

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3307

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 30 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1976
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Health and Human Services and Public Safety and Military Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 1976, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEMENTIA,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require:

- (1) The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency, fire chiefs, Law Enforcement Standards Board, and Department of Health to provide at least one hour of dementia-specific training for first responders, including law enforcement officers, fire first responders, and emergency medical services personnel;
- (2) First responders to complete at least one hour of dementia-specific training annually and the first training to be completed by June 30, 2028; and
- (3) The Executive Office on Aging to take certain steps when reviewing and recommending dementia-specific training curricula.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Executive Office on Aging, Disability and Communication



Access Board, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, AARP Hawai'i, Alzheimer's Association-Hawaii, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Hawai'i Primary Care Association, LeadingAge Pacific West, Alzheimer's Caregiving & The Caregivers, Hear 4 Hope, and twenty individuals.

Your Committees received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Law Enforcement Standards Board and Hawai'i Police Department.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency.

Your Committees find that Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are an urgent and growing public health challenge in the State. Approximately 31,200 state residents aged sixty-five years or older currently live with Alzheimer's, disease, and long-term trends indicate that this figure could double to approximately sixty-two thousand individuals by 2050. Your Committees further find that police, emergency medical services, and fire department personnel are frequently the first responders who respond to dementia-related incidents, yet often lack the dementia-specific training needed to effectively assist in these situations, which may lead to confusion and unnecessary escalation. This measure improves recognition, communication, and de-escalation skills relating to dementia to reduce preventable hospitalizations, emergency interventions, and crises, while strengthening community safety and resilience.

Your Committees acknowledges the concerns raised in testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i Police Department that existing training already includes communication skills, de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention, and procedures for assisting vulnerable populations. However, your Committees note that general mental health training is very different from dementia-specific training, and it is imperative that first responders be aware of the key distinctions.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Authorizing, rather than requiring, first responders, including emergency management personnel, law enforcement officers, fire first responders, and



emergency medical services personnel, to complete at least one hour of dementia-specific training annually;

- (2) Deleting language that would have required first responders to complete the first annual training cycle by June 30, 2028;
- (3) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Health and Human Services and Public Safety and Military Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1976, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1976, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committees on Health and Human Services and Public Safety and Military Affairs,




CAROL FUKUNAGA, Chair



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair

The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
PSM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB1976 HD1	Committee Referral: HHS/PSM, WAM	Date: 3/23/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
FUKUNAGA, Carol (C)	Y			
LEE, Chris (VC)	Y			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	Y			
INOUE, Lorraine R.	Y			
DECORTE, Samantha	Y			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes