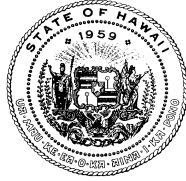


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CAROLINE CADIRAO  
PSM MANAGER

BRUCE ANDERSON  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR0097, SD1  
DESIGNATING NOVEMBER AS ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH  
IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE BERTRAND KOBAYASHI, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
PSM Manager, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: April 11, 2019  
9:15 am

Room Number: 329

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department  
2 of Health, supports SCR0097. Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the  
3 United States and it affects about 27,000 residents in Hawaii, a number that will increase by  
4 more than 40% by the year 2025. While there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease and other forms  
5 of dementia, increased public awareness and an early and accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's  
6 disease and other forms of dementia may reduce the cost of care for persons living with  
7 Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

8 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

9 **Recommendation:** We strongly support advancing this measure.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

11

**SCR-97-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 12:38:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 4/11/2019 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
GARY SIMON	Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health:

I am Gary Simon, Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA.

My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA.

***PABEA wholeheartedly supports SCR 97 SD 1.***

PABEA applauds the Legislature for encouraging the residents of our State to learn more about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

We also applaud the Legislature for recognizing the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter for its tireless efforts and work in providing support, education, training, and resources to those touched by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

We urge you to support SCR 97 SD 1 and to recommend its passage.

We thank you for seriously considering the measure.

Very sincerely,

Gary Simon

Chair, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

# 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

April 11, 2019

**LATE**

Honorable Representative John Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329, 9:15 A.M.  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

### **RE: SCR 97 SD1**

Dear Chair John Mizuno, Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, I am pleased to extend **support** for Senate Concurrent Resolution 97 Senate Draft 1, with amendments. This measure recognizes several crucial statistics, encourages the public to learn more, and designates November as Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness Month.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing epidemic and is now the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Here in Hawaii, more than 29,000 individuals live with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Despite the belief of many, Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Modest memory deficits may occur with age, but memory loss that disrupts daily life is not a typical part of aging, and is often attributable to Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. The lack of awareness and understanding of the disease often results in minimal to no reporting of memory issues to one's physician, and often leads to a failure to obtain an early and appropriate diagnosis. Furthermore, Alzheimer's and dementia are still heavily stigmatized and not well understood. Early detection and diagnosis are essential to providing the best medical care and outcomes for those at any stage of this chronic disease. Even without a way to cure or slow the progression of dementia, an early formal diagnosis offers the best opportunities for intervention and better outcomes.

Additionally, we humbly recommend that this measure be amended for the purposes of updating statistics, recognizing the importance of early screening, inserting language designating June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, and removing language designating November as Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness Month. Specifically:

On page 1 line 14, amending 5.7 to 5.8;

On page 1 line 25, amending 27,000 to 29,000;

On page 1 line 27, amending 40 percent to 20.7 percent;

On page 1 line 32, amending \$341,840 to \$350,174;

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## ALOHA CHAPTER

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On page 2 line 1-2, amending \$277 billion to \$290 billion;

Inserting the following language: WHEREAS, families and friends need to communicate with their loved ones as soon as they notice memory issues or cognitive problems and help put the individual and family on a path for managing disease-related challenges; and WHEREAS, early diagnosis of Alzheimer's offers important benefits for individuals and their families, allowing the person with the disease to play an active role in planning for the future; and;

Additionally, inserting the following language: BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of Representatives concurring, that the month of June is declared "Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month" to encourage residents to learn more about Alzheimer's disease and related ailments and to acknowledge and thank the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter for providing access to resources and support to communities across Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that designating June as "Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month" will place individuals and their families on a path to managing disease-related challenges and encourage them to contact the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter to access resources and receive support for planning for the future and living well with Alzheimer's disease; and; and

~~Removing the following language: [WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan designated November as Alzheimer's Awareness Month nationally in 1983; and]~~

~~Additionally, removing the following language: [BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of Representatives concurring, that the month of November is designated as Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness Month to encourage residents to learn more about Alzheimer's disease and related ailments and acknowledge and thank the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter for providing access to resources and support to communities across Hawaii; and]~~

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **support** of this resolution and applaud your leadership in bringing it forward.

Ian Ross  
Public Policy and Advocacy Manager  
[iaross@alz.org](mailto:iaross@alz.org) | Phone: (808) 591-2771 x1333