
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 mechanisms for improving access to movement disorder
6 care for neighbor island residents, including the feasibility of
7 a state-administered air transport assistance fund.

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

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

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

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

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

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



- 1 (5) One representative from a patient advocacy
2 organization, to be appointed by the speaker of the
3 house of representatives; and
- 4 (6) One representative from the airline industry, to be
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
4 September 30, 2026, and shall meet at least once per month,
5 either electronically or in person, in October, November, and
6 December 2026.

7 (e) The committee shall submit a report of its findings
8 and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the
9 legislature on or before December 30, 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 \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
14 carry out the purposes of this Act, including staffing,
15 research, travel, and administrative support for the temporary
16 Parkinson's 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, 3000.



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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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