

JAN 18 2008

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Alzheimer's disease is a brain disorder named  
2 for German physician Alois Alzheimer who first described it in  
3 1906. According to the Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's:  
4 (1) is a common and serious brain disease afflicting more than  
5 five million Americans; (2) grows worse over time; (3) is the  
6 most common form of dementia; and (4) has no current cure.

7           The Alzheimer's Association - Aloha Chapter found that  
8 there are twenty-eight thousand people in Hawaii struggling with  
9 the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease and related  
10 dementias. This number is estimated to nearly double by the  
11 middle of this century. Hawaii has the distinction of having  
12 the fastest growing elder population in the United States. One  
13 in ten persons over sixty-five and nearly half of those over  
14 eighty-five are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease in Hawaii.  
15 Coupled with the fact that the leading risk factor for  
16 Alzheimer's is age, Hawaii will encounter a health problem that



1 will impose great demands on the health system of the State in  
2 the next ten years.

3       Neuroscientists nationwide have been diligently researching  
4 Alzheimer's to prevent and cure this most debilitating disease,  
5 with the goal of eliminating the disease through the advancement  
6 of research and enhancing the care and support of persons with  
7 Alzheimer's, their families, and caregivers. However, in Hawaii  
8 there exists no formal entity dedicated to medical research into  
9 the causes, cure, and prevention of Alzheimer's. Hawaii's  
10 multi-ethnic population may pose different risk factors for  
11 Alzheimer's which should be researched and investigated.

12       The purpose of this Act is to create an Alzheimer's  
13 advisory task force to study the feasibility of establishing an  
14 Alzheimer's research center in Hawaii under the University of  
15 Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine.

16       SECTION 2. The University of Hawaii shall establish a  
17 temporary Alzheimer's advisory task force to study the  
18 feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's research center in  
19 Hawaii under the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of  
20 medicine.

21       SECTION 3. The Alzheimer's advisory task force shall:



- 1           (1) Determine the necessity and feasibility of  
2           establishing an Alzheimer's research center in Hawaii,  
3           to be placed under the John A. Burns school of  
4           medicine;
- 5           (2) Estimate the costs and funding support streams for the  
6           research center, including a three-year projection of  
7           costs, expenses, and income;
- 8           (3) Determine the specific type of research to be done,  
9           including but not limited to, the causes, prevention,  
10          treatment, and cure of Alzheimer's disease, as well as  
11          any factors unique to Hawaii's multi-ethnic  
12          population;
- 13          (4) Formulate a proposed plan of operation of an  
14          Alzheimer's research center, including but not limited  
15          to, the construction of physical facilities,  
16          recruitment of researchers and scientists, and  
17          provision of support personnel; and
- 18          (5) Address any other matters deemed relevant by the task  
19          force.

20          SECTION 4. (a) The Alzheimer's advisory task force shall  
21 be composed of one representative from each of the following:

- 22          (1) AARP Hawaii;



- 1           (2) Alzheimer's Association - Aloha Chapter;
- 2           (3) Executive office on aging;
- 3           (4) Department of health;
- 4           (5) Department of human services;
- 5           (6) Kokua Council;
- 6           (7) University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine,
- 7                 department of geriatric medicine;
- 8           (8) University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine;
- 9                 and
- 10          (9) Hawaii Gerontological Society.

11           (b) The Alzheimer's advisory task force shall be under the  
12 University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine for  
13 administrative purposes. Co-chairs of the task force shall be  
14 the representatives of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns  
15 school of medicine and the Alzheimer's Association - Aloha  
16 Chapter.

17           SECTION 5. The Alzheimer's advisory task force shall  
18 report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no  
19 later than August 1, 2009.

20           SECTION 6. The Alzheimer's advisory task force shall cease  
21 to exist upon the filing of its findings and recommendations  
22 pursuant to section 5 of this Act.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Alzheimer's Task Force; Creation

**Description:**

Creates the Alzheimer's advisory task force to study the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's research center in Hawaii under the University of Hawaii John A. Burns school of medicine. Report to legislature.

