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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 organized Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
3 center at the university of Hawaii is essential 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 would significantly enhance  
8 the university's research capabilities and attract major federal  
9 funding; however, achieving designation requires resources,  
10 coordination, and a dedicated team of expert researchers and  
11 staff. This goal is attainable through a phased approach that  
12 begins with capacity-building and strategic partnerships, and  
13 includes incremental steps to strengthen research  
14 infrastructure, such as creating key faculty and staff positions  
15 over time.

16           The legislature further finds that Hawaii's unique  
17 demographic composition, including a significant Asian American



1 and Pacific Islander population, presents an unparalleled  
2 opportunity to conduct dementia research that reflects genetic,  
3 cultural, and environmental factors distinct from those studied  
4 at mainland research centers. This focus would fill critical  
5 gaps in scientific knowledge and inform culturally tailored  
6 interventions, benefiting both state and national research  
7 agendas.

8       Establishing an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia  
9 research center in the State will leverage existing resources  
10 and collaborations among the university of Hawaii John A. Burns  
11 school of medicine, university of Hawaii center on aging,  
12 university of Hawaii cancer center, and community partners;  
13 create efficiencies by utilizing existing infrastructure and  
14 shared services; strengthen interdisciplinary research across  
15 medicine, public health, and social sciences; expand access to  
16 clinical trials; and improve patient care—particularly for rural  
17 and neighbor island communities. Strategic partnerships with  
18 Kuakini Health System, Hawaii Pacific Health, and The Queen's  
19 Health Systems will further enhance clinical research capacity  
20 and integration with statewide health care delivery. This  
21 initiative will also support workforce development, complement



1 any future neurology training program, and generate economic  
2 benefits through job creation and increased federal research  
3 funding. Therefore, the legislature finds that the  
4 establishment of an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias  
5 research center of Hawaii is a matter of statewide concern  
6 pursuant to article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State  
7 Constitution.

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish an organized  
9 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research center of  
10 Hawaii within the university of Hawaii as the first phase of a  
11 strategic plan to build capacity and position the State for  
12 future National Institute on Aging designation.

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

16 **"S304A- Alzheimer's disease and related dementias**  
17 **research center of Hawaii; established.** (a) There is  
18 established an organized research unit, hereinafter known as the  
19 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research center of  
20 Hawaii, to conduct research on Alzheimer's disease and related  
21 dementias. The Alzheimer's disease and related dementias



1 research center of Hawaii shall be administered by a director to  
2 be appointed in 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. The  
6 administrative services and infrastructure teams of the  
7 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research center of  
8 Hawaii and the university of Hawaii John A. Burns school of  
9 medicine may be merged to achieve greater efficiency.

10 (c) The provost of the university of Hawaii at Manoa shall  
11 have authority to direct and achieve efficiencies at the  
12 university of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine and  
13 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research center of  
14 Hawaii.

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

20 (1) Capitalize on collaboration between the programs; and



1       (2) Maximize operational efficiencies among the university  
2       of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine,  
3       Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
4       center of Hawaii, and the university of Hawaii center  
5       on aging, including but not limited to shared services  
6       and personnel, whenever feasible, and utilization of  
7       centralized services available through the university  
8       of Hawaii at Manoa, whenever appropriate.

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

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

17      (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) senior clinician  
18      scientist who shall be on tenure track;

19      (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) coordinator of the  
20      organized research unit;

21      (3) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) staff position;



1        (4) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) clinical research  
2        nurse; and

3        (5) Two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) faculty positions  
4        to be allocated among junior investigators as  
5        part-time appointments, including a part-time  
6        neuropathologist as required for the neuropathology  
7        core of an Alzheimer's disease research center to  
8        receive funding from the National Institute on Aging.

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

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

19       (h) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research  
20       center of Hawaii shall submit an annual report to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 each regular session. The report shall include:

- 3       (1) A summary of research activities, collaborations, and  
4           clinical trials conducted by the research center;
- 5       (2) Progress toward securing federal funding and  
6           designation as an Alzheimer's disease research center  
7           by the National Institute on Aging;
- 8       (3) Financial expenditures and funding sources;
- 9       (4) Community outreach and education efforts; and
- 10       (5) Recommendations, including proposed legislation for  
11           budgetary support."

12       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
15 the establishment of the Alzheimer's disease and related  
16 dementias research center of Hawaii, including the establishment  
17 of:

- 18       (1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) faculty senior  
19           clinician scientist position; and
- 20       (2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) administrative,  
21           professional, and technical center coordinator



1 (administrative lead) position in the university of  
2 Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine, specializing  
3 in neurology and dementia.

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

6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias;  
Research Center; JABSOM; Center on Aging; Reports; Positions;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias  
Research Center of Hawaii within the University of Hawaii.  
Requires the Research Center to be administratively affiliated  
with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.  
Requires JABSOM, the Research Center, University of Hawaii  
Center on Aging, and University of Hawaii at Manoa to identify  
opportunities to capitalize on collaboration between the parties  
and maximize operational efficiencies. Requires the Research  
Center to submit annual reports to the Legislature. Establishes  
positions. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

