

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 09 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1597
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
H.B. No. 1597 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND
RELATED DEMENTIAS RESEARCH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center at the University of Hawaii as the first phase of a strategic plan to build capacity and position Hawaii for future designation by the National Institute on Aging as an Alzheimer's disease research center.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Health Planning and Development Agency; AARP Hawai'i; Alzheimer's Association; Hawaii Parkinson's Association; Hawai'i Primary Care Association; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General; University of Hawai'i System; and The Queen's Health Systems.

Your Committee finds that establishing an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center at the University of Hawaii will strengthen the State's higher education and research capacity by leveraging existing academic, clinical, and community



partnerships, particularly within the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Your Committee further finds that this measure will support culturally relevant research, workforce development, and increased access to federal research funding.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that establishing an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center at the University of Hawaii is a matter of statewide concern;
- (2) Changing the appropriation and position counts to unspecified amounts;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1597, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1597, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Health.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



ANDREW TARUYA GARRETT, Chair



HSR 125-26

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB1597	HED, HLT, FIN	2-4-2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (10)	10			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>Jay Quast</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				