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



1 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's unique
2 demographic composition, including a significant Asian American
3 and Pacific Islander population, presents an unparalleled
4 opportunity to conduct dementia research that reflects genetic,
5 cultural, and environmental factors distinct from those studied
6 at research centers throughout the continental United States.
7 This focus would fill critical gaps in scientific knowledge and
8 inform culturally tailored interventions, benefiting state and
9 national research agendas.

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



1 will further enhance clinical research capacity and integration
2 with statewide health care delivery. This initiative will also
3 support workforce development, complement upcoming neurology
4 training programs, and generate economic benefits through job
5 creation and increased federal research funding.

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

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

14 " . Alzheimer's Disease And Related Dementias Research Center

15 **§304A- Alzheimer's disease and related dementias**
16 **research center of Hawaii.** (a) There is established an
17 organized research unit, to be known as the Alzheimer's disease
18 and related dementias research center of Hawaii, to conduct
19 research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The
20 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research center of



1 Hawaii shall be administered by a director, to be appointed in
2 accordance with the board of regents' policy.

3 (b) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research
4 center of Hawaii shall be administratively affiliated with the
5 university of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine; provided
6 that the administrative services and infrastructure teams of the
7 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research center of
8 Hawaii and university of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine
9 may be merged to achieve greater efficiency; provided further
10 that the provost of the university of Hawaii at Manoa shall have
11 authority to direct and achieve efficiencies at the Alzheimer's
12 disease and related dementias research center of Hawaii and
13 university of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine.

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

- 19 (1) Capitalize on collaboration between the programs; and
20 (2) Maximize operational efficiencies between the
21 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research



1 center of Hawaii, university of Hawaii John A. Burns
2 school of medicine, and university of Hawaii center on
3 aging, including but not limited to shared services
4 and personnel, whenever feasible, and utilization of
5 centralized services available through the university
6 of Hawaii at Manoa, whenever appropriate.

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

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

15 (1) full-time equivalent (FTE) senior clinician
16 scientist (tenure track);

17 (2) full-time equivalent (FTE) staff position to
18 serve as coordinator of the designated research unit;

19 (3) additional full-time equivalent (FTE) staff
20 position;



1 (4) full-time equivalent (FTE) clinical research
2 nurse; and

3 (5) full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty
4 positions, to be allocated among junior investigators
5 as part-time appointments, including a part-time
6 neuropathologist as required for the neuropathology
7 core of an Alzheimer's disease research center.

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

- 10 (1) Engage in international research collaborations;
11 (2) Undertake research studies and clinical trials; and
12 (3) Participate in projects and programs of the National
13 Institutes of Health and National Institute on Aging,
14 including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease
15 research centers.

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

- 20 (1) A summary of research activities, collaborations, and
21 clinical trials conducted;



- 1 (2) Progress toward securing federal funding and
2 designation by the National Institute on Aging as an
3 Alzheimer's disease research center;
4 (3) Financial expenditures and funding sources;
5 (4) Community outreach and education efforts; and
6 (5) Recommendations for future legislative or budgetary
7 support."

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

- 15 (1) full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty senior
16 clinician scientist position; and
17 (2) full-time equivalent (FTE) administrative
18 lead staff position.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
20 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

UH; JABSOM; Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center at the University of Hawaii, to be administratively affiliated with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, including the establishment of full-time positions. Effective 7/1/3000.
(HD1)

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

