



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 13, 2023

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB278 HD1 RELATING TO HEALTH.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB278 HD1**, which 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 onset of Alzheimer's and dementia related disease is projected to rise in the state of Hawaii. Among the individuals with Intellectual/Development Disabilities (I/DD) population, specifically those with down syndrome, the likelihood for developing Alzheimer's disease is further exacerbated. Not only is the I/DD population more susceptible to Alzheimer's, but also at a greater risk of developing the disease 10 years prior to that experienced by the general population.

HB278 HD1 acknowledges the forthcoming challenges associated with the rising rate of Alzheimer's disease. By increasing Alzheimer's disease awareness across the state, the general public is likely to better understanding its perils and aid in the recognition of early signs of cognitive impairment. In return, this would enhance the allocation of valuable medical resources and health care support systems not only to the I/DD population, but to all of those at risk for the disease.

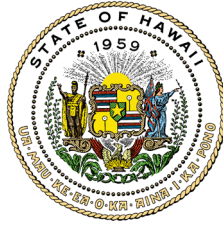
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB278 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

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 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: March 13, 2023
1:00 PM

Room Number: 225
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 a working group and appropriate funds 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 measure also requests 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, the proposed working group in this measure is not needed and is duplicative; meaning that EOA already has an established workgroup with its efforts under the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant for which the Alzheimer's Association and AARP are already represented in our State Plan working group. In addition, a separate report to the Legislature is unnecessary because EOA highlights all special projects and initiatives in its annual report to the State 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.

2023 Hawaii Leadership Board

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Community Advocate

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Kokua Kalihi Valley*

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Business Development and
Investment Officer
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Caroline Witherspoon
*President
Becker Communications*

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

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Monday, March 13, 2023; 1:00 p.m. Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225, and Videoconference

RE: House Bill No. 278, House Draft 1, RELATING TO HEALTH

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, 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, House Draft 1, 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.



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



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, March 13, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol; Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

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

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, 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
Monday, March 13, 2023; 1:00 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.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, March 13, 2023
1:00 p. m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225 and via videoconference

Re: HB 278 HD 1 RELATING TO HEALTH

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

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.

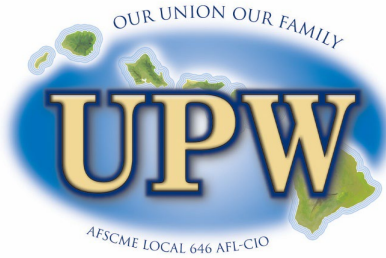
Very sincerely,

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

Gary Simon



Email gsimon@aar.org



**THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Monday, March 13, 2023, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 308 & via Videoconference

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

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, 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,

Kalani Werner
State Director



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

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, March 13, 2023
Conference Room 225, 1:00 p.m.

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

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura 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 impact 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

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

March 13, 2023
1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

LATE

Re: HB278HD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

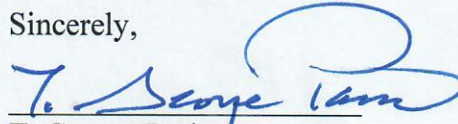
Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

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.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris
Managing Director

HB-278-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 2:42:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shellie Niles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB 278 HD1 to help spread public awareness regarding Alzheimers disease and related dementias. Like any health condition, early identification is key to treating and managing symptoms and effects of the disease. I am an individual with aging parents and family members and I feel it is extremely important to be able to be prepared and educated on how to best care for my loved ones. Alzheimers and other dementia related diseases can affect anyone, therefore everyone in the general public would benefit from the education and awareness. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-278-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 4:58:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nancy Rose and I am volunteer with the Alzheimer’s Association, Aloha Chapter. **I am in strong support of HB278, HD1** 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, HD1 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

HB-278-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 8:52:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Tenno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

From experiences learned, I strongly support this bill and all efforts possible for Alzheimer's disease.

HB-278-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:49:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 278, House Draft No. 1
RELATING TO HEALTH
Monday, March 13, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

Dear Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, 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 HD1, 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 HD1 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-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:42:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony on House Bill No. 278, House Draft No. 1

RELATING TO HEALTH

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 1:00 pm

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Shimabuku, **I am in strong support of HB278, HD1** to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

We are currently caring for Grandma who has been diagnosed with Dementia some time ago. To give you a little history of why we support the bill, for a year or two before we took her to the doctor for a checkup, we noticed subtle instances of memory lapses. She forgot where she parked her car, left her hand bag, groceries in the cart and came home, we found week old groceries spoiled in her car trunk, she couldn't balance her checkbook, exhibited poor hygiene, etc. . After

the Doctor checkup and diagnosis of having Dementia we realized how lucky we were she did not get into much worse trouble. We believe informing the general public of these subtle changes in memory loss are warning signs for a doctor's diagnosis. It can't hurt making a trip to the doctors office in which that visit could save a person from physical, financial and other forms of personal daily routines that needs to be done as they may not be able to care for themselves. The sooner the patient is diagnosed, the safer it would for themselves and family/friends would understand the situation to assist the patient/loved ones.

I am requesting that HB278, HD1 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

paperwell@hotmail.com

LATE

HB-278-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 10:59:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Riley Regan and I am 17 years old. I am in strong support of HB278, HD1 to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

I live and care for my grandpa who is suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. It is really tough to see his mind deteriorate. He is withdrawn, doesn't remember much, and his personality has changed remarkably in recent years.

I am requesting that HB278, HD1 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 Regan
Aina Haina

LATE

HB-278-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 7:53:43 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Poki'i Balaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Henry Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Poki'i Balaz and I am a Nurse Practitioner who specializes in Dementia Care, a caregiver to my father, and a current Obama Scholar. I strongly support HB278 HD1 to fund and implement an Alzheimer's disease and related dementias public health awareness campaign.

As a caregiver to my father who is in the end stage of Alzheimer's disease I understand the journey and the challenges that many face. It took a while for my father to seek help due to lack of awareness. Maybe if a campaign such as this existed, maybe my family would have sought help earlier.

Serving as a healthcare professional there continues to be misinformation and myths regarding Alzheimer's and related dementias. The earlier interventions begin, the better outcomes could be. It is my hope that awareness of Alzheimer's and all related dementias disseminates to all our communities so they are equipped to make the best choice for themselves and their families.

I am requesting that HB278, HD1 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!

Dr. Poki'i Balaz