



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Y. Ige
Senator Carol Fukunaga

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

L A T E

Wednesday February 6, 1:15pm Room 225

SB2545 RELATING TO HEALTH. 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.

SUPPORT

KOKUA COUNCIL whose mission is to advocate for Seniors and those who can't speak for themselves support this bill for the following reasons:

Hawaii with one of the fastest growing population of those over 85 years of age will be faced with a population with an increased number of Alzheimer's patients.

The way to prepare for this increase which will most likely result in increased burden on state facilities, workforce and require more state funds is to acquire a solid knowledge base of the extent of the problem in Hawaii and its impact on families and local services.

Local studies on all fronts, including medical treatment and social impact, will add to the growing body of knowledge.

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L A T E

SB2545
HTH/EDU
Wednesday February 6, 2008
1:15 p.m.
Room 225

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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February 5, 2008

Re: SB2545—Creates the Alzheimer's advisory task force to study the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's research center in Hawaii

In Support

As this bill correctly notes, Hawaii's demographics should be ideally suited to facilitate research on all aspects of Alzheimer's disease. We have a large and growing older population and it is ethnically and culturally diverse. Due to several factors, people are also likely to live longer here, which means that the incidence of Alzheimer's in the population will be even higher.

A task force to study the feasibility of establishing an Alzheimer's research center in Hawaii will likely find that there are several benefits.

One of the most exciting to me is that the research center will have a relationship with hospitals and other treatment facilities as well as gerontologists, neurologists and other physicians that will enhance the treatment of Alzheimer's patients. This is always the case where a medical school works closely with treatment professionals.

In other words, Hawaii's elderly are likely to realize better detection, treatment and management of the disease if a research center is established in the John A. Burns school of medicine.

I recommend to the Chairs and to the Committees that this bill be passed.


Larry Geller



Testimony - Joint Legislative Committee – Health & Education

SB2545 - Creating the Alzheimer's advisory task force to study the feasibility of an Alzheimer's research center in Hawaii under the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 1:15 p.m., Conf Rm 225

The Alzheimer's Association is in support of SB2545 . The Alzheimer's Association is dedicated to improving the lives of those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease and their families, and through research, finding treatment and cure.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing problem:

- Alzheimer's disease was first described 100 years ago. However, most of the science underlying treatment and care for the disease has been discovered in the last 15 years.
- Since 1980, the number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease has more than doubled.

Currently, there are over 28,000 people with Alzheimer's disease in Hawaii. Within the next 10 years, given the growing aging population, that number is expected to increase by 25% - 35,000. As Hawaii's baby boomers enter the age of greatest risk, Alzheimer's disease will become the public health crisis of the 21st century. The question is, are we prepared for the 25% increase?

We respectfully recommend that the bill include that the advisory task force begin the work of creating a State Plan on Alzheimer's disease to:

- Create the infrastructure and accountability necessary to build dementia-capable programs and services for the growing number of people with the disease.
- Help the State confront the challenges of Alzheimer's by:
 - Creating the state plan;
 - Tackling a range of Alzheimer's issues:
 - Bringing stakeholders to the table.
- Outline comprehensive state strategies to address needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

Every 72 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's disease; by mid-century some one will develop Alzheimer's disease every 33 seconds. The total with the disease will explode from an estimated 5.1 million today to as many as 11 million to 16 million by 2050. Given that Hawaii has the fastest growing elderly population in the United States, we can anticipate that our numbers will increase accordingly.

The Alzheimer's Association urges that SB2545 be passed with the inclusion of the creation of a State Alzheimer Disease Plan.

Sincerely,

Janet Eli

President and Chief Executive Officer