

**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

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**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, HD1**  
**Relating to Health**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: February 23, 2023  
1:30 PM

Room Number: 308  
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, HD1, Relating to Health, and provides the following comments.

**Fiscal Implications:** This measure requests an appropriation for FY 2023-2024 to the Executive Office on Aging for an Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias public health campaign and for an Alzheimer's working group.

**Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness. The working group will be comprised of the directors (or their designees) of Health, the Executive Office on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association and AARP. The public awareness campaign will educate the public about: 1) the early signs of cognitive impairment; 2) the value of early detection and diagnosis; and 3) discussing changes in memory and thinking with health

care professionals. The working group will also provide a report of findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2024.

While the Executive Office on Aging supports the intent of this measure, EOA has already established workgroups, with funding from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to currently update and develop a new state plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. The Alzheimer's Association and AARP are already represented in our state plan working group. Therefore, the proposed working group in this measure is not needed. Also any reports for EOA's special projects and initiatives are also incorporated into the annual report that EOA submits to the Legislature. Additionally, the updated 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 goals identified in HB278, HD1 however, these elements can be incorporated into the public awareness goal of the ADRD state plan.

Regarding an appropriation to implement a public health awareness campaign, we believe \$500,000 would be adequate.

**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.

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 10:45:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Wyatt	Hale Hau`oli Hawai`i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB278. I am strongly in favor of this bill. "To be forewarned is to be forearmed" is so appropriate for educating the public about Alzheimer's and other dementias. As an Adult Day Care operator, I deal with caregivers on a daily basis for about 80 kupuna with some level of dementia. Most start their caregiving journey with no clue on how to care for their loved one who has been diagnosed with the disease, they don't know what to expect, they just don't know what to do. If the public is educated before they hear that diagnosis of "Alzheimer's Disease" they can be better prepared. They can recognize early warning signals that they are observing in their loved one. They can talk to their PCP or a geriatrician and get guidance on treatments, prevention of further decline, and relieve tremendous stress by knowing what to expect. I urge you to support this very important bill.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wyatt, RN



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 Finance  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
Conference Room 308, 1:30 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
RE: Support for H.B. 278, HD1 Relating to Alzheimer's Disease

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

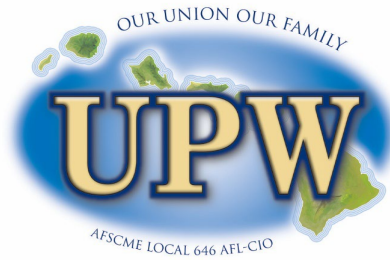
My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for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

**AARP supports H.B. 278, HD1** 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, HD1 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, HD1**.

Sincerely,

  
Keali'i S. López  
State Director



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

**Committee on Finance**  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 1:30 PM  
Conference Room 308 & via Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB278, HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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, HD1, which establishes and appropriates funds for a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness. This bill also appropriates funds for the Executive Office on Aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias 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, which appears to read "Kalani Werner". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner  
State Director



**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 23, 2023; 1:30 p.m.  
State Capitol; Conference Room 308  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 0278, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTH.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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, House Draft 1, 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) Establish an Alzheimer's Working Group (Working Group) to play and implement a public health campaign for awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias;
- (2) Appropriate unspecified amounts for the Working Group and the public health campaign; and
- (3) Take effect on June 30, 3000.

The HPCA wishes to acknowledge the work of the Alzheimer's 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, House Draft 1**  
**Thursday, February 23, 2023; 1:30 p.m.**  
**Page 2**

After consulting with the Alzheimer's Association and other partner organizations; the HPCA respectfully requests the following:

- (1) That references to the Working Group be eliminated. It is our understanding that there is a working group already in existence that is charged with this same purpose and as such, this provision would be duplicative;
- (2) That the appropriation be approved for multiple fiscal years to maximize the Executive Office on Aging's flexibility in implementing the public health campaign in concert with efforts occurring in other states; and
- (3) That the bill be made to take effect on July 1, 2023.

**Accordingly, with these amendments, 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.

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:38:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Nakashima	Pukalani Superette	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

## Testimony on House Bill No. 278

### RELATING TO HEALTH

Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Megan Nakashima and I am the President of Pukalani Superette. **I am in strong support of HB278** to fund and implement an Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

Sumiko Nakashima, the matriarch of our family and a one of my predecessors at Pukalani Superette endured more than a decade with Alzheimer's disease. Early on, we just thought she was forgetful, but soon realized that it was more than that. We missed out on so many years with her. I missed out on having her see me take on her role at our family store and having her around to guide us through all the challenges these past few years have presented.

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias have not only robbed Pukalani Superette of one of the kindest and strongest women I know, we also see our customers and their families suffer through their own personal struggles. Being a small mom and pop store that has been around for almost a century, we know and talk to generations of families. We see the older ones start to fade and sometimes they stop by the store disoriented or reliving a younger self. Sometimes we talk with



their caregiver children who shop with them and we hear what they go through and what they suspect it might be.

I am requesting that HB278 be passed to specifically 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!

Megan Nakashima

President, Pukalani Superette

15 Makawao Ave., Pukalani, HI 96768

# THE KŪPUNA CAUCUS



FIN\_02-23-23 1:30 PM Submitted 2-020-23

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

CONCERNING: HB278 HD1 (Concerning Health/Alzheimer's)

POSITION: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee

The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, which has an enrolled membership of approximately 2,700 politically aware and active seniors, urges you to vote yes on HB278 HD1

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most tragic diseases that can affect any human being. When it happens to a mother, father, or grandparent, 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 of this disease it can be a devastating shock. When they don't know about the many different varieties of Alzheimer's and how different the symptoms may be between those varieties, then the patient may not be taken to a doctor for a formal diagnosis and receive whatever treatments are available to slow the progress of the disease.

There can also be serious family trauma when family members are subject to emotional outbursts or irrational rages and accusations by a parent or grandparent who has Alzheimer's, but who doesn't know it or has never been diagnosed. The more information we can get to the public the better. If people know how the disease can present itself then maybe they can do something about it before feelings are hurt and precious time for love and togetherness is gone forever.

Martha E Randolph for  
The Kupuna Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

## 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*

Kai Ohashi  
*Financial Advisor  
Edward Jones*

Michael Robinson  
*Vice President  
Hawaii Pacific Health*

Kimberly Soares  
*Vice President  
Atlas Insurance*

Gino Soquena  
*Executive Director  
Hawaii Building and  
Construction Trade Council*

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 Finance Thursday, February 23, 2023; 1:30 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308, and Videoconference

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

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Ron Shimabuku, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association. We are testifying in **STRONG 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 increased confusion or worsening memory loss, putting them at risk of later developing dementia. More than two-thirds have not talked to their healthcare professional about it.

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 paramount to prevention, health management, and equitable access to FDA-approved treatments that may prevent or delay disease.

The bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Establish and appropriate funds for a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness;
- (2) Appropriate funds for an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign; and
- (3) Be made effective on June 30, 3000.

The Alzheimer's Association would like to provide the following comments respectfully:

- (1) In 2020, the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) received the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Program Award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This award led to the development of working groups to update the Hawaii 2025: State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias (also referred to as the Hawaii State Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias State Plan) established in 2013. One of the working groups centered on public awareness and education. **Therefore, it is our belief that a working group for the purposes of this bill is not needed as it would lead to overlapping efforts with the existing working group.**
- (2) We have obtained preliminary cost estimates from marketing and communication firms in Hawaii to conduct a public health campaign to educate our communities on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory and thinking with health care professionals. These estimates range from \$555,000 to \$981,945. **We ask for your consideration to appropriate \$1,000,000 and extend it for multiple fiscal years to allow EOA to complement this with the BOLD award.**
- (3) **This appropriation takes effect on July 1, 2023.**

**With these amendments, 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



# INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

LOCAL OFFICE • 451 ATKINSON DRIVE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814 • PHONE 949-4161

**HAWAII DIVISION:** 100 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • **OAHU DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
**MAUI COUNTY DIVISION:** 896 Lower Main Street, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 • **KAUAI DIVISION:** 4154 Hardy Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766  
**HAWAII LONGSHORE DIVISION:** 451 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

## LOCAL 142

February 22, 2023

The Thirty-Second Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023

### THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Finance

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Thursday, February 23, 2023

### STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON HB 278 RELATING TO HEALTH – ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142 (ILWU 142) testifies in **strong support of HB 278** which would fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and dementia public health awareness campaign. With funding, we believe the Alzheimer's Association could educate and take a more proactive approach in sharing information on Alzheimer's and dementia.

Currently, there's an estimated 6 million Americans living with Alzheimer's. Studies show that numbers will continue to rise if the disease is not addressed in the early stages. There are 3 stages to Alzheimer's: early (mild), middle (moderate), and late (severe). If recognized early enough, we could mitigate this debilitating disease.

Alzheimer's disease and dementia has impacted thousands of families across our state emotionally, psychologically, and financially. Unfortunately, many caregivers must navigate their way through difficult times without proper guidance and information, resulting in reduced quality of life for all involved. Passing HB 278 will help Alzheimer's patients and their families gain access to the valuable education and support they need.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in **strong support** to this measure!

Respectfully,

Michael P. Victorino Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer, ILWU Local 142



Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
1:30 p. m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308 and via videoconference

Re: HB 278 HD 1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance:

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 HD 1, which establishes and appropriates funds for a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness; and, appropriates funds for the executive office on aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias 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 HD 1, we urge you to recommend its passage, and we thank you for seriously considering the Bill.

Very sincerely,

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

Gary Simon



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



The Hawaiian Islands Association  
for Marriage and Family Therapy  
(HIAMFT)

We know systems.  
We know relationships.  
We know FAMILY MATTERS.

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**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS**

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 23, 2023 - 1:30PM - Via Videoconference – Rm 308

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB278 HD1 RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

The Hawaiian Islands Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (HIAMFT) strongly supports HB278 HD1 to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

There are countless mental health challenges that come with the onset of Alzheimer's disease – for both the afflicted and their families.

We believe HB278 HD1 will educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory, thinking, and quality of life with healthcare professionals – including mental health professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease and reducing the negative emotional and behavioral impact of this disease's associated hardships.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Souza, Jr., LMFT, DMFT, President

The Hawaiian Islands Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

# Hawai'i Psychological Association

*For a Healthy Hawai'i*

P.O. Box 833  
Honolulu, HI 96808

www.hawaiipsychology.org

Phone: (808) 521 -8995

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

February 23, 2023 1:30 P.M. - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE – Rm 308

## **The Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) strongly supports HB278 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH**

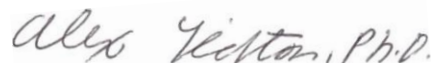
strongly supports HB278 HD1 to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

There are countless mental health challenges that come with the onset of Alzheimer's disease – for both the afflicted and their families.

We believe HB278 HD1 will educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory, thinking, and quality of life with healthcare professionals – including mental health professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease and reducing the negative emotional and behavioral impact of this disease's associated hardships.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

Sincerely,



Alex Lichton, Ph.D.

Chair, HPA Legislative Action Committee



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

February 23, 2023 1:30 P.M. - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE – Rm 308

### Testimony in Strong Support on HB278 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH

The National Association of Social Workers – Hawai'i (NASW- HI) strongly supports HB278 HD1 to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

There are countless mental health challenges that come with the onset of Alzheimer's disease – for both the afflicted and their families.

We believe HB278 HD1 will educate the public on the early signs of cognitive impairment, the value of early detection and diagnosis, and discuss changes in memory, thinking, and quality of life with healthcare professionals – including mental health professionals. Increasing public awareness of early diagnosis could lead to changing the course of this disease and reducing the negative emotional and behavioral impact of this disease's associated hardships.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support.

Sincerely,



*Sonja Bigalke-Bannan*, MSW, LCSW

Sonja Bigalke-Bannan, MSW, LCSW  
Executive Director,  
National Association of Social Workers- Hawai'i Chapter

# IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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February 23, 2023

1:30 pm

House Committee on Health and Homelessness

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB278HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

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

We **SUPPORT** the intent of HB278HD1. The bill establishes and appropriates funds for a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness. Appropriates funds for the executive office on aging to create an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health campaign. The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness and fund 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 the aging 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.

The Ironworkers support the public health campaign section of this bill. If that section is enacted, it would help to 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.

The Ironworkers takes no position on the Alzheimer's working group and recommends the committee consider the testimony of subject area experts on its need.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 278**

**RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 1:30 pm**

**Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

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

Unfortunately, my grandmother-in-law was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. It is a debilitating disease that brings suffering both to the patient and their family members. Early detection is important as western medicine managed to slow the progress of the disease. Unfortunately, many individuals are not aware of their cognitive condition until it is too late. Educating the public can bring positive outcomes for our kupuna and can help families in their struggle with Alzheimer's and various other dementias.

I am requesting that HB278 be passed to specifically 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!

Ohad Amidor, Maui

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 1:45:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Shimabuku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

### **RELATING TO HEALTH**

**Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 1:30 pm**

**Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Shimabuku, retired and sort of a caregiver watching over my 92 year old mom. **I am in strong support of HB278** to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

As I mentioned at the opening of this testimony, I'm a caregiver for my mom who has been diagnosed having dementia. As I look back, we missed the early warning signs she displayed having dementia, forgetting multiple times where she parked her car at the shopping center, leaving her bags in the shopping cart or in the trunk, etc. We wondered what was going on with her, shrugging it off as a part of aging. Being that said, we were lucky she didn't get into much worse trouble prior to making an appointment to have her see a doctor. Having a campaign to

make the public aware of the early signs of dementia/Alzheimer's would be a great benefit for those with these problems and their families. There are medications that could help people with this problem to live a better life.

I am requesting that HB278 be passed to specifically 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!

Paul Shimabuku

email: [paperwell@aol.com](mailto:paperwell@aol.com)

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 2:38:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Naomi Manuel and I am an approaching caregiver of a rapidly aging parent. **I am in strong support of HB 278, Relating to Health**, 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 tremendously 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-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 4:13:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am requesting that HB278 be passed to specifically 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!

Lena Suzuki

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 6:37:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Yamashita and Vice Chair Kitagawa,

Thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT HB 278: Relating to Health. More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million. 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Please help to educate the public on this growing health crisis by funding this public health campaign.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Au Honolulu, HI 96814



**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 7:39:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jiaying Escobar-Mo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Your honor,

I'm hereby expressing my support in this bill which brings light to such important issue. Our community is deeply affected by Alzheimer's, many individuals around me battle this disease personally on a daily basis. It's beyond imaginable how much heartbreaking components are detailed in dealing with this disease, we must support this fight. We're only strong when we are together.

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 8:48:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB278 HD1.

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:00:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Alzheimers impacts everyone. Primary caregivers face uphill battles in trying to provide support for their loved ones. Too many families are unprepared when the diagnosis is made. Please support this bill in effort to help others in our community.

February 21, 2023

To:  
House Committee on Finance  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

RE: **HB 278 Relating to Health**

Hearing Date: February 23, 2023  
Conference Room 308, 1:30PM

Most Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members:

**I support HB278** to appropriate the necessary funds to the Executive Office on Aging to create a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer's awareness in Hawaii.

Who will this benefit? More than most people realize:

*Statistics from the National Alzheimer's website state this disease cost our nation **\$321 billion** in 2022. By 2050, these costs could reach nearly \$1 trillion. **1 in 3 seniors** dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.*

Why educate?

***Fewer than 1 in 5 Americans** are familiar with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), which can be an early stage of Alzheimer's. Based on the research studies, intervention to alleviate or slow the progress of the disease occurs in patients who are diagnosed at an early stage.*

Since multiple segments of your constituents are faced with either being a patient, providing caregiving to a patient or footing the bill of the costs associated with the disease (through taxes) – it makes sense to have a well-planned public health campaign in Hawaii to support citizens who are affected by Alzheimers.

**I ask you to support HB 278** and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Olah  
Honolulu Resident

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 5:44:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:47:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Rose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nancy Rose and I am a volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association Aloha Chapter. **I am in strong support of HB278** to fund and implement an Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

My father suffered a 10-15 year decline into some form of dementia. I don’t think he was ever properly diagnosed, and there was no effective treatment. He was cared for at his home in Pennsylvania by his wife, and I watched fairly helplessly from a distance as I worked and raised my family here in Pukalani, Maui. She struggled with his care, enduring violent outbursts before eventually placing him into a locked dementia unit.

I am requesting that HB278 be passed to specifically 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!

Nancy Rose

Pukalani, Maui

Testimony on House Bill No. 278

RELATING TO HEALTH

Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melissa Celebrado Bojorquez and I am a private citizen and Owner of Care Ops Consulting, LLC. **I am in strong support of HB278** to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

I have been a social worker, case manager, healthcare consultant in the community for over 35 years. But more importantly I have been a daughter and caregiver for my mother during the last 10 years of her life. She suffered from vascular dementia and passed away in Sept 2019. As a professional, I have watched and witnessed families and caregivers struggle with understanding of what it means for someone they love to suffer from dementia or Alzheimers - often dealing with delays in proper diagnosis. As a daughter had to be my mothers advocate and fight and be persistent in seeking proper treatment and care at each stage of her dementia. I had extensive knowledge because of my professional training and I struggled. I am very concerned for those who do not have the educational background, knowledge or have language and SDOH limitations and barriers. Especially our elders who have limited social and family support.

It is absolutely imperative that we provide the adequate funding and support for HB 278 as the "Silver Tsunami" falls upon us and those whose lives will be impacted.

I am requesting that HB278 be passed to specifically 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!

*Melissa C Bojorquez*

Melissa Celebrado Bojorquez, LBSW, MBA  
Private Citizen and Healthcare Consultant  
[melissacareopsconsult@gmail.com](mailto:melissacareopsconsult@gmail.com)  
808.778.2752



**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:07:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Agcaoili Mills	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 278

RELATING TO HEALTH

Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 1:30pm

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

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

My brother and I are Caregivers to our 82yo mom who has dementia. Although she no longer drives, needs help with medication management, bill paying, getting to and from medical appointments and with grocery shopping, she says she loves living at home. My brother and his wife live with mom.

About 5 years ago, mom (who is a retired Nurse Practitioner) had herself evaluated and was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment. Her doctor immediately prescribed medication to slow down the progression of it; which has been effective. A couple of years later, her doctor prescribed another medication that would help mom not become "snippy" with others, which can happen as the disease progresses. This has also worked, as mom continues to be appreciative of all the help we provide her. I believe if more people are aware of the importance of early detection, supports can be put in place to allow the person to live a full and happier life.

I am requesting that HB278 be passed to specifically 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!

Andrea A. Mills

808-391-4732

[andreamills150@gmail.com](mailto:andreamills150@gmail.com)

Kevin L. Johnson, Ko Olina, Hawai'i

**The State Legislature  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 23, 2023, Conference Room 308, 1:30 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
RE: Support for HB278, HD1, Relating to Health

I testify today in **Support of HB278, HD1** as both a former healthcare practitioner and family member.

Alzheimer's disease is about as sneaky as diseases come. Very often neither the patient nor their family is aware it is lurking until something untoward occurs. Too often, the untoward incident causes harm to either the individual or others. Because of the likelihood that this can be dangerous, it is very much in the public interest that we do everything possible to educate those affected.

When my father first contracted Alzheimer's, my mother did the best she could to take care of him at home. Even as a pharmacist, I wasn't aware of the challenges she faced. She ultimately had a heart attack, unbeknownst to her, and carried on for weeks, because "she didn't have the time to deal with her own discomfort." I report this, not to say Alzheimer's was the cause of her heart attack, but to demonstrate the plight of seniors (usually) trying to take care of their family members without adequate support.

This bill offers the possibility that people in Hawai'i will have the help in both early detection and navigating the daily unknowns going forward. Preemptively attacking a disease such as this with education is always the best approach to avoiding negative impacts on individuals and the community at large. Your **Support of HB278, HD1**, is not just a forward thinking step, it is the compassionate one.

Sincerely,

*Kevin L. Johnson*

**Testimony on House Bill 278  
House Committee on Finance  
February 23, 2023 1:30pm  
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI**

Dear Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa 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, with some comments, 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.

My support of HB 278 is with respect to the committee to not have a working group as one already exists in the Executive Office on Aging with focus on Alzheimer's and related dementias thru the Center for Disease Control award "Building our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Program. In addition, I ask that there be an appropriation of \$1,000,000 and for subsequent fiscal years so the Executive Office on Aging can accompany this with the BOLD award.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Calvin M. Hara

email: cmhara@comcast.net

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:20:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori McCarney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 278

**RELATING TO HEALTH**

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lori McCarney, and I serve as Chair of the volunteer Leadership Board of the Alzheimer's Association Aloha Chapter, which represents all of Hawaii. I strongly support HB 278 to fund and implement a public awareness campaign to raise awareness of important issues in regard to Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Alzheimer's is not well understood. Many think any form of dementia is a common function of aging, and that while it's a sad and difficult condition for both the person with Alzheimer's and their caregivers, there isn't anything that can be done to change the course. However, there are new FDA-approved drugs that may significantly slow the disease, and medications that will cure the disease are in sight. These drugs are only effective in the very early stage of the disease, making early diagnosis critical.

We believe it is important to educate the public to look for early signs of cognitive impairment, underscore the value of early detection and diagnosis, and encourage them to discuss any changes in the way they think or their memory with their doctor.

Personally, I am concerned that Alzheimer's may be in my future. My dad, grandmother and aunt all succumbed to Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. I'm fortunate to be part of the Alzheimer's Association, giving me a higher level of knowledge about Alzheimer's and other dementias than most. Because of this knowledge, I'm currently working with my doctor to determine if my concern is real, so that if it is, I can take action. Sharing this knowledge in a broad public awareness campaign through passage of HB278 will help achieve what I'm certain are mutual social and health equity goals and move us towards ending Alzheimer's for all.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Lori McCarney

66 Queen Street, #4102, Honolulu HI 96813

lmccarney@hawaii.rr.com

808-347-0833

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**Hearing:** Thursday, February 23, 2023, 1:30 p.m.  
Via Video Conference Room 308  
State Capitol

**TESTIMONEY IN SUPPORT OF HB 278, HD1  
RELATING TO HEALTH**

**To:** Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair; Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair; Committee on Finance

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** of **HB 278, HD1**, Relating Health.

**HB 278, HD1:** Establishes and appropriates funds for a working group to plan and implement a public health campaign for Alzheimer’s awareness. Effective 6/30/3000. **(ADD PURPOSE ETC)**

I urge you to support **HB 278, HD1**.

Anna Filler  
District 26, Downtown-Kakaako-McCully  
Email: afiller@twc.com

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 1:04:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Juanita Kawamoto Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Hawaii State Representatives - Committee Chairs and members,

I strongly support HB 278 and the need to support the patients and the many friends and families who know the heartbreak and loss of loved ones who as caretakers suffer silently as this disease continues to go uncured and hopelessly incurable and unresolved. Please pass this bill to support the patients and their families.

mahalo,

Juanita Kawamoto



**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:36:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry SUPPORT HB 278 RELATING TO HEALTH.

To include the Waianae community.

**HB-278-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 9:15:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riley Yoshio Regan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

## Testimony on House Bill No. 278

### RELATING TO HEALTH

Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 1:30 pm

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

State Capitol

[415 South Beretania Street](#)

Chair Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Riley Yoshio Regan and I am a high school senior. **I am in strong support of HB278** to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

My grandpa and many other friends and loved ones are suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. This issue is important to my family and many other families.

I am requesting that HB278 be passed to specifically 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Riley Yoshio Regan  
Honolulu