



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2563**  
**RELATING TO DEMENTIA TRAINING.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SENATOR RUSSEL E. RUDERMAN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 5, 2020

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** \$90,000 appropriation is recommended for 1.0 FTE and operational funds.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) acknowledges the human and  
3 financial cost of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) which has been well  
4 established by the “Hawaii 2025: State Plan on Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias”  
5 published in 2015 by the Executive Office on Aging. Clearly, a more coordinated and robust  
6 response is necessary to assure individuals with these conditions and their families can live well  
7 in their communities and be served by Hawaii’s institutions.

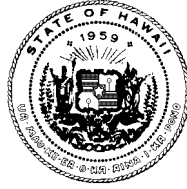
8 However, the benefits of Section 2 of SB2563 are highly unlikely to be realized because of the  
9 lack of an appropriation. The department has no programmatic and professional expertise in  
10 ADRD, and no general funds, special funds, or federal funds support routine or even intermittent  
11 operations. A less costly approach may to be require attestation by employers of first responders  
12 of ADRD training.

13 The department strongly recommends community training strategies such as the one proposed by  
14 SB2563 be vetted through the statewide planning process so that needs can be prioritized for  
15 Legislative support.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

17

DAVID Y. IGE  
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February 5, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2563 – RELATING TO DEMENTIA TRAINING**

Hearing: February 5, 2020, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill, offers comments, and defers to the Department of Health.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to require the departments of health and human services to develop and provide dementia training to first responders and investigators from DHS's adult protective services program.

Staff of the DHS Adult Protective Services Branch regularly attend trainings on a variety of subject matters impacting vulnerable adults in the community. In 2019, the entire staff of the branch attended an Alzheimer's training conducted by Dr. Poki'i Balaz.

While DHS appreciates the Legislature's recognition of the needs of the aging community and the importance of training for first responders and Adult Protective Services workers, we do not believe it is necessary for DHS to duplicate available training content where community or other public agencies already have the requisite subject matter expertise and capacity to train. DHS staff from all divisions would certainly join any training developed and

conducted by other government or private organizations. Any available resources should be directed to the agency or program that is currently providing this training.

Importantly, as to the resource needs of the DHS Adult Protective Service Branch, we ask the Legislature to support the department's budget request for a nurse for West Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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THE SENATE  
Committee on Human Services  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

To: Senator Russell Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Re: S.B. 2563 Relating to Dementia Training

Dear Chair Russell Ruderman, Chair Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over, with nearly 145,000 members in Hawai'i. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawai'i families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

S.B. 2563 requires the Departments of Health (DOH) and Human Services (DHS) to develop and provide dementia training to the first responders, and investigators from DHS's adult protective services program.

AARP strongly supports S.B. 2563.

Dementia is one of the costliest chronic diseases in the nation. The total societal cost for dementia care was estimated at \$290 billion in 2018 and projected to increase to \$1.1 trillion by 2050. In 2019, there were 29,000 Hawaii residents 65 years and older, who were diagnosed with Alzheimer's and related dementia. The Alzheimer's Association projected that this figure would increase to 35,000 people by year 2025. These estimates do not reflect people who are undiagnosed, or those with early onset who are under age 65.

Most people prefer to receive care and services in their homes or the community, however many families are not equipped to meet the needs of individuals with dementia. The physical and emotional toll of caregiving is enormous, and places people with dementia at risk for abuse and neglect due to caregiving burnout and stress. This bill will help develop and train the first responders (e.g. firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and police officers) and DHS adult protective services investigators to recognize the key signs of Alzheimer's and related dementia, appropriately interact with persons living with dementia, and how to best intervene in situations where these individuals may be at risk of abuse and neglect.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2563.

AARP  
Real Possibilities

**ALOHA CHAPTER**

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February 5th, 2020

Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016, 2:45 P.M.  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SB2563 RELATING TO DEMENTIA TRAINING.**

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committees:

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, I am writing to extend our **support** for Senate Bill 2563. This measure requires the Departments of Health and Human Services to develop and provide dementia training to first responders and investigators from DHS's adult Protective Services program.

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis all across the country, including in Hawaii. People who have the disease are impacted, along with their loved ones and the entire healthcare system. By 2025, the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to 35,000. In the past, the Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter has assisted with training on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias for first responders. We remain eager to assist wherever we can. Our position is that it is time for the state to take the step of mandating training requirements so that we can better protect our state's kupuna.

Adult Protective Services workers and first responders will often encounter individuals with dementia in a variety of settings. A person with dementia may not remember his or her name or address—and can become disoriented, even in familiar places. This is a frequent problem; six in 10 people with dementia will wander. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility—all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. As the disease progresses and individuals with dementia forget family members and societal norms, there may be cases of false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, and shoplifting.

First responders may also interact with people with dementia while searching for a lost individual, stopping drivers who exhibit unsafe driving, rescuing people with dementia from abuse, and intervening in crisis or disaster situations. Individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias can also be the victims of elder abuse but, they may be unaware they are victims and may not know how to—or be able to—report it. Complicating the situation, people with Alzheimer's may also present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Dementia training for first



## ALOHA CHAPTER

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responders and Adult Protective Services workers can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

Hawaii would not be alone in requiring this type of training. As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel, and 6 states required training for APS workers.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of this legislation.

Ian Ross  
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