



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 4, 2014

The Honorable Wil Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Espero and Members of the Committee:


SUBJECT: SB 2147 – Relating to Safety

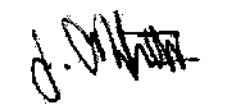
The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF SB 2147**. The bill creates and implements a silver alert program to alert the public of any missing senior citizen with an impaired mental condition, to be operated concurrently with the Maile Amber Alert program.

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 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 SB 2147**.

Sincerely,


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


J. Curtis Tyler III
Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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



KIRK W. CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. MCCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE

KH-NTK

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2147, Relating to Safety

I am Keith Horikawa, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department opposes Senate Bill No. 2147, Relating to Safety.

This bill proposes the implementation of the Silver Alert System, an alert notification system for missing senior citizens similar in scope, impact, and urgency to the Maile-Amber Alert System for missing or abducted minors. The current notification methods for missing persons are effective and sound, and we recommend against the creation of a separate alert system for seniors. Such a system would weaken the significance and importance of the Maile-Amber Alert System.

The Honolulu Police Department urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2147, Relating to Safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:


LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

Sincerely,


KEITH HORIKAWA, Captain
Criminal Investigation Division

Serving and Protecting With Aloha

LATE TESTIMONY

Concerning SB2147

I have recently heard of the bill to include seniors or those with impaired mental conditions in the Maile Amber alert. This would be a marvelous addition, and so helpful to those of us whose families are coping with Alzheimers and dementia. It is difficult to know when an impaired person decides to "take a walk" - and is unable to remember how to get home again. Right now there must be a family very worried that Father has left, needs medication, and can't find his way home. Many such patients are kept at home, lovingly helped by family members who are concerned when they must carry on their daily activities, yet need to always be aware of where their patient is. This problem of care for Alzheimers patients is growing as the number of seniors who develop this malady increases, and is expected to increase even more in the near future. The percentage of "wanderers" with Alzheimers is pegged at 85% in a recent article I read. The addition of a silver alert program here in our state would be very helpful to all of us.

Reta Reed Maag
Christa Freeze

LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

GARY L. GILL
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



WESLEY LUM, PH.D., MPH
DIRECTOR

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

SB2147, RELATING TO SAFETY

**Testimony of Wes Lum
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health**

Tuesday, February 4, 2014; Conference Room 224

3:45 p.m.

EOA's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the intent of this measure.

Purpose and Justification: This bill develops and implements a statewide silver alert program to help alert the public of a missing senior citizen with an impaired mental condition, in the appropriate county.

There are 5.2 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease. The incidence of Alzheimer's disease increases with age, and symptoms often do not appear until after age 60. Today, as many as 6 out of 10 individuals with Alzheimer's disease will wander off by themselves. A silver alert program would help address this growing population, and help provide families a way to locate lost or missing seniors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.