

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 18

, 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2657
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
S.B. No. 2657, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND
RELATED DEMENTIAS RESEARCH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate
funds for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research
Center of Hawaii within the University of Hawaii as the first
phase of a strategic plan to build capacity and position the State
for future National Institute on Aging designation.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Disability and Communication Access Board; Hawaii State
Commission on the Status of Women; Hawai'i Primary Care
Association; LeadingAge Pacific West; and numerous individuals.
Your Committee received comments on this measure from the
University of Hawaii System and The Queen's Health Systems.

Your Committee finds that establishing an Alzheimer's Disease
and Related Dementias Research Center is essential to advancing
scientific research, improving diagnosis and treatment, and
providing better care for individuals affected by these
conditions. Your Committee further finds that Hawaii's unique



demographic composition, including a significant Asian American and Pacific Islander population, presents an unparalleled opportunity to conduct dementia research that reflects genetic, cultural, and environmental factors distinct from those studied at other research centers outside of the State. Establishing an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Center at the University of Hawaii would fill critical gaps in scientific knowledge and inform culturally tailored interventions, benefiting state and national research agendas.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the number of positions to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2657, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2657, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Health.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



