

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

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

SUBJECT: HB 774, HD1 Relating to Human Services

HEARING: 8 am Thursday, February 12, 2009
Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol

RPOSE: This bill creates and implements a silver alert program to be operated concurrently with the Maile Amber Alert program.

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

TIONALE:

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. I am also a professor of medical sociology at UH-Manoa who has worked with elderly services in Hawaii for more than 20 years.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.