

alzheimer's association®

ALOHA CHAPTER

1130 N. Nimitz Highway Suite A-265, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone: 808.591.2771 Fax: 808.591.9071 www.alz.org/hawaii

To: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: March 30, 2018

RE: HB 1916 HD 2 SD1– RELATED TO HEALTH
Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, we **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB 1916 HD2 SD1 that requires the Executive Office on Aging to implement and update the State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias with a necessary appropriation to do such.

Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias has become an urgent public health issue in America and Hawaii.

- The burden is large as there are approximately 5.5 million people in America, or 1 in 10 Americans aged 65 and older; with about 28,000 in Hawaii living with the disease. By 2025 the burden grows larger as it is projected that 35,000 Hawaii residents will have the disease.
- There is a major impact on the community as there are approximately 66,000 unpaid family caregivers of the disease in Hawaii. These caregivers provide an estimated 20 hours per week of care and 75 million hours per year. The Medicaid costs for caring for Hawaii residents in 2017 is estimated at \$196 million.
- In Hawaii, the Medicaid costs to care for people with Alzheimer's are expected to amount to \$207 million in 2018. This cost is expected to grow by 35.4% percent over the next seven years (by 2025).
- It is the sixth leading cause of death in the nation. 1 in 3 Hawaii kupuna will die from the disease. The number of people affected will continue to rise as the baby boomers grow older.
- Intervention is possible, but largely has not happened. The issues were identified in the Hawaii Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias State Plan released by the Department of Health in 2014.

Unfortunately, the State Plan has been sitting on the shelf for four years. The next step is to implement the Plan by translating the recommendations into actual policies and see that it is carried out. Hawaii will need to enact legislation and develop regulations to improve dementia capability. The last step focuses on executing the programs and enforcement of policies outlined in the State Plan and mandated through legislative and regulatory change.

We urge you to pass this bill. Doing so will allow the Executive Office on Aging to enact legislation, develop regulations, and execute programs. The alternative is to do nothing and wait to the absolute last minute when the sheer number of people with dementia and Alzheimer's overwhelms Hawaii.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Payne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Payne
Executive Director
Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter

HB-1916-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 10:29:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lawrence M.G. Enomoto	Testifying for Aloha Chapter, Alzheimer's Association	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly urge the Ways and Means Committee to adopt this measure as amended.

Mahalo nui loa!

HB-1916-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:17:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii ("DPH"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1916 HD2 SD1** relating to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias; State Plan Updates; Executive Office on Aging; and an appropriation.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in support of **HB1916 HD2 SD1** and is in favor of its passage.

HB1916 HD2 SD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the executive office on aging to biennially update the state plan on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, include an implementation work plan for each goal in the state plan, and include information on progress made toward the goals of the state plan on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in its annual report to the legislature; and appropriates funds.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e support the establishment of adequate mental health and statewide drug rehabilitation programs set up in conjunction with policing policies aimed at enabling all that seek assistance to obtain whatever support assistance is needed to allow them to remain free of drug dependence." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 382-384 (2016)).

As **HB1916 HD2 SD1** requires the executive office on aging to biennially update the state plan on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, include an implementation work plan for each goal in the state plan, and include information on progress made toward the goals of the state plan on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in its

annual report to the legislature; and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-1916-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 1:01:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynda Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Alzheimer's Advocates and Friends,

Mahalo for contacting the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CPH) to request that they pass HB 1916 HD2! The Committee on CPH passed it with amendments and it is now scheduled to be heard by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

We still have a long way to go to get HB 1916 passed and we need your help! Please share your support for HB 1916 with our legislative leaders!

Please support Alzheimer's and submit testimony for **HB1916 HD 2 SD1 by 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018.**

Description of the bill:

HB1916 HD 2 SD1 requires the Executive Office on Aging to implement and update the State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease. Furthermore, it includes a small funding allocation to provide the Executive Office on Aging with resources to do such.

Why is this important?

The State Plan was released by the Department of Health in 2014 and has essentially been on the back burner for years. This measure offers a next step in terms of implementing the recommendations identified by a Task Force of more than 40 stakeholders, and carrying out actions that would make Hawaii more dementia capable. The measure would allow EOA to enact legislation, develop regulations and execute much needed programs. Despite the array of dementia services available in the community, there are still numerous gaps in services. Many of these gaps and resolutions have already been identified in the State Plan. Implementation of the plan and the activities to fill those gaps in services require coordination and resources.

To submit written testimony:

1. If this is your first time submitting testimony, you'll need to set up and register an account with the Hawaii State Legislature: [REGISTER HERE](#). If you've already set up an account, you'll just need to sign in to your account: [SIGN IN HERE](#).

2. Submit your testimony

- Once registered or you've signed into your account, click on "Submit Testimony"
- Enter **HB1916** in the "Enter Bill or Measure" searchbox on the left
- Select your position and whether you will be testifying in person
- Use the suggested template below for guidance (copying and pasting is perfectly fine)

HB1916 HD2 SD 1 SUGGESTED TEMPLATE:

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
[415 S. Beretania St.](#)
[Honolulu, HI 96813](#)

RE: HB 1916 HD 2 SD 1– RELATING TO HEALTH

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1916 HD2 SD1. I am pleased to testify in full support for HB1916 HD2 SD1, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to implement and update the State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias with a necessary appropriation to do such.

{Insert your personal story or connection to Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. It doesn't need to be long... just a few sentences will suffice}

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and is now the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Here in Hawaii, more than 28,000 individuals live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and 1 in 3 kupuna will die from the disease. In addition to such, there are over 66,000 unpaid family caregivers within our state. And the numbers will grow exponentially as our population ages.

We must intervene before it's too late. The State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease was released by the Department of Health in 2014 and has essentially been sitting on the back burner. Despite the array of dementia services available in the community, there are still numerous gaps in services. Many of these gaps and resolutions have already been identified in the ADRD State Plan. Implementation of the plan and the activities to fill those gaps in services require coordination and resources. HB1916 offers a next step in terms of implementing the recommendations identified by more than 40 key stakeholders and carrying out actions that would make Hawaii more dementia capable. The act would allow EOA to enact legislation, develop regulations and execute much-needed programs.

We strongly urge you to pass this bill. Although we currently have many worthy and important issues to address in the state, we can not continue to neglect the needs of families affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The current number of individuals affected will only continue to rise as the baby

boomers continue to age. The increase in individuals affected will continue to take a toll on the family and on our community as we are left to pay hefty costs for the care of individuals with dementia.

Thank you,

Lynda Barry

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
[415 S. Beretania St.](#)
[Honolulu, HI 96813](#)

RE: HB 1916 HD 2 SD 1– RELATING TO HEALTH

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1916 HD2 SD1. I am in full support of this measure, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to update the State Plan on Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias with a necessary appropriation for its implementation and update.

My grandmother struggled with vascular dementia, and my family and I cared for her at home for 11 years prior to her passing. My husband’s grandmother was later diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, and as a family we watched the disease progress relentlessly.

As you may be aware, more than 28,000 individuals live with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia here in Hawaii, and 1 in 3 kupuna will die from the disease. In addition to such, there are over 66,000 unpaid family caregivers – like my mom, my mother-in-law, and myself – within our state who are on the verge of burning out and falling ill themselves.

We must intervene before it's too late. The State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease was released by the Department of Health in 2014 and has essentially been sitting on the back burner. Despite the array of dementia services available in the community, there are still numerous gaps in services. Many of these gaps and resolutions have already been identified in the ADRD State Plan. Implementation of the plan and the activities to fill those gaps in services require coordination and resources. HB1916 HD 2 SD 1 offers a next step in terms of implementing the recommendations identified by more than 40 key stakeholders and carrying out actions that would make Hawaii more dementia capable. The act would allow EOA to enact legislation, develop regulations and execute much-needed programs.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill to help ease the burden placed on individuals and families in our community who are grappling with the complexities of this devastating disease.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this critically important matter.

Respectfully,

Ivy Castellanos

HB-1916-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 6:18:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Hokama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
[415 S. Beretania St.](#)
[Honolulu, HI 96813](#)

RE: HB 1916 HD 2 SD 1– RELATING TO HEALTH

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1916 HD2 SD1. I am pleased to testify in full support for HB1916 HD2 SD1, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to implement and update the State Plan on Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias with a necessary appropriation to do such.

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers in Hawaii need help. Hawaii dementia/Alzheimer's patients are often unable to speak up for themselves. Their caregivers are generally trying to battle the endless avalanche of caregiving (in addition to normal family and work issues), so they are also often not able to speak up. Local cultures in Hawaii are often inclined to keep talk of illnesses like these "in the family" and are in need of outreach...they may not even know what resources are already available to them! And of course, we have all heard of the impending "Silver Tsunami" for Hawaii.. these issues are only going to increase. **HB 1916** can help get Hawaii started.

Why I personally am advocating for this bill:

Alzheimer's affects not just one patient, but whole families, generations. My father and all of his siblings were afflicted with Alzheimer's or dementia. He was forced to retire early due to the disease, and has now passed away. My maternal grandmother currently has dementia and is being cared for by my mom. My mother had to retire early to take care of both my dad and her mom...she has

been the primary caregiver for my dad and/or my grandmother since around 1989. That's like a 29 year jail sentence, of dedicated caregiving.

I want it to be easier for me and my family if/when I get Alzheimer's. I know there will come a time that I will have to take care of my mom, and I anticipate I will also have dementia, because of its prevalence in my family. This bill is just an early step in a long road to making Hawaii ready for when these things happen.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and is now the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Here in Hawaii, more than 28,000 individuals live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and 1 in 3 kupuna will die from the disease. In addition to such, there are over 66,000 unpaid family caregivers within our state. And the numbers will grow exponentially as our population ages.

We must intervene before it's too late. The State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease was released by the Department of Health in 2014 and has essentially been sitting on the back burner. Despite the array of dementia services available in the community, there are still numerous gaps in services. Many of these gaps and resolutions have already been identified in the ADRD State Plan. Implementation of the plan and the activities to fill those gaps in services require coordination and resources. HB1916 offers a next step in terms of implementing the recommendations identified by more than 40 key stakeholders and carrying out actions that would make Hawaii more dementia capable. The act would allow EOA to enact legislation, develop regulations and execute much-needed programs.

We strongly urge you to pass this bill. Although we currently have many worthy and important issues to address in the state, we can not continue to neglect the needs of families affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The current number of individuals affected will only continue to rise as the baby boomers continue to age. The increase in individuals affected will continue to take a toll on the family and on our community as we are left to pay hefty costs for the care of individuals with dementia.

Thank you,

Naomi Hokama

HB-1916-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 10:29:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Aotaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Re: HB 1916 HD 2 SD 1

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1916 HD2 SD1. I am pleased to testify in full support for HB1916 HD2 SD1, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to implement and update the State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias with a necessary appropriation to do such.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and is now the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Here in Hawaii, more than 28,000 individuals live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and 1 in 3 kupuna will die from the disease. In addition, there are over 66,000 unpaid family caregivers within our state. And the numbers will continue to increase as our population ages.

We must intervene before it is too late. The State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease was released by the Department of Health in 2014 and has essentially been ignored. Despite the array of dementia services available in the community, there are still numerous gaps in services. Many of these gaps and resolutions have already been identified in the ADRD State Plan. Implementation of the plan and the activities to fill those gaps in services require coordination and resources. HB1916 offers a next step in terms of implementing the recommendations identified by more than 40 key stakeholders and carrying out actions that would make Hawaii more dementia capable. The act would allow EOA to enact legislation, develop regulations and execute much-needed programs.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill. Although we currently have many worthy and important issues to address in the state, we cannot continue to neglect the needs of families affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The current number of individuals affected will only continue to rise as the baby boomers continue to age. The increase in individuals affected will continue to take a toll on the family and on our community as we are left to pay enormous costs for the care of individuals with dementia.

Mahalo,

Elaine Aotaki

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 4, 2018 at 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

RE: HB1916 H.D. 2, S.D. 1 - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias; State Plan Updates;
Executive Office on Aging; Appropriation

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1916, H.D. 2, S.D.1. My name is Lyn Moku. I am testifying as a family caregiver and an advocate for our Kupuna and family caregivers.

The Hawaii 2025: State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias dated December 2013 was the result of a group of community stakeholders collaborating since 2011 to identify challenges and barriers and seek solutions for the ever-increasing threat of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Hawaii. The Hawaii Executive Office on Aging provided staff support and coordination and was committed to continue to prioritize the implementation of Hawaii's first plan. The plan was released by the Executive Office on Aging and endorsed by Governor Abercrombie and former Executive of Aging director Wesley Lum. It is a good plan, but it needs to be implemented and progress reported.

In addition to appropriating funds to update the State Plan, HB1916, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 directs the Executive Office on aging to prepare an update of the State Plan on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias no less frequently than once per fiscal biennium, rather than every year – and to report progress made toward the goals of the State Plan in its existing annual report to the Legislature. By easing the burden on the Executive Office on Aging to prepare annual reports, more effort can be expended to reach the goals of the Plan. The progress made will ultimately ease the burden on people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, families, caregivers, and our society.

It is important, as stated in this bill, that the Executive Office on Aging solicit input from task forces and working groups formed to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and members of the medical community. This collaboration and inclusion of all stakeholders is critical to the success and sustainability of the State Plan.

As a caregiver and legal guardian for my mother who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease I know how devastating dementia and Alzheimer's disease can be for the person, their families and friends, and for family and professional caregivers. The financial, emotional, mental and physical cost to care for someone with this disease is more than most of us can afford. There are not enough services to meet the needs of our growing aging population. Awareness, education and training programs needed to be expanded. We need to work together now to address the health and financial issues that are already affecting each one of us – and the State of Hawaii.

The Executive Office on Aging is the designated lead agency in the coordination of a statewide system of aging and caregiver support services in the State of Hawaii, as authorized by federal and state laws. We need the support of the Executive Office on Aging, the State Legislature and the Governor to address the growing needs of people throughout the state affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Please support H.B. 1916, H.D.2, S.D.1. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyn Moku
1941 Church Lane, #404 - Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

To: Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: April 4, 2018, 10:30 am

RE: HB 1916 HD2, SD1 – ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS;
STATE PLAN UPDATE; APPROPRIATION
Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

My testimony is in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 1916 HD2 SD1 that requires the Executive Office on Aging to update the State Plan on Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias with a necessary appropriation for its implementation and update.

My family has personally experienced the devastating impact of Alzheimer’s Disease. My late father passed away from the disease. Caregiving at home involved myself, my mother, my wife, my son, and my daughter. It takes a team to provide 24/7 care for a loved one.

We are just one family. With similar, but uniquely different situations are the 28,000 Hawaii residents living with Alzheimer’s Disease and 66,000 unpaid family caregivers helping their loved ones with the Disease. This makes almost 100,000 Hawaii residents impacted by the Disease right now, that are largely dealing with the Disease on their own.

The State recognized in 2013 the public health crisis of Alzheimer’s Disease. A State Plan on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias was developed. Unfortunately the Plan has NOT been implemented and is sitting on the shelf. The rationale for doing nothing was a lack of funds to dedicate resources for its implementation.

It is imperative that the recommendations of the Plan be turned into actual policies that are carried out. Hawaii will need to enact legislation and develop regulations to improve dementia capability. The last step focuses on executing the programs and enforcement of policies outlined in the State Plan and mandated through legislative and regulatory change.

I urge you to pass this bill. Doing so will allow the Executive Office on Aging to enact legislation, develop regulations, and execute programs. The alternative is to do nothing and wait to the absolute last minute when the sheer number of people with dementia and Alzheimer’s overwhelms Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Steve Tam

HB-1916-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:27:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
[415 S. Beretania St](#), Conference
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1916 HD 2 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1916 HD2. I am pleased to testify in full support for HB1916 HD2, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to implement and update the State Plan on Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias with a necessary appropriation to do such.

My father suffered a lengthy 10+ year decline into the hell of dementia and was sometimes violent with his caregiving wife. He was eventually placed in a skilled nursing center at great cost to her, and passed away in October of 2016. I support this bill to make Hawaii more capable of supporting dementia care.

Alzheimer’s disease is a growing epidemic and is now the nation’s sixth leading cause of death. Here in Hawaii, more than 28,000 individuals live with Alzheimer’s disease or a related dementia and 1 in 3 kupuna will die from the disease. In addition to such, there are over 66,000 unpaid family caregivers within our state. And the numbers will grow exponentially as our population ages.

We must intervene before it's too late. The State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease was released by the Department of Health in 2014 and has essentially been sitting on the back burner. Despite the array of dementia services available in the community, there are still numerous gaps in services. Many of these gaps and resolutions have already been identified in the ADRD State Plan. Implementation of the plan and the activities to fill those gaps in services require coordination and resources. HB1916 offers a next step in terms of implementing the recommendations identified by more than 40 key stakeholders and carrying out actions that would make Hawaii more dementia capable.

The act would allow EOA to enact legislation, develop regulations and execute much-needed programs.

We strongly urge you to pass this bill. Although we currently have many worthy and important issues to address in the state, we can not continue to neglect the needs of families affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The current number of individuals affected will only continue to rise as the baby boomers continue to age. The increase in individuals affected will continue to take a toll on the family and on our community as we are left to pay hefty costs for the care of individuals with dementia.

Thank you,

Nancy Rose

HB-1916-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:25:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wyatt Lotz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1916 HD2 SD1. I am pleased to testify in full support for HB1916 HD2 SD1, which requires the Executive Office on Aging to implement and update the State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias with a necessary appropriation to do such.

Alzheimer's touches everyone help the care givers and the victims like my mother by passing this bill.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and is now the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Here in Hawaii, more than 28,000 individuals live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and 1 in 3 kupuna will die from the disease. In addition to such, there are over 66,000 unpaid family caregivers within our state. And the numbers will grow exponentially as our population ages.

We must intervene before it's too late. The State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease was released by the Department of Health in 2014 and has essentially been sitting on the back burner. Despite the array of dementia services available in the community, there are still numerous gaps in services. Many of these gaps and resolutions have already been identified in the ADRD State Plan. Implementation of the plan and the activities to fill those gaps in services require coordination and resources. HB1916 offers a next step in terms of implementing the recommendations identified by more than 40 key stakeholders and carrying out actions that would make Hawaii more dementia capable. The act would allow EOA to enact legislation, develop regulations and execute much-needed programs.

We strongly urge you to pass this bill. Although we currently have many worthy and important issues to address in the state, we can not continue to neglect the needs of families affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The current number of individuals affected will only continue to rise as the baby boomers continue to age. The increase in individuals affected will continue to take a toll on the family and on our community as we are left to pay hefty costs for the care of individuals with dementia.

Thank you,

Wyatt Lotz