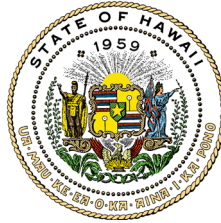


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



CAROLINE CADIRAO
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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1283 HD1
Relating to Health**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TY CULLEN, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: March 2, 2021
11:00 a.m.

Room Number: 308
Via Videoconference

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the Department
2 of Health (DOH), provides comments on House Bill 1283 HD1, Relating to Health. This
3 measure requires EOA to develop, provide, and set standards for dementia training to first
4 responders.

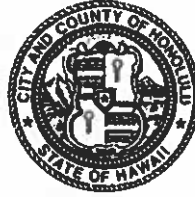
5 **Fiscal Implications:** While EOA agrees that first responders can benefit from training and
6 awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia, developing, coordinating, and monitoring these
7 standards would require additional staffing and funding. EOA does not have the long-term
8 funding or the staffing capacity for such training. In addition, EOA has not been able to establish
9 and hire an Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Coordinator. While EOA is currently able to
10 provide dementia training through federal grants, these grants are time limited and not
11 sustainable without continued state funding.

12 **Purpose and Justification:** The State does not employ first responders, nor does it administer
13 their training. The Counties are the employers for first responders and have the infrastructure to

- 1 manage and direct their trainings. EOA is fully committed to collaborating with other
- 2 government and nonprofit agencies to ensure that dementia trainings align with the ADRD State
- 3 Plan but would prefer it not to be mandated in statute.
- 4 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET www.honoluluupd.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE **ML-SK**

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 1283, H.D. 1, Relating to Health

I am Mike Lambert, Major of the Training Division, of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes the passage of House Bill No. 1283, H.D. 1. This bill would require specialty training by law and allow the Executive Office on Aging to set the standard and frequency of the training. The HPD feels that each agency should set the standard and frequency of training based on their ability to successfully train their staff so that it does not interfere with the other duties and services they provide to the community.

The HPD currently includes a module of instruction to acknowledge and recognize the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and dementia through its Mental Health First Aid and Crisis Intervention Team certification.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 1283, H.D. 1, Relating to Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Ballard", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Ballard
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Lambert", written in a cursive style.

Mike Lambert, Major
Training Division



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

**The State Legislature
Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
11:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
RE: H.B. 1283, HD 1 Relating to Health

Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

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 Hawai'i supports H.B. 1283, HD 1 which requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. It permits the executive office on aging to set the standards, frequency and coordination of dementia training.

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 20215. These estimates do not reflect people who 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, which places them at risk to wander away and not remember who they are and their home address. They may become disoriented, show signs of anxiety or fear, become hostile and aggressive, and have difficulty communicating with others who are trying to help them This bill will help develop and train the first responders (e.g. firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and police officers) 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 lost, or disoriented and need assistance to return home safely.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1283, HD1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Lopez".

Keali'i Lopez, AARP Hawai'i
State Director

alzheimer's association®

HAWAII

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

March 2, 2021

Honorable Sylvia Luke
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308, 11:00 AM
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB1283 HD1 RELATING TO DEMENTIA TRAINING.

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty J.K. Cullen, and members of the Committee:

The Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii extends our **strong support** for House Bill 1283 SD1. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responder.

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. It is our position is that it is time to for the state to take the step of mandating training requirements to make Hawaii more dementia capable so that we can better protect our state's kupuna.

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 ten 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 responders will help these professionals effectively respond 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, ten states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders. It is also easier than ever to adopt these training standards. Dementia training for first responders and the

alzheimer's association®

HAWAII

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

accompanying certification can be received online for no cost to first responders or their employers.

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

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

LATE

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke and members of the Committee:
I am writing in support of House Bill 1283.

Oftentimes first responders are the first to interact with someone with Alzheimer's disease is confused and wandering. At some time, an estimated six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address and may become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, and hostility all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. People with Alzheimer's may become as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Education of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia.

^[L]_[SEP]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 not know how to work with people in these situations—leading to more confusion.

^[L]_[SEP]It is time for Hawaii to take steps to ensure that first responders are dementia capable. This can be accomplished by requiring the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responder. This training will make the lives of people living with dementia safer, give first responders the tools needed to be more effective, and give increased peace of mind for caregiver families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo nui loa,
Lawrence M.G. Enomoto

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:41:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LJ Duenas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Ty Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1283. This measure requires employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. 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. Six in ten people with dementia will wander at some point. 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. Dementia training for first responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

As of 2015, 10 states have taken the step of passing laws requiring dementia training for first responders/law enforcement personnel. Now is the time for the state to take the step of mandating dementia training standards so that we can better protect our state's kupuna. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Mahalo for your time,

LJ Duenas

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:09:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Humberto Blanco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1283.

Oftentimes first responders are the first to interact with someone with Alzheimer’s disease is confused and wandering. At some time, an estimated six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer’s may not remember his or her name or address and may become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. People with Alzheimer’s may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Education of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia.

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 not know how to work with people in these situations—leading to more confusion.

It is time for Hawaii to take steps to ensure that first responders are dementia capable. This can best be accomplished by requiring the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responder. This training will make the lives of people living with dementia safer, give first responders the tools needed to be more effective, and give increased peace of mind for caregivers and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

LATE

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:23:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxann Rowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1283.

Oftentimes first responders are the first to interact with someone with Alzheimer's disease is confused and wandering. At some time, an estimated six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address and may become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. People with Alzheimer's may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Education of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia.

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 not know how to work with people in these situations—leading to more confusion.

I am a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner (GNP) and have many patients with dementia as a diagnosis. Sometimes despite our caregivers best care, people with dementia can get away unsupervised which causes stress for the patient and the caregivers.

It is time for Hawaii to take steps to ensure that first responders are dementia capable. This can best be accomplished by requiring the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responder. This training will make the lives of people living with dementia safer, give first responders the tools needed to be more effective, and give increased peace of mind for caregivers and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Roxann Rowe, APRN, GNP

LATE

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:24:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicolas K. Los Banos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1283.

Oftentimes first responders are the first to interact with someone with Alzheimer's disease is confused and wandering. At some time, an estimated six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address and may become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. People with Alzheimer's may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Education of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia.

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 not know how to work with people in these situations—leading to more confusion.

Working with the aging population for over ten years, as well as being a caregiver for my 96-year-old grandmother who is living with dementia, I have come to understand the immense energy and spirit given by caregivers each and every day. Your support of HB1283 will help develop State-wide efforts to strengthen the supports and services available to address the needs and challenges that families like mine face every single day. The increasing number of kupuna in Hawai'i highlights the need for your support of HB1283, which is crucial to ensuring that caregivers have as much support as possible to maintain their capacity to care for and honor their loved ones.

It is time for Hawaii to take steps to ensure that first responders are dementia capable. This can best be accomplished by requiring the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responder. This training will make the lives of people living with dementia safer, give first responders the tools needed to be more effective, and give increased peace of mind for caregivers and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Nicolas K. Los Baños

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:46:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tonya Tullis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of *HB 1283 / SB1389*. This measure requires the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responders. First responders training in dementia is critical to understanding the best approach in dealing with the often-ambiguous situations involving those with Alzheimer's and Dementia. Requiring this standard will enable first responders with the readiness circumstances involving a person with dementia or Alzheimer's.

Thank you for you time,

Tonya Tullis

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:58:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ivy Castellanos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sylvia Luke and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1283.

Increasingly, first responders are encountering people living with dementia in the course of their work and need concrete strategies to understand and effectively respond. First responders may 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 responders can help these professionals to effectively handle these situations and to ensure the safety of those with dementia.

Often, first responders are the first to interact when someone with Alzheimer's disease is confused and wandering. At some time, an estimated six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address and may become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. People with Alzheimer's may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Education of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia.

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 not know how to work with people in these situations—leading to more confusion.

It is time for Hawaii to take steps to ensure that first responders are well equipped and dementia capable. This can best be accomplished by requiring the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responder. This training will

make the lives of people living with dementia safer, give first responders the tools needed to be more effective, and give increased peace of mind for caregivers and families.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Ivy Castellanos

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:35:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christine spencer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1283.

Oftentimes first responders are the first to interact with someone with Alzheimer’s disease is confused and wandering. At some time, an estimated six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer’s may not remember his or her name or address and may become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. People with Alzheimer’s may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Education of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia.

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 not know how to work with people in these situations—leading to more confusion.

It is time for Hawaii to take steps to ensure that first responders are dementia capable. This can best be accomplished by requiring the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responder. This training will make the lives of people living with dementia safer, give first responders the tools needed to be more effective, and give increased peace of mind for caregivers and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:12:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chuck Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1283.

Oftentimes first responders are the first to interact with someone with Alzheimer's disease is confused and wandering. At some time, an estimated six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address and may become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. People with Alzheimer's may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Education of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia.

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 not know how to work with people in these situations—leading to more confusion.

It is time for Hawaii to take steps to ensure that first responders are dementia capable. This can best be accomplished by requiring the employers of first responders to develop and provide dementia training to first responder. This training will make the lives of people living with dementia safer, give first responders the tools needed to be more effective, and give increased peace of mind for caregivers and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

HB-1283-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 11:17:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/2/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Justin George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 1283.

Oftentimes, first responders are the first to interact with someone with Alzheimer's disease who is confused and wandering. At some point, an estimated six in ten people with dementia will wander. A person with Alzheimer's may not remember his or her name or address and may become disoriented, even in familiar places. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. People with Alzheimer's may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. Education of the disease and training in de-escalation tactics can often effectively address the situation and ensure the safety of individuals with dementia.

When I told my close friends, who have been the primary caregivers for the husband's mother and father for the past several years, that I recently joined the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter team, they shared that the husband's father was suffering from many signs of dementia and that it had gotten harder and harder to care for him over the past year. While I was able to connect them with our programs team at the Alzheimer's Association for support, it is becoming a bigger challenge every day to balance caregiving, their jobs and caring for their kids. The passing of HB1283 is essential for families like this to have the peace of mind that if their loved one wanders off, there are first responders trained to provide the necessary care to get their loved one the help they need. This bill is essential not only for the care for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias but to help caregivers and the rest of their families in providing the support needed for their entire families.

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 not know how to work with people in these situations—leading to more confusion.

It is time for Hawaii to take steps to ensure that first responders are dementia capable. This can best be accomplished by requiring the employers of first responders to develop

and provide dementia training to first responder. This training will make the lives of people living with dementia safer, give first responders the tools needed to be more effective, and give increased peace of mind for caregivers and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill.