

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1347

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 14, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 14, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 1853, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO DEMENTIA.
ACT 245

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DEMENTIA.

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

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

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

The need for systemic reform for dementia and cognitive impairment treatment cannot be overstated. Alzheimer's disease is estimated to affect one in nine Hawaii residents over age 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.



H.B. NO. 1853
H.D. 1
S.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 14th day of July, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 1853, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

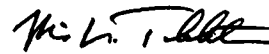
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives

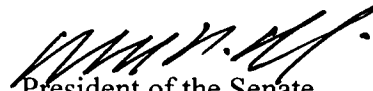


Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate