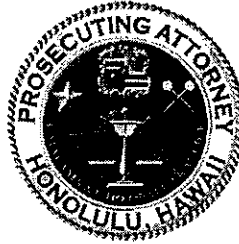


DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
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LATE  
TESTIMONY

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THE HONORABLE HENRY J.C. AQUINO, CHAIR  
SENATE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
Twenty-sixth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2011  
State of Hawai'i

Thursday, February 3, 2011

RE: H.B. 1614; RELATING TO A SILVER ALERT FOR MISSING SENIOR CITIZENS.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony in opposition to H.B. 1614.

While our department appreciates the intent of this measure, we are very concerned that intermingling the proposed Silver Alert with the Maile Alert/Amber Alert system would both unnecessarily confuse the public and bog down the Maile Alert Program, thus reducing its effectiveness. A Maile Alert typically involves a criminal investigation of an urgent nature involving a missing child. The proposed "Silver Alert", on the other hand, is typically a response to a senior citizen who has a medical or psychiatric problem, which seldom has any criminal investigation implications. Thus both the police response and anticipated public response to these alerts is quite different. To confuse these two laudable programs may likely create serious operational and public relations problems.

Therefore, noting the above cited reasons, we respectfully request that you hold H.B. 1614. Thank you for your time and consideration.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
from the  
Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities

LATE  
TESTIMONY

**Name:** Waynette Cabral

**Position Title:** Executive Administrator

**Organization:** Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Day, Date, and Time of Hearing:** Thursday, February 3, 2011, 8:30 am, Rm. 309

**Measure Number:** HB 1614 –RELATING TO A SILVER ALERT FOR MISSING  
SENIOR CITIZENS

**Name of Committee(s):** House Public Safety and Military Affairs (PBM) Committee

**Number of copies the Committee is requesting:** 1 copy to Committee Clerk

**Room Number:** 316

**E-mailed to:** [PBMtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:PBMtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 3, 2011

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
House Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Aquino and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: HB 1614 – RELATING TO A SILVER ALERT FOR MISSING SENIOR CITIZENS**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS HB 1614**. The purpose of the bill is to create and implement a silver alert program to be operated concurrently with the Maile Alert program.

Senior citizens may be very vulnerable when they become confused, disoriented, and wander from their surroundings due to Dementia, Alzheimer's, traumatic brain injury, etc. This situation could also involve persons with disabilities who may not remember their surroundings and wander off.

The Amber Alert system has demonstrated how effective it is to alert the public of a missing or exploited child and begin immediate action to find that child. We believe a statewide silver alert system would serve the senior citizen and disability population well and would provide a mechanism for the general public; State civil defense division; other State, County, and private agencies; and the media to take necessary steps that lead to the safe return of that person.

The Council appreciates the Legislature's actions to promote and establish a silver alert system for senior citizens. We strongly believe that a system like this would greatly benefit individuals with disabilities. **Therefore, the Council asks for your favorable consideration to include persons with disabilities in the statewide silver alert program.**

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino  
Page 2  
February 3, 2011

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1614.

Sincerely,



Liz Ann Salvador  
Chair



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator

**LATE**  
**TESTIMONY**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS  
HB 1614 – RELATING TO SILVER ALERT FOR MISSING  
SENIOR CITIZENS

8:30 AM – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011

TESTIMONY BY JANICE PECHAUER

This is an excellent bill! It provides an immediate response to families frantic to find their disoriented relatives, and it is apparently revenue neutral as it piggybacks on an already existing program, the Maile Alert.

Countless Hawaii families have experienced the problems of caring for a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease. One of their greatest fears is their loved one wandering away from home. We all can recall seeing families on television worried about their missing elderly family member and pleading for the public's help in finding them.

An island wide silver alert issued in the same manner as the Maile Alert will allow authorities to move quickly with their search efforts. Time is of the essence in these cases, because the disoriented person can wander into dangerous situations.

I have experience with caring for a person with Alzheimer's and know many others in similar circumstances. People with Alzheimer's are in many ways like young children. While being out and about, you turn your back for an instant and they are suddenly out of sight. Even at home, it is impossible to have them in one's vision every second of the day.

Please pass HB 1614. It will be a valuable service.