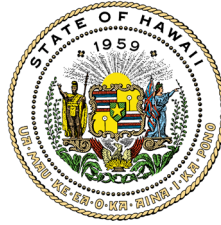


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'

**KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE



**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR

Telephone  
(808) 586-0100

Fax  
(808) 586-0185

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 278**  
**Relating to Health**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS  
REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE JENNA TAKENOUCI, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 8, 2023  
9:45 AM

Room Number: 329  
Via Videoconference

**EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of Health, supports the intent of HB 278, Relating to Health, and provides the following comments.

**Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$1,000,000 for FY 2023-2024 to the Executive Office on Aging for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias public health campaign.

**Purpose and Justification:** The public health campaign in this measure will educate the public about: 1) the early signs of cognitive impairment; 2) the value of early detection and diagnosis; and 3) the benefits of discussing changes in memory and thinking with health care professionals. The Executive Office on Aging, with funding from a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) planning grant, already established workgroups that are currently updating and developing a new state plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. The state plan will include goals and activities in four CDC areas: 1) data; 2) workforce development; 3) program

and policy and 4) **public awareness and education**. We acknowledge that the public awareness and education campaign in the new state plan will be much broader than the 1) early signs of cognitive impairment; 2) value of early detection and diagnosis, and 3) the benefits of discussing changes in memory with health care professionals identified in HB 278, however, we can incorporate these elements into the public awareness goal in the state plan.

Additionally, in March, EOA will be applying for a 5-year implementation grant for the state plan from CDC. The implementation grant is a maximum of \$600,000 per year for 5 years.

EOA does not have staff who is qualified in communications or public relations, therefore, we would need to procure and find a vendor to carry out a public health campaign. EOA has many variables to consider as we await possible award of the BOLD implementation grant, therefore, we are unclear as to the timeframe for a public health education campaign.

**Recommendation:** EOA supports the intent of this measure provided that its enactment does not reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget request. Additionally, we feel that the purpose of the public health campaign can be incorporated into the new state plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

**The State Legislature**  
**House Committee on Health and Homelessness**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**  
**Conference Room 329, 9:45 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
RE: Support for H.B. 278 Relating to Alzheimer's Disease

Aloha Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

**AARP supports H.B. 278** which seeks to implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public health campaign.

According to AARP Research Alzheimer Disease Awareness Poll in 2018, nearly everyone knew the seriousness of Alzheimer's disease and most knew someone who has had Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia causing cognitive decline; however, awareness of key characteristics and resources was still relatively low and remains the same today. H.B. 278 will launch a public health campaign that educates the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support for **H.B. 278**.

Sincerely,

  
Keali'i S. López  
State Director

## 2023 Hawaii Leadership Board

Lori McCarney, Chair  
*Community Advocate*

Dr. Pokii Balaz, Immediate  
Past Chair  
*Lunalilo Home  
Kokua Kalihi Valley*

Tricia Medeiros, Past Chair  
*Chief Operating Officer  
The Plaza Assisted Living*

Gina Fujikami, MD  
*The Queen's Medical  
Center*

Stafford Kiguchi  
*Executive Vice President  
Bank of Hawaii  
retired*

Travis Kikuchi  
*Vice President and  
Business Development and  
Investment Officer  
First Hawaiian Bank*

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Edward Jones*

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*Vice President  
Atlas Insurance*

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*Executive Director  
Hawaii Building and  
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Gordon Takaki  
*Past President  
Hawaii Island Chamber of  
Commerce*

Caroline Witherspoon  
*President  
Becker Communications*

LJ R. Duenas  
*Executive Director  
Alzheimer's Association*

## Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness Wednesday, February 8, 2023; 9:45 a.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329, and Videoconference

### RE: House Bill No. 278, RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. I am here to testify in **SUPPORT of House Bill No. 278 and offer amendments for your consideration.**

The Alzheimer's Association was established to assist those facing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by providing local support groups and educational resources while advancing crucial research and public policy initiatives.

Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis across the country. In Hawaii, approximately 29,000 individuals aged 65 and older live with Alzheimer's disease. By 2025, this figure is projected to increase by 20.7%. In addition, many are experiencing subjective cognitive decline — one of the earliest warning signs of future dementia. In 2020, 6.7% of individuals aged 45 and over reported an increase in confusion or worsening memory loss, putting them at risk of later developing dementia.

New FDA-approved therapies are here, and more are on the horizon, which may allow people more time to participate in daily activities, remain independent, and decide on the future of their health. These treatments are beneficial at the early onset of the disease; therefore, early detection and diagnosis are critical. Educating the community at large is of the utmost importance to ensure disease prevention, health management, and equitable access to FDA-approved treatments that may prevent or delay disease.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would appropriate \$1,000,000 in general funds for the fiscal year 2023-2024 to specifically fund an Alzheimer's public health campaign on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, discussing changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals.

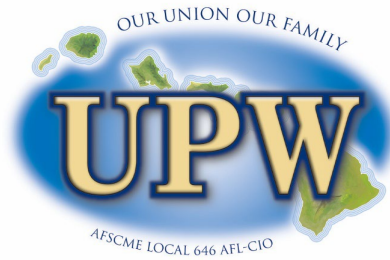
The Alzheimer's Association respectfully requests that the appropriation be extended for multiple fiscal years to allow the Executive Office on Aging an opportunity to complement this public campaign with the CDC's Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406).

**With this amendment, the Alzheimer's Association strongly urges your favorable consideration of this bill.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions, please contact Ron Shimabuku at 808.451.3410 or [rkshimabuku@alz.org](mailto:rkshimabuku@alz.org).



Ron Shimabuku  
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy  
Alzheimer's Association – Hawaii



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

**Committee on Health & Homelessness**

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 9:45 AM  
Conference Room 329 & via Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB278 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW supports HB278, which appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease public health campaign.

The growing number Alzheimer’s disease cases, as well as other forms of dementia, represents a health crisis that is currently impacting tens of thousands of families across the State. UPW firmly believes in the value of early detection and diagnosis of these and other diseases. Such efforts can help to mitigate the severity of illness and allow our working families to better understand what to expect in caring for their loved ones. Increasing awareness through a public health campaign could change the course of this disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner  
State Director



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023; 9:45 a.m.  
State Capitol; Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0278, RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 0278, RELATING TO HEALTH..

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Appropriate \$1,000,000, in general funds for fiscal year 2023-2024, for an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public health campaign to educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and the benefits of discussing changes in memory and thinking with health care professionals;
- (2) Specify that the funds be expended by the Executive Office on Aging; and
- (3) Take effect on July 1, 2023.

The HPCA wishes to acknowledge the work of the Alzheimer Association in informing partner nonprofit organizations, labor, and community leaders throughout the State on the necessity of this public campaign. It is our understanding that efforts like this are occurring throughout the United States and are part of a national campaign to inform our citizens on the availability of new drugs and therapies to mitigate the devastating impacts of this disease.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 0278**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023; 9:45 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

Because of this, authorizing the appropriation for **multiple** fiscal years would provide the Executive Office on Aging with the flexibility needed to ensure that the publicity campaign in Hawaii will coincide with similar campaigns across the nation. **Accordingly, with this amendment, we urge your favorable consideration of this bill.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.





Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
9:45 a. m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 329 and via videoconference

Re: HB 278 RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness:

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of those who give and receive care by increasing community awareness of caregiver issues through continuing advocacy, education, and training.

The Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports HB 278, which appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease public health campaign.

An AARP Alzheimer's Disease Public Awareness poll conducted in 2018 showed that nearly everyone surveyed knew the seriousness of Alzheimer's Disease and most knew someone who has had the disease or other forms of dementia. However, the public's understanding of the key characteristics was relatively low and that remains the same today.

More public health awareness is needed for people to be better informed of the early signs and symptoms of dementia, its impact on cognition, and resources and assistance that are available to persons with dementia and their families who care for and support them.

We urge you to support HB 278, and we urge you to recommend its passage.

We thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Simon".

Gary Simon



Email [gsimon@aarp.org](mailto:gsimon@aarp.org)

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:40:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ohad (Amitabh) Amidor	Alzheimer's Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ohad Amidor and I am a student in the social work program at UH Manoa. I am also an intern at the Alzheimer's Association. **I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

Currently, I am facilitating monthly support group meetings for the unpaid caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. Every month, I hear the struggles of caregivers and of the patients themselves. Alzheimer's is a cruel disease that strips away the personality and memory of a person, leaving them and their loved ones in great suffering.

Fortunately, there are measurements that can be done to ease some of the symptoms. But those measurements can occur only when a patient is diagnosed early.

You passing the law would help educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

For the sake of our kupuna and their caregivers please pass HB278

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Ohad Amidor

Amidor@hawaii.edu

# THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



Feb 6<sup>th</sup> for HLT\_02-08-23

**TO: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS**

**Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair**

**Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

**CONCERNING: HB1031 (Penalties Unlicensed Care Homes), HB914 (Health), HB872 (Healthy Aging Partnership), HB278 (Relating to Health), HB838 (Relating to Long Term Care)**

**POSITION: Full Support**

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee

The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports the bills listed above.

The Caucus feels strongly that any measures which prevent Kupuna from being placed in an unlicensed care home, either willingly or unwillingly should be passed. Too many people take advantage of Kupuna in so many ways, their care and wellbeing should be one of the States most important concerns.

Along those lines, Long Term Care is becoming one of the most important issues for all Kupuna and their families all over the country as well as here in Hawaii. As the population of our nation ages and the birth rates go down the issue of long term care for our elders is affecting us all. This is of special concern to those Kupuna who have little or no family, and/or limited finances. Homelessness is sad enough, but a homeless Kupuna is one of the most heartbreaking sights in our state. This is not consistent with the Hawaiian cultural traditions for Kupuna.

Keeping Kupuna as healthy as possible requires the coordination of many services and departments so any bills which assist those efforts are very necessary.

Finally, Alzheimer's disease is one of the most tragic disabilities that can affect any human being. When it happens to a mother or father the family is forced to watch their beloved elder slowly wither away into a state of confusion and loss. When people are ignorant of the symptoms or the possible progress it can be a devastating shock.

Please vote to pass these bills.

Martha Randolph for The Kupuna Caucus

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:19:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael P. Victorino Jr	ILWU	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 278

Chair Au-Bellati, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Victorino Jr and I'm the Secretary-Treasurer of ILWU Local 142. I strongly support bill HB 278 which would fund and implement a Alzheimer's disease and dementia public health awareness campaign. I believe with the fund allocation the Alzheimer's Association could educate and take a more proactive approach in sharing information in regards to Alzheimers and dementia.

As of now there's an estimated 6 million Americans living with Alzheimer's and studies show that numbers will continue to rise if not addressed in the early stages. There are 3 stages to Alzheimer's. Early (mild), middle (moderate), and late (severe). Obviously if recognized early enough, we could mitigate this disease. Thus the reason for passing this bill. Inform, recognize, and address!

I would also be remissed to not share my personal story of how Alzheimer's affected our family. In 1996 our family was informed that my maternal grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and needed 24hr care. This diagnose greatly changed our family and how we needed to care for my grandma. Unfortunately in 2001 my grandma passed away from this disease.

It is my hope and wishes that you sign bill HB 278!!!

Respectfully,

Michael P. Victorino Jr.

# IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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February 8, 2023  
9:45 am

House Committee on Health and Homelessness

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB278 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

We **SUPPORT** the intent of HB278. The bill appropriates funds the executive office on aging to create an Alzheimer's disease public health campaign. The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for an Alzheimer's disease and related dementia public health campaign.

According to the 2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, over 6 million U.S. citizens are living with Alzheimer's and over 11 million provided them with unpaid care. Various reports find the cost associated with unpaid care to be between \$200 and \$300 billion annually. Hawaii has an aging population and its fair share of those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia related illnesses. Many of our ironworker retirees and their partners are part of that group. Early diagnosis of Alzheimer's will have a direct effect on the cost of long-term treatment and the out of pocket expenses of our pensioners.

This bill, if enacted, would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and encourage our community members to discuss such changes in memory and thinking with their healthcare professionals. Please consider supporting a public awareness campaign so that we can better care for our kupuna and their loved ones.

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:39:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicolas K. Los Banos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nicolas K. Los Banos. **I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

I’ve lost two of my grandparents to dementia and my maternal grandma is still with us today and living with dementia. This is incredibly important to me as my parents are now aging into a higher risk age group for dementia diagnosis.

HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Nicolas K. Los Banos

nlosbanos@gmail.com

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:01:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Wyatt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee,

My name is Kathleen Wyatt of Adult Day Care Centers Hawaii, and I am the President of Hale Haui`oli Hawaii, a non-profit organization. I support HB278. This bill will seek to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign. Educating the public on Alzheimer's and related dementias is extremely important. I care for more than 80 kupuna with dementia every day. I hear from caregivers about how they are devastated and afraid when their loved one is diagnosed with dementia. They don't know which way to turn, they don't know what they might face as the disease progresses, and they are overwhelmed. With the increase in cases of Alzheimer's and related dementias in Hawai`i every year. HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease, with the intent to improve the lives of Hawaii residents impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Kathleen Wyatt 8082924665

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:15:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassandra Cockett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

## **Testimony on House Bill No. 278**

### **RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 9:45 am**

**Conference Room 329 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cassie Cockett. **I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.



Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Cassie Cockett

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:39:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Naomi Manuel, and I am an approaching caregiver of a rapidly aging parent. **I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

I strongly believe that my generation of future caregivers would seriously benefit from increased Alzheimer’s awareness and education. General disease facts, information, resources, and strategies will aid families and caregivers in either addressing a current situation with an aging loved one, activating an intervention, or planning for future care that is personally and culturally acceptable to the individual living with Alzheimer’s and their caregivers.

HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Naomi Manuel

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:10:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elmer Gorospe. **I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:53:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:**

**I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Becky Gardner

**Testimony on House Bill 278  
Relating to Health  
February 8, 2023 9:45am  
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI**

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Calvin M. Hara, a concerned resident and advocate for kupuna in our state. I am in strong support of HB278 to fund and implement a much needed public health awareness campaign on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

There is a need to broaden the awareness of how Alzheimer's disease and other dementia affects hundreds of people in our state. I am a caregiver and truly understand the daily care needs of a loved one and how important it is for others to know about the illness and how to best provide care.

HB 278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease, with the intent to improve the lives of Hawaii residents impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Calvin M. Hara

email: cmhara@comcast.net

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:18:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support

**Testimony on House Bill No. 278**

**RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 8:20 p.m.**

**Conference Room 329 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa Spencer. **I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

As a health educator, I have seen first hand the benefits of public health awareness campaigns like this one for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. These campaigns raise awareness on important health issues and stimulate groups and individuals to seek information and services. Through this increase in knowledge, people can over time, change attitudes and behaviors. These types of campaigns can empower those living with the disease, their families and friends, to better understand Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. These campaigns deliver the right information to consumers at the right time so they can more easily understand available health information and take steps towards their care and the care of others.

HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Lisa Spencer

lspencer@hawaii.rr.com



Testimony to the House Committee on Health and Homelessness  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 9:45 a. m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 329 and via video conference

Re: HB 278 RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Health and Homelessness:

My name is Savina Makalena, and I am the CEO and Founder of Gimme A Break whose mission is to care for caregivers by giving an emotional and physical break as well as resources for continued well-being. Gimme a Break is based on caring for the caregivers to provide support, resources, and community! Currently 30% of Caregivers pass before their Caree and the majority of the Caregiver in our community are facing the challenges of Dementia related diseases.

My grandmother passed from dementia related complications and my own mother is currently receiving hospice care in her final stage of this disease. The need for education and awareness defines the passion to our mission. Therefore, I am in strong support of HB278 to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Most sincerely,

*Savina Makalena*

Savina Makalena



Email [savy@gab808.org](mailto:savy@gab808.org)  
Cell (808)594-9801



**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:49:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Truong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Truong and I am a volunteer ambassador of the Alzheimer's Association. **I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

My mother recently passed from younger-onset Alzheimer's disease at the age of 67 (she got it in her early 50s which is way too young) and it's so important for people in Hawaii to understand what exactly Alzheimer's disease is. The "silver tsunami" is here with all the baby boomers beginning to age even more and we are in for obstacles on how to care for our kupuna when this happens.

HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Warm regards,  
Amy Truong  
Kaka'ako  
amyatruong@gmail.com

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:56:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lena Suzuki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Lena Suzuki and I am in strong support of HB278 to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

My father is diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Any type of studies or medication that can help slow down the disease would be super beneficial to me and my children.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my testimony.

Aloha Always,  
Lena Suzuki

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

**Date:** February 7, 2023

**From:** Aubrey Olson

**Re: Testimony in Support for H.B. No. 278, Relating to Health**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee,

My name is Aubrey Olson, I live in the West Hawai'i region of Hawai'i County and work as a social worker. I am also a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I strongly support H.B. 278, Relating to Health.

Public health campaigns have long been an effective strategy for raising awareness to health concerns on a large-scale. Additionally, they serve to educate the public and encourage behavioral and lifestyle changes to promote positive health outcomes in our communities. As the data shows, Alzheimer's disease is an epidemic which requires such a targeted focus, as its impact is widespread.

I have been closely impacted by this epidemic as my paternal grandfather passed from complications due to his Alzheimer's disease. Like other forms of dementia, Alzheimer's has stages which range from basic forgetfulness to severe cognitive defects and decreased independence. Public health education is necessary to inform the public on the warning signs associated with Alzheimer's, the disease progression, and to educate on compassionately and safely caring for our loved ones with dementia.

The Executive Office on Aging is the most appropriate branch to carry out this public health campaign as they are a well-established resource in our communities, serving Kupuna and their loved ones with a person-centered approach. I believe that this public health campaign will be effective at raising awareness, reducing stigma and elevating the conversation around Alzheimer's and other related dementia.

I am asking the committee to please support H.B. No 278.

Mahalo,

Aubrey Olson



**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:08:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Yadao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the Bill.

**HB-278**

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:13:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/8/2023 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin George	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin George and **I am in strong support of HB278** to specifically fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

I recently witnessed firsthand the impact and stress that Alzheimer's disease has on caregivers and the entire family. My wife's grandmother recently passed away from this devastating disease and while she lived a long, happy life, I know that if the family would have known sooner about the resources available to them and had the opportunity to be part of a support group, then they could have made the final years of grandma's life better for all of them.

HB278 would educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with healthcare professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Sincerely,

Justin George

jgeorgehawaii@outlook.com

808-778-2747 mobile