

brower2-Jenna

From: Chris Ridley [;]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:14 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: HB501 Testimony

TO: Committee on Human Services

Chair Representative John M. Mizuno
Vice Chair Representative Tom Brower
Representative Della Au Belatti
Representative Joe Bertram III
Representative Mele Carroll
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto
Representative Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Representative Gene Ward

FROM: Chris Ridley, LCSW, DCSW

Alzheimer's Association, Island of Hawaii Program Coordinator
Life Care Center of Hilo, Director of Social Services

Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009 @ 9am, Conference Room 329

RE: *HB501 *Relating to a Silver Alert for Missing
Senior Citizens -- *SUPPORT*

I am a Social Worker. I am testifying in *SUPPORT of HB 501* relating to a Silver Alert for Missing Senior Citizens.

Our population is quickly increasing in the percentage of our treasured Elders. With this increase, there will be a larger percentage of community members suffering from some type of dementia. Over 60% of those with dementia will have at least one wandering episode.

You cannot imagine the horror that comes over a family member when they come to the realization that their loved one has wandered away. Alzheimer's Association attempts to help but we need the support of the police department, fire department and the community to be successful.

I have personally been involved with helping to search for a missing person several times and know first hand that it takes a comprehensive effort to try to find the loved one. Hawaii needs to make this a priority for our Kupuna.

I strongly support *HB 501* relating to a Silver Alert for Missing Senior Citizens and urge your favorable* support *of* *this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

www.alz.org

Aloha Chapter
1050 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste.2610
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

808 591 2771 p
808 591 9071 f

Hawaii County Office
P.O. Box 271
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

808 981 2111 p
808 964 5238 f

Kauai Office
4303 Rice Street, C2
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

808 245 3200 p
808 245 9900 f

Maui County Office
1063 Lower Main Street, C206
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

808 242 8636 p
808 242 8639 f



**Testimony before the
House Committee on Human Services
for**

H.B. 501 – Relating to a Silver Alert for Missing Senior Citizens

February 2, 2009, 9:00am

**by Elizabeth Stevenson
Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter**

Board of Directors

Officers

Chair
Chris Shirai
Vice Chair
Bret Flynn, MD, MPH
Secretary
Vicki Woolford, MSW
Treasurer
Tricia Medeiros

Members

Michael F.K. Buck
Ronald Y. K. Leong
Adele Rugg
Anne L. Williams
Wendy Wong

Honorary Directors

Patricia L. Blanchette, MD, MPH
Paul Brown

Executive Director and CEO

Elizabeth Stevenson

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Bower and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Stevenson and I am the Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter. Our Chapter serves the State of Hawaii, and we have offices on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the island of Hawaii.

Our national organization and our State Chapter support HB 501, which will implement a coordinated response by law enforcement, civil defense and the media to locate a missing senior citizen with dementia or impaired mental condition.

There are an estimated 28,000 people in Hawaii who have Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. This is a disease with a risk factor that increases with age. It is estimated that one in eight people age 65 years and older have this disease. That number increases dramatically to one in two for seniors age 85 years and older.

Statistics show that 60% of Alzheimer's patients will wander as their disease progresses. The area that the patient wanders is typically a one and a half mile radius from their home or care facility. While this is a probable area for locating the lost patient, there have been incidents where patients will get on a bus and travel much further.

The Aloha Chapter is called in to teach a class on Alzheimer's and dementia to each recruit police officer class in each of the counties across the state. Upon the passage of the Silver Alert Bill, we could expand our instruction to include the appropriate response to the implementation of this program. Because of the earlier

the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

www.alz.org

Aloha Chapter
1050 Ala Moana Blvd., Ste.2610
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Hawaii County Office
P.O. Box 271
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

Kauai Office
4303 Rice Street, C2
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

Maui County Office
1063 Lower Main Street, C206
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

808 591 2771 p
808 591 9071 f

808 981 2111 p
808 964 5238 f

808 245 3200 p
808 245 9900 f

808 242 8636 p
808 242 8639 f



statistic on where a patient typically roams, we would recommend neighborhood board alerts through police contacts as an appropriate first response as part of a coordinated effort to locate a lost senior citizen.

Board of Directors

Officers

Chair
Chris Shirai
Vice Chair
Bret Flynn, MD, MPH
Secretary
Vicki Woolford, MSW
Treasurer
Tricia Medeiros

Members

Michael F.K. Buck
Ronald Y. K. Leong
Adele Rugg
Anne L. Williams
Wendy Wong

Honorary Directors

Patricia L. Blanchette, MD, MPH
Paul Brown

Executive Director and CEO
Elizabeth Stevenson

The Alzheimer's Association supports a Medic Alert-Safe Return program involving a bracelet worn by patients with a toll free number to call for someone who finds the lost patient. It will be useful to incorporate this program with the Silver Alert Program to increase the probability of locating a lost patient as quickly as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony for HB501 on 2/2/2009 8:15:00 AM

Testimony for HUS 2/2/2009 8:15:00 AM HB501

Conference room: 329

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Arvid T. Youngquist

Organization: The Mestizo Association

Address: P O Box 37542 Honolulu, HI 96837

Phone: 808-540-1910

E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Chair John M. Mizuno

Vice Chair Tom Brower

The Honorable Members of the House

Human Services Committee

Let me wish you all a belated Happy Chinese Lunar New Year!

HB 501 envisioned by one of your colleagues and the majority of the minority caucus, is a measure that merits recommendation of approval. It should be reported out with some amendments from the stakeholders, i.e., the family members.

Combining such an alert concurrently with an Amber Alert will make it more cost effective. But if you have reservations on the additional fundings and manpower, perhaps you can affix a "defective date" of June 1, 2011 in lieu of the earlier effective date submitted by the co-sponsors.

A pro-active program to promote the safe return of our kupuna with Alzheimer's, is a worthy endeavor, but every program requires funding. The funding which is in short supply. I recommend that the Committee encourage testimony from the AARP, the Kokua Council, and the Legislature's Kupuna Caucus.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 501.

TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair

FROM: Eudice R. Schick

SUBJECT: HB 501 RELATING TO A SILVER ALERT FOR
MISSING SENIOR CITIZENS

HEARING: Monday, February 2, 2009 8:15 a.m. Room 329

POSITION: Support of HB 501

The intent of HB 501 is indeed a great idea and could conceivably save many senior citizens from great harm and unnecessary death. My concern is that we do not have any legislation that protects persons between the age of 17 years old and 65 year old. There are a number of people in that age group that suffers from mental illness and/or Alzheimer's disease that are also in need of this protection. I would personally like to see this bill, or may be a separate bill, that covers the gap.

Eudice R. Schick
2724 Kahoaloha Lane #2504
Honolulu, HI 96826
808-949-5707