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# 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

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

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;



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)

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