



Manoa Cottage



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*Kaimuki*

**LATE**

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April 3, 2018

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.

At Manoa Cottage Kaimuki, we specialize in the care of residents with Alzheimer's and other dementias. I see that there is an immediate need for proactive action by the Executive Office of Aging is necessary to help the citizens with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias.

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 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 hefty costs for the care of individuals with dementia.

Thank you,

Thank you,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Calvin M. Hara", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Calvin M. Hara  
Executive Director and Administrator