

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3629**

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 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 Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 1976, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO DEMENTIA,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to provide first responders with training and tools to better assist individuals living with dementia.

Specifically, this measure requires:

- (1) The Executive Office on Aging to review and recommend a list of dementia-specific training curricula for agencies that employ first responders; and
- (2) The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, fire chiefs, Law Enforcement Standards Board, and Department of Health to make available at least one hour of dementia-specific training for first responders, including law enforcement officers, fire first responders, and emergency medical services personnel.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Executive Office on Aging, Hawaii Disability Rights Center, AARP Hawaii, Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii,



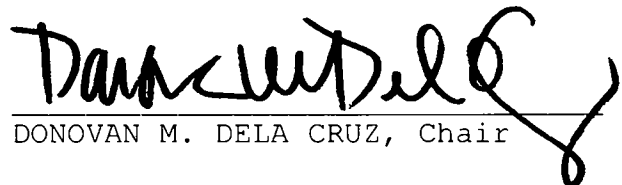
Hawaii Primary Care Association, LeadingAge Pacific West, Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs, Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans, and eight individuals.

Your Committee received written comments in opposition to this measure from the Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board.

Your Committee finds that as the number of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias increases, first responders will need to respond to dementia-related incidents more frequently. Your Committee believes that the program of dementia-specific training authorized by this measure will help first responders improve recognition, communication, and de-escalation skills when interacting with persons living with dementia. These skills will, in turn, help to reduce preventable hospitalizations, emergency interventions, and crises.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1976, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

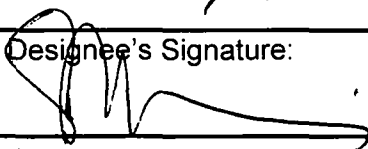
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB1976, HD1, SD1	HHS/RSM, WAM	4/7/2026		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y. (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
KIM, Donna Mercado	X			
LEE, Chris				X
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim"	X			
WAKAI, Glenn	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	12	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink		
File with Committee Report	Committee	Drafting Agency		

*Only one measure per Record of Votes