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GARY A. YABUTA  
CHIEF OF POLICE

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DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

January 27, 2010

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Bill No. 2226, Relating to Senior Citizens

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Members:

I have several concerns on the Silver Alert bill being proposed. The first and main concern is that the bill states that the Silver Alert "shall be integrated with the pre-existing Maile Amber Alert program." The Maile Amber Alert program has strict guidelines on when it should be used. The guidelines are there to prevent the system from being over-used and the community becoming indifferent to the alerts.

The three goals of the alert system are: (1) Expeditiously locate and recover the endangered missing child and abductor before the child is seriously harmed; (2) Persuade the abductor to release the child; and (3) Deter potential abductions.

The guidelines to conduct an alert are also specific. The child must be 17 years of age or younger. There must be sufficient information to indicate that the child may have been abducted and may be in immediate danger of serious bodily injury or death. There must be sufficient descriptive information on the child, abductor, and/or the suspects vehicle to believe that an immediate broadcast alert will help to locate the child and possibly the abductor. This is one of the reasons why the alert signs were placed next to major thoroughfares. Our Maile Amber Alert system is also directed solely for children.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Human Services  
January 27, 2010  
Page 2

I am opposed to the Silver Alert bill being attached to the Maile Amber Alert system, and request the Maile Amber Alert system be kept autonomous. Other avenues should be considered for the Silver Alert Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



*fm:* GARY A. YABUTA  
Chief of Police



Sen HMS committee  
Thurs, Jan 28, 2010  
1:50 pm  
Room 16

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

January 26, 2010

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Senate Human Services Committee

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

RE: SB 2226 Relating to Senior Citizens

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate 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 Relating to Senior Citizens**.

Developing and implementing a silver alert program is an important protection for our senior citizens who become lost. Since it would be integrated with the existing Maile Amber Alert program it should be easy to operate.

It seems fitting for us to establish such a program for our seniors since we are all ohana in Hawai'i. We are aunties and uncles to our friends' children and all our neighbors' children. My grandma and grandpa are also grandparents to you. That's our island culture. Wouldn't it be nice to know that if our own mothers, fathers, or grandparents were lost, we would have a program like this to find them? Selfishly, I would like to know that when I become a senior citizen and become lost, there was a Silver Alert program to help find me.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**TO :** SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland. Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair

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

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

**HEARING:** 1:50 pm Thursday, January 28, 2010  
Conference Room 016, 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. 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. The program provides a means for families to seek help by enlisting law enforcement agencies in the effort to locate such persons.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Committee on Human Services  
S.B. 2226, Relating to Senior Citizens  
Testimony of Minjung Engle, a student of MSW, UH at Manoa.  
808- 422-2418  
Thursday, January 28, 2010  
1:50 pm, Conference Room 016

Good afternoon, Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, and Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

My name is Minjung Engle. I am Master's of Social Work student at University of Hawaii at Manoa and I am doing my practicum at Elderly Affairs Division. I am here to urge your support for S.B 2226, the Silver Alert Program. I am testifying in favor of this bill.

We are facing many terrifying stories of missing seniors, just as we experience suffering of missing children. The older population is increasing radically, especially old-old population (over 85 years old and older). While at my practicum at Elderly Affairs Division, I worked with seniors. Most seniors still keep healthy, but many seniors have some physical or cognitive difficulties such as dementia. Dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease, often resulted in missing seniors. According to the Alzheimer's Association, over 60 percent with dementia will wander and become lost at some point ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)). The Alzheimer's Association says that they may have serious injury or even die if they cannot be found within three days. We can prevent this from happening by early and fast intervention of searching for missing seniors, such as S.B 2226, Silver Alert Program.

Wandering and becoming lost is not only related to missing seniors, but also their families. Many families whose member is missing, suffer immense stress and fear. I don't have any personal experience about missing family members but always worry about the possibility of my mother becoming lost and never coming back home; or my grandparents wandering off and never coming back. Like me, many family members who have senior loved ones with dementia, also share emotional concerns and troubles.

I also relate missing seniors to my four years old daughter. My daughter's name is Abigail. Sometimes she runs away from me for fun. I keep telling her to stay with me, but sometimes she just runs and is out of my sight. Whenever I faced these moments, I was scared of losing my young daughter. Sometimes I have nightmares that my missing daughter did not return home. That is a horrible thought. Fortunately, Hawaii has the Maile Amber Alert Program but we don't have any safety system for missing seniors. So, I strongly support Senate Bill 2226, Silver Alert Program for missing seniors as well as all seniors and their families.

Thanks you for this opportunity for your time.