

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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2226, S.D. 2, RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**DATE:** Monday, March 8, 2010                      **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 329

**TESTIFIER(S):** Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General, or  
Andrea J. Armitage, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General opposes this bill.

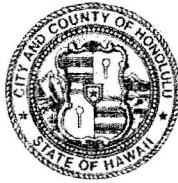
This bill would require the formation of a task force attached to the Department of the Attorney General to develop a system for finding missing senior citizens "using facial recognition software being developed by the Department of the Attorney General."

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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu-pd.org



MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
CHIEF

DELBERT T. TATSUYAMA  
RANDAL K. MACADANGDANG  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE

SN-NTK

March 8, 2010

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Human Services  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2226, S.D. 2, Relating to Senior Citizens

I am Sean C. Naito, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes Senate Bill No. 2226, S.D. 2, Relating to Senior Citizens.

The Honolulu Police Department recognizes that with the aging of the baby boomers, there is a current and growing need for a system to quickly identify and reunite disoriented senior citizens with their families. However, we oppose the development of a task force at this time.

We are in the very beginning stages of a one-year pilot project to test a face recognition system (FRS) with the Department of the Attorney General. This system will be very narrow in scope and will focus primarily on identifying unknown criminal suspects by comparing them to the existing database of mug shots.

The potential uses of FRS in the future are extensive and will likely include the identification of unknown, disoriented, or injured persons. At this point, we feel that the development of a task force is premature. The goals of this resolution will best be served by allowing the Department of the Attorney General and the Honolulu Police Department to work together on this project.

*Serving and Protecting With Aloha*

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
and Members  
Page 2  
March 8, 2010

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2226, S.D. 2,  
Relating to Senior Citizens.

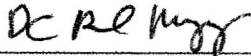
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



SEAN C. NAITO, Captain  
Criminal Investigation Division

APPROVED:



~~FOL~~  
LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
Chief of Police

**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:** **SB 2226 SD2 Relating to Senior Citizens**

**HEARING:** 9:00 am Monday, March 8, 2010  
Conference Room 329, 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.

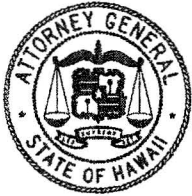
**POSITION:** **PABEA supports this SB 2226 SD2 as step towards implementing a Silver Alert program.**

**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 the taskforce to develop an efficient, cost-effective process for creating and operating an identification database of services and at-risk senior citizens. A Silver Alert program is needed to provide 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 and return them to their homes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**TESTIFIER(S):** Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General, or  
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Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General opposes this bill.

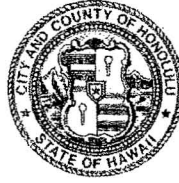
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We respectfully ask the Committee to hold this bill.

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OUR REFERENCE  
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March 8, 2010

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Human Services  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Mizuno and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2226, S.D. 2, Relating to Senior Citizens

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The Honolulu Police Department opposes Senate Bill No. 2226, S.D. 2, Relating to Senior Citizens.

The Honolulu Police Department recognizes that with the aging of the baby boomers, there is a current and growing need for a system to quickly identify and reunite disoriented senior citizens with their families. However, we oppose the development of a task force at this time.

We are in the very beginning stages of a one-year pilot project to test a face recognition system (FRS) with the Department of the Attorney General. This system will be very narrow in scope and will focus primarily on identifying unknown criminal suspects by comparing them to the existing database of mug shots.

The potential uses of FRS in the future are extensive and will likely include the identification of unknown, disoriented, or injured persons. At this point, we feel that the development of a task force is premature. The goals of this resolution will best be served by allowing the Department of the Attorney General and the Honolulu Police Department to work together on this project.

*Serving and Protecting With Aloha*

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
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Page 2  
March 8, 2010

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2226, S.D. 2,  
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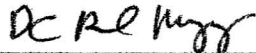
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



SEAN C. NAITO, Captain  
Criminal Investigation Division

APPROVED:



LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
Chief of Police

*For*

**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:** **SB 2226 SD2 Relating to Senior Citizens**

**HEARING:** 9:00 am Monday, March 8, 2010  
Conference Room 329, 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 SB 2226 SD2 as step towards implementing a Silver 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 the taskforce to develop an efficient, cost-effective process for creating and operating an identification database of services and at-risk senior citizens. A Silver Alert program is needed to provide 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 and return them to their homes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





House HUS committee  
Monday, Mar 8, 2010  
9:00 am  
Room 329

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 7, 2010

TO: Rep. John Mizuno, Chair  
And members of the House Human Services Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW  
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SB 2226 SD2 Relating to Senior Citizens

Chair Mizuno and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter (NASW). I am testifying in **SUPPORT of SB 2226 SD2 Relating to Senior Citizens.**

The original intent of SB 2226 was to establish a Silver Alert program to help find lost senior citizens similar to the current Maile Amber Alert program that is used to find our missing children. We heard the concerns of the police department and attorney general regarding establishing such a program so creating a task force to explore a process to accomplish the same goal would be helpful.

Thank you for keeping this vehicle alive so we can develop a solution to find our senior citizens who become disoriented and lost in our community

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Representative Tom Brower, Vice-Chair  
Committee of Human Services

From: Etsuko Sakairi, Student  
University of Hawaii at Manoa Masters of Social Work program

Date: March 8, 2010

Subject: Support of SB2226 Relating to Senior Citizens

Chairman Mizuno and members of the Human services committee,

My name is Etsuko Sakairi and I am a social work student from the University of Hawaii at Manoa Masters of Social Work Program. I came to Hawaii in August 2008. Before I came to Hawaii, I was working as a care worker and a social worker for elderly people in Japan. I am testifying in support of SB2226 relating to senior citizens.

I believe SB 2226 will greatly contribute to the society since we are facing an expansion of elderly population right now.

According to the 2004 data from the Center on Family in University of Hawaii at Manoa, 13.6% of the Hawaii populations are above 65 years old and this number is expected to further expand in the future.

It is crucial to think about the issue of missing elderly people to prepare for the aging society because elderly people have strong issues related to dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

According to the Alzheimer's association reports in 2006, there are 5.3million Americans living with the disease and every 70 seconds someone in America develops Alzheimer's disease and by 2050, there will be nearly a million new cases per year.

I have an experience of interacting with dementia and Alzheimer's clients. In the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, they do notice that something is wrong in their brain but they sometimes hesitate to say "Help me" because they think it is shameful to even forget how to go back to their home. The reason why they wander could be anything. Especially when the clients relocate to another area because of their physical needs, they still want to go back to their hometown. They say "I feel I have become stupid I am not sure where I am." "I just wanted to visit my husband (But, her husband has already passed away)". How can we blame them if they just want to visit

their husband, family and their hometown?

However, at the same time I witnessed a lot of families who suffer from the issue when their loved ones go missing. They are exhausted from finding their loved one who are missing and sometimes they cry because of the anxiety and irritation.

In Japan, we are using Global Positioning System which means satellite-based navigation system like cell phone to find the missing elderly people. In some area, we use radio station, community loudspeaker and broadcast the clothes and physical information of missing elderly people also we partner up with taxi companies to find them. Especially in the winter, Japan is very cold and finding the missing elderly is an urgent issue.

I believe this bill helps to reduce the anxiety of the families of the patients, caregivers and the people who support their life. Also, it protects the life of elderly people.

I urge you to support SB2226. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Etsuko Sakairi.

March 6, 2010

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

FROM: Alyce Roman, Masters of Social Work Student  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

DATE: March 08, 2010, 9:00 am

RE: SB 2226 Relating to Senior Citizens

I am a Masters in Social Work student at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. I am currently doing my practicum at Child and Family Services Gerontology Division in the Senior Case Management Program. My testimony today is in favor of S.B. 2226 regarding the Silver Alert Program.

The Silver Alert Program could potentially serve an important resource for the community of Hawaii. Just as there has been emphasis on helping locate missing children of Hawaii through the Maile Alert system their should be the same emphasis for our elders. It's because of our elders that we're standing here today.

I'm from California and to my knowledge we've never had a Silver Alert System. I have a great grandmother back in California that has a tendency to wander away from her care home or from my family's home due to her dementia. I know that if my family had a program like S.B. 2226 is proposing, then my families anxiety and sleepless nights would have been long gone. Hawaii has the opportunity to be an example for other states, such as California, that have not yet put an emphasis into protecting their elders. So, I strongly support S.B.2226 to help keep our elders safe.

Thank you for your time.

Monday, March 8, 2010  
9:00 AM  
Conference Room 329

TO: Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chairman, Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chairman, and members of the House of Representatives Committee on Human Services

FROM: Janet Tongtip

RE: SB 2226 SD 2 Relating to Senior Citizens

Chairman Mizuno and members of the House of Representatives Committee on Human Services, my name is Janet Tongtip and I am a Masters of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. I am testifying in SUPPORT of SB 2226 SD 2 Relating to Senior Citizens.

According to the agenda, the purpose of the SB 2226 SD 2 bill is to establish a task force to develop an efficient, cost-effective process for creating and operating an identification database of services and at-risk senior citizens if they go missing.

I feel that the Silver Alert plan would be very beneficial in providing families a sense of security when one of their elderly family members goes missing. It can expedite the process of locating elderly persons who may be suffering from dementia and who stray far away from home. These elderly people may be disoriented and are unaware of who they are due to their illnesses and need all the assistance they can in returning home to be reunited with their loved ones. In addition, families may feel more at ease in using the help of law enforcement in tracking down their lost loved ones in order for them to stay out of harm and danger.

Therefore, it is important that we have some type of safety system in finding lost seniors. Ensuring the safety of our elderly is something that should not be taken lightly.

I urge you to support SB 2226 SD 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Janet Tongtip  
Master's of Social Work student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa  
[jtongtip@hawaii.edu](mailto:jtongtip@hawaii.edu)

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

From: Melissa Bowen, Student Social Worker  
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Master of Social Work Program

Date: March 08, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

Subject: Support of SB 2226, Relating to Senior Citizens

I am a social work student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, attending the Master of Social Work Program. I am currently doing my practicum at Child Family Services, Gerontology Program, Senior Case Management in Honolulu. I am testifying in favor of this bill, SB 2226, the Silver Alert Program.

I feel that the Silver Alert Program would be very effective in preventing seniors who wander off or get lost. It will prevent unnecessary injuries and harm, and relieve stress that occurs from worried family members. Seniors with Dementia or Alzheimer's disease wander off and don't remember where they are, where they are going, or who they are. Some revert back to different periods of their lives and think they can do things which are physically impossible now, which in turn can cause some serious harm. It will give families with senior's peace of mind and prevent unnecessary injuries or even death that can occur.

This affects seniors that live in care homes, nursing homes, foster care homes, and in their own private homes. Seniors experience short term memory loss and I have listened to many concerned families that are worried about their parents getting lost or wandering off and them not being able to find them and something bad happening to them. These people are parents, sisters, aunts, uncles and grandparents to somebody and deserve to be taken care of in their golden years. Taking extra measures to protect them is the least we can do to ensure their safety and well being.

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

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

From: Heather Thorson, Student Social Worker  
University of Hawaii at Manoa, Master of Social Work Program

Date: March 08, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

Subject: Support of SB 2226, Relating to Senior Citizens

My name is Heather Thorson and I am currently a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, in the graduate social work program. I am here today to support the passage of SB2226, the Silver Alert Program.

I feel this bill is important because it would help protect an extremely vulnerable population of individuals. It is not a secret that many elderly individuals can become susceptible to memory loss. On a greater scale there is a sub group of individuals that suffer from Dementia or Alzheimer's disease. These are the individuals who can become disoriented easily and unintentionally become missing. While they are missing they become increasingly vulnerable to injuries and victimization.

If there was an alert system in place these individuals could be found quickly and their risk of injury and victimization could be decreased as they would likely be missing for shorter periods of time.

Thank you for the this opportunity to testify.