support systems to assist individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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

