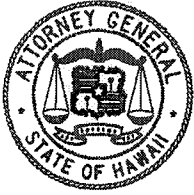


SB2226

SD1



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2226, S.D. 1, RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY. For more information, call Andrea J. Armitage, Deputy Attorney General, at 587-3050.

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General opposes this bill.

This bill would require the formation of a task force attached to the Department of the Attorney General to develop a system for finding missing senior citizens "using facial recognition software being developed by the Department of the Attorney General."

The Department of the Attorney General is not developing facial recognition software. The Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center in the Department of the Attorney General is working with the Honolulu Police Department on a pilot project to test facial recognition software for investigative purposes, but it is neither ready nor appropriate for wider utilization. This pilot "system" will reside on a single stand-alone server and will be in effect for only one year. We estimate that full scale implementation of a facial recognition system, just for law enforcement purposes, would cost the State more than \$500,000. There is no funding for this.

We respectfully ask the Committee to hold this bill.

February 17, 2010

TO: JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair

FROM: Ashley Imai, Student Nurse
University of Hawaii at Hilo Baccalaureate Nursing Program

RE: SB 2226 Relating to Senior Citizens

I am a nursing student from the University of Hawaii at Hilo Baccalaureate Nursing Program. I am currently working with the Aging and Disability Resource Center in Hilo for my Collaborative Healthcare, Leadership, and Management Practicum along with my classmate, Melissa Ching. We strongly support S.B. 2226 regarding the National Silver Alert Program.

We feel that the National Silver Alert Program would effectively and efficiently initiate a response to locate and safely return senior citizens who wander and become lost. We strongly believe that it is vital for us to care for our elderly; for they have contributed greatly to make the community we live in what it is today. The safety of our elderly should be our priority.

I have a grandmother who is over 80 years of age. She is able-bodied, but she is entering the early stage of dementia. She is starting to lose her short-term memory and sometimes gets confused and is unable to recognize some of her possessions. This worries me because there is a definite possibility that when her dementia progresses, she may wander off and become lost. I would feel more at ease knowing that the National Silver Alert Program would help to bring those like my grandmother home quickly and safely.

Please consider this bill for legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ashley Imai, Student Nurse

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 12:34 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: aeimai@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2226 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2226

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ashley Imai
Organization: Individual
Address: 757 Ho'olala Place Hilo, Hawaii
Phone: (808) 937-7088
E-mail: aeimai@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

My name is Ashley Imai and I am a nursing student at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. My classmate, Melissa Ching, and I have collected 130 signatures in our community of Hilo showing support for SB 2226. Attached is the copy of our petition. Thank you.

TO : COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice-Chair

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

SUBJECT: **SB 2226 SD1 Relating to Senior Citizens**

HEARING: 10:00 am Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Conference Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

PURPOSE: Establishes a taskforce to develop an efficient, cost-effective process for an identification database of services and at risk adults if they go missing.

POSITION: **PABEA supports this bill and SD1 as step towards implementing 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. 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 or life-threatening physical illnesses, some of whom become disoriented, wander from home and become lost. Such a program provides a means for families to seek help by enlisting law enforcement agencies in the effort to locate such persons.

The Senate Human Services Committee amended the proposal for the Silver Alert Program to SD 1 which creates a taskforce to develop an efficient and cost-effective process for operating such a program. We are not certain a delay is necessary since the proposed program would operate concurrently with the Amber Alert Program which already exists. Nevertheless, we support any step to get this program established.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.