

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CIVIL DEFENSE DIVISION

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1983

PRESENTATION TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

BY

DOUG MAYNE
VICE DIRECTOR OF STATE CIVIL DEFENSE
February 7, 2014

Chair Carroll, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the House Committee on Human Services.

I am Doug Mayne and I am the Vice Director of State Civil Defense. I am testifying in **OPPOSITION** to HB 1983.

The measure would require the Department of Defense, Civil Defense Division to create a "Silver Alert" program for missing senior citizens, similar to the Maile Amber Alert program for missing children.

We are opposed to HB 1983 for a number of reasons, including:

Unlike children, whose parents can waive confidentiality, senior citizens have privacy rights that should be respected to the greatest extent possible. Senior citizens also have a right to travel on their own. The criteria for posting a Silver Alert as stated in the bill are too vague to justify an encroachment upon a senior's privacy rights without the senior's consent.

- Section 3, paragraph (3) of the bill requires the senior to have "an impaired mental condition." This is not defined and could be interpreted very broadly.
- The impaired mental condition must be documented by "the family, legal guardian, or physician of the missing senior citizen." The term "family" is not defined. Furthermore, a physician may not be able to disclose the senior citizen's medical information due to federal and state privacy laws.

This bill would force the Civil Defense Division to take on a task that is not within our core competency of providing and coordinating emergency management functions for the state.

State Civil Defense has no access, or process to access, the Maile Amber Alert systems in the counties, which are overseen by the respective Police Departments.

Finally, most of my personnel are funded with federal dollars. Since this is not a mission that supports the grant funding guidance for the use of those dollars, I will need an additional 100% state-funded position to carry out the requirements of this bill.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **OPPOSITION** to HB 1983.



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 11, 2014

The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Carroll and Members of the Committee:

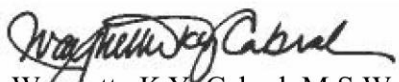
SUBJECT: HB 1983 – Relating to Safety

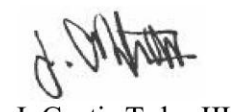
The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 1983**. The bill creates and implements a silver alert program to alert the public of any missing senior citizen with an impaired mental condition, to be operated concurrently with the Maile Amber Alert program.

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 into unfamiliar and potentially dangerous areas in the community that could jeopardize their safety and well-being. 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 missing 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. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **supporting the intent of HB 1983**.

Sincerely,


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator


J. Curtis Tyler III
Chair



5 February 2014

The Honorable Mele Carroll
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 405
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairwoman Carroll:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, I am pleased to extend our support for House Bill 1983, which would address the need for a prompt response system when a vulnerable adult has gone missing. The Association supports creating a system that provides for dissemination of relevant information about missing individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia to appropriate law enforcement personnel.

An estimated six out of ten people with Alzheimer's disease will wander from their homes or caregiving facilities at some point during the disease process. Most people with dementia who wander are found within 1.5 miles of home, and 50 percent of individuals who wander risk serious injury or death if not found within the first 24 hours. Environmental dangers pose serious threats to people with Alzheimer's who are particularly vulnerable to succumb to natural elements such as weather, and who may lose their ability to remember when to eat or drink. An immediate response with emphasis on local searching is imperative once an individual with dementia is reported missing.

The Alzheimer's Association supports a comprehensive approach to constructing a notification, or "silver alert", system that addresses the needs of persons with dementia and their families. This approach includes first responder dementia training and coordinating search efforts between families, caregivers and local authorities. The system should be interoperable with existing programs, such as the MedicAlert and Safe Return program, which is a nationwide identification, support and enrollment program providing assistance to adult wanders and their families.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue and applaud your leadership in spearheading this effort.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Chapman".

Randi Chapman
Director, State Affairs
Alzheimer's Association

Cc: The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi
Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Ms. Christine Payne
Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 8:13 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: geesey@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1983 on Feb 11, 2014 09:30AM

HB1983

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for HUS on Feb 11, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Committee Members; Please consider including advanced practice registered nurses as persons able to prove their patients have a disability for the purpose of the Silver Alert System. mahalo! Yvonne Geesey, JD Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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