

TO : COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs)

SUBJECT: **HB 744 HD1 Relating to Human Services**

HEARING: 10:00 am Friday, February 19, 2010
Conference Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: This bill creates and implements a Silver Alert Program to be operated concurrently with the Maile Amber Alert program.

POSITION: **PABEA supports this bill to implement a Silver Alert program to be operated concurrently with the Maile Amber Alert program.**

RATIONALE:

I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA, the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of the Board.

§ PABEA supports the creation of the Silver Alert program as a step in providing greater safety and security for elder persons with dementia or life-threatening physical illnesses, some of whom become disoriented, wander from home and become lost. The program provides a means for families to seek help by enlisting law enforcement agencies in the effort to locate such persons.

§ Since the Silver Alert Program would be concurrent with the existing Maile Amber Program, the costs of implementation should be relatively small in relation to possible savings which could be incurred by emergency care if such persons are unrecognized for a prolonged period of time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.